SAYARI

Leveraging Import/Export Data in Sayari Graph

March 2025

Illicit actors increasingly exploit global trade systems to obfuscate and launder ill-gotten proceeds. As such, access to global import/export data has become a critical dataset for investigators to target and ultimately dismantle these networks.

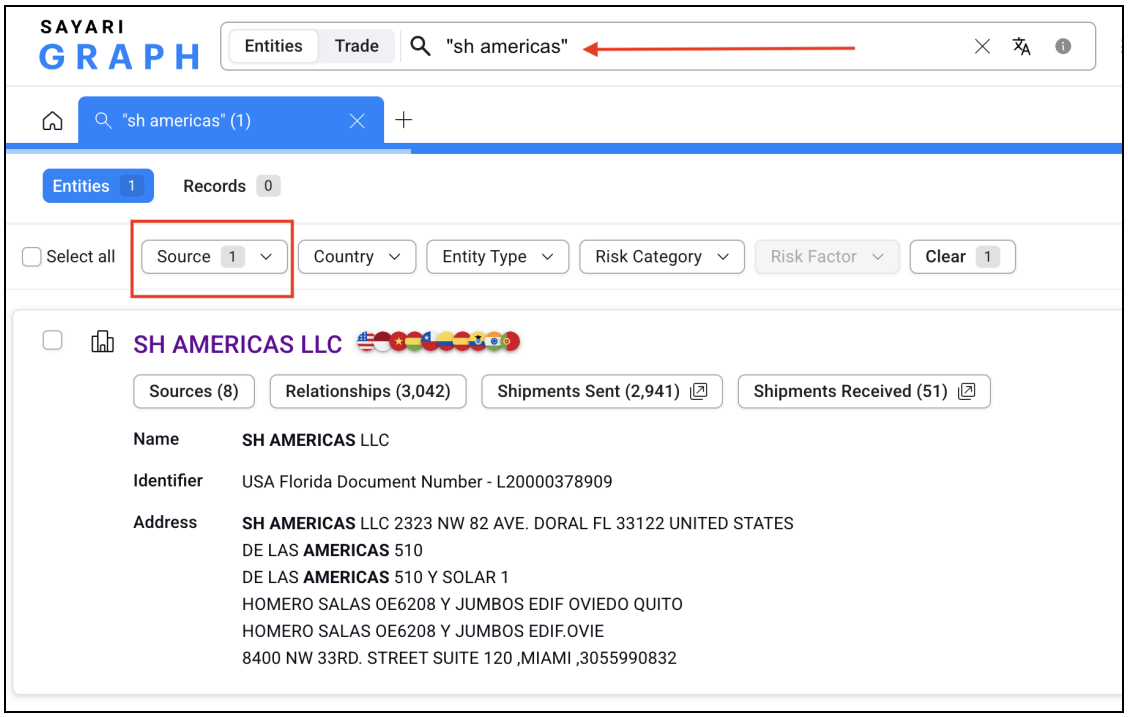
Sayari currently contains over one billion trade records from over 70 jurisdictions, including China, Mexico, and India. Sayari's import/export data is mostly derived from bills of lading, providing analysts and investigators with detailed shipment information that includes goods descriptions, HS codes, suppliers, buyers, countries of departure and arrival, and shipment value, among other attributes. Sayari matches and resolves corporate data with import/export data providing greater visibility into who a subject may be transacting with, and allowing for more efficient and effective investigations involving cross-border trade transactions.

Below, we provide an overview of the different ways users can leverage and query the trade data in Sayari Graph.

Interpreting and filtering trade data in an entity profile

Let's say, hypothetically, we've been tipped off about a Miami-based cell phone wholesaler—SH Americas LLC—whose financial transaction activity suggests it may be engaging in trade-based money laundering, namely via the export of cell phones to South America. We are keen on identifying the natural persons behind the company, but we also want to know who they are exporting cell phones to in South America and whether any of those counterparties may provide additional leads for our investigation. To this, we need to combine corporate records with global trade data.

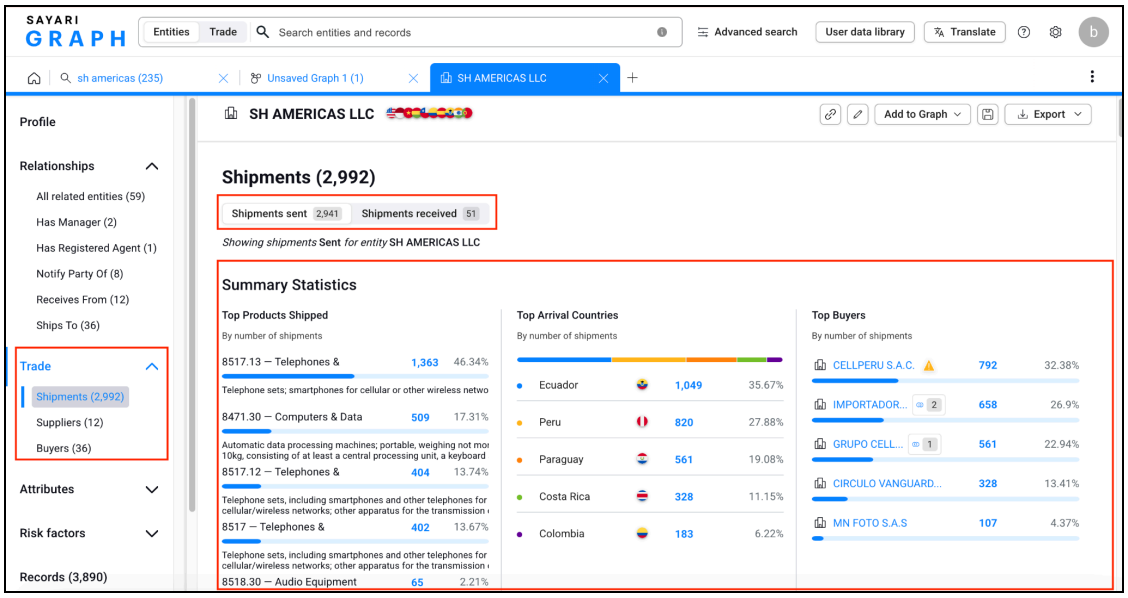
We can start by running a query of our target company in quotes to surface exact matches—"SH Americas." If we wanted to narrow our results down further, and isolate the corporate profile, we could use the post-search filters and select Source = Florida corporate registry.



From here, we can navigate to the SH AMERICAS entity profile. We'll see the entity previously listed an individual identified as Sunil Agrawal as the manager, but currently lists Neha Madhogaria.

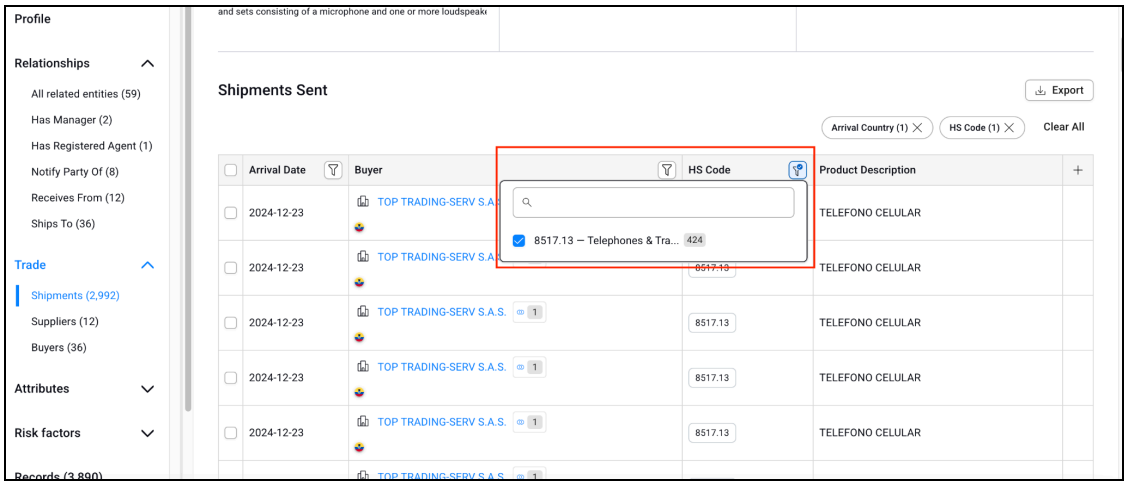
But we're interested in more than just identifying the controllers of this business; we also want to identify who they've engaged in trade with.

To access the trade data, navigate to the pane on the left side of the entity profile, and select "Trade." The trade view will provide summary statistics of top goods imported and/or exported based on HS codes listed on the bills of lading, top departure countries, and top suppliers/buyers. Since we care about identifying exports of electronics to South America, we'll start by selecting "Shipments sent" to get a sense of SH America's recent export history.

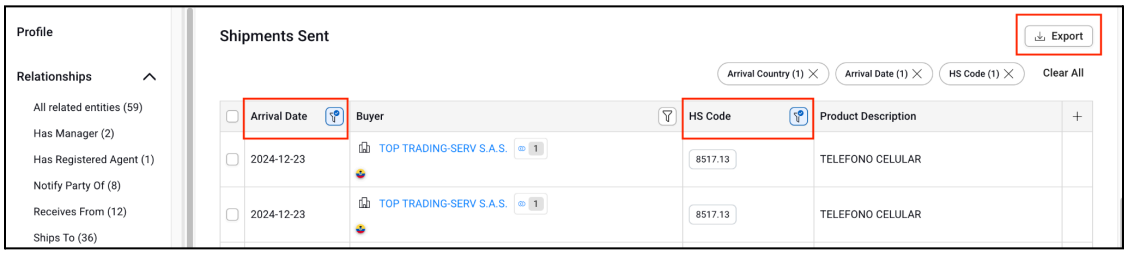


By scrolling further down on this page, we will see all of the shipments (restricted to 100 results per page). The shipments spreadsheet is divided into columns which represent specific trade data fields such as Arrival Date, Buyer, HS Code, Product Description, Country of Manufacture, Country of Departure, and Country of Arrival, among others. The "+" icon on the far right allows users to select additional trade data fields to view (i.e weight, value, etc.). To scroll right on the spreadsheet, either navigate to the bottom of the page and use the scroll bar or use the arrows on the keyboard.

Let's say, for example, we were interested in identifying all shipments for HS Code 8517.13 "Telephones and Transmission Apparatus," which will capture shipments of cell phones. We could simply apply an HS code filter within the shipment spreadsheet:



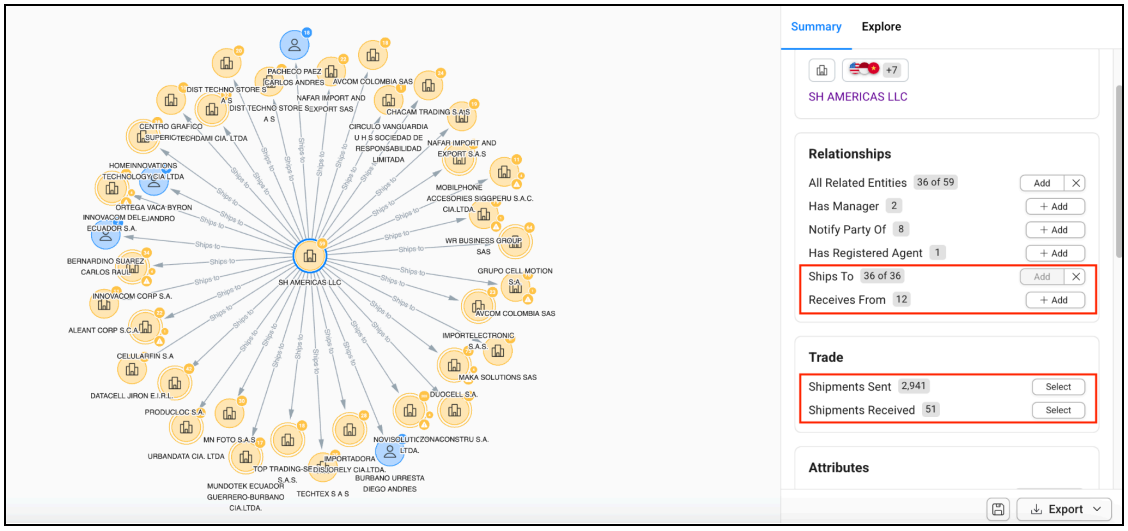
We can drill down further by layering various trade data fields on top of each other. For example, if we were interested in isolating all shipments for HS code 8517.13 that were sent to Ecuador between 01 Nov 2024 and 31 Dec 2024, we could add the appropriate date range in the “Arrival Date” field, the HS code in the HS code field, and select “Ecuador” in the “Country of Arrival” field.



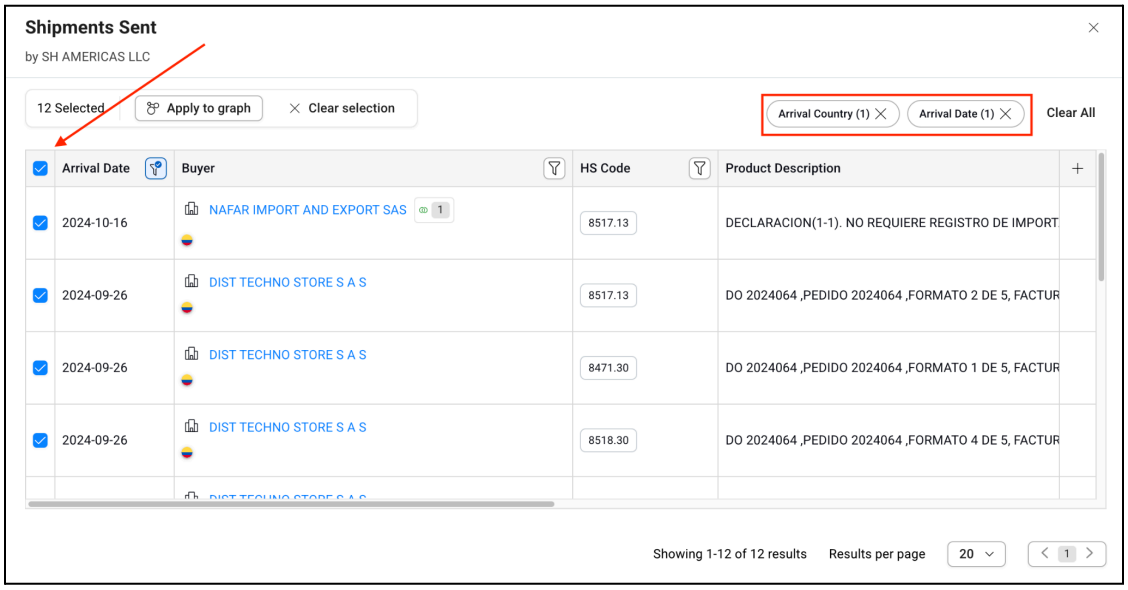
Users have the option of downloading the data as a CSV file for later upload into other systems. However, it’s important to note that the export is limited to 3,000 rows. If the shipment results include more than 3,000 rows, try breaking down the results into smaller chunks using the date range filter, downloading each tranche separately, and then combining the csv files.

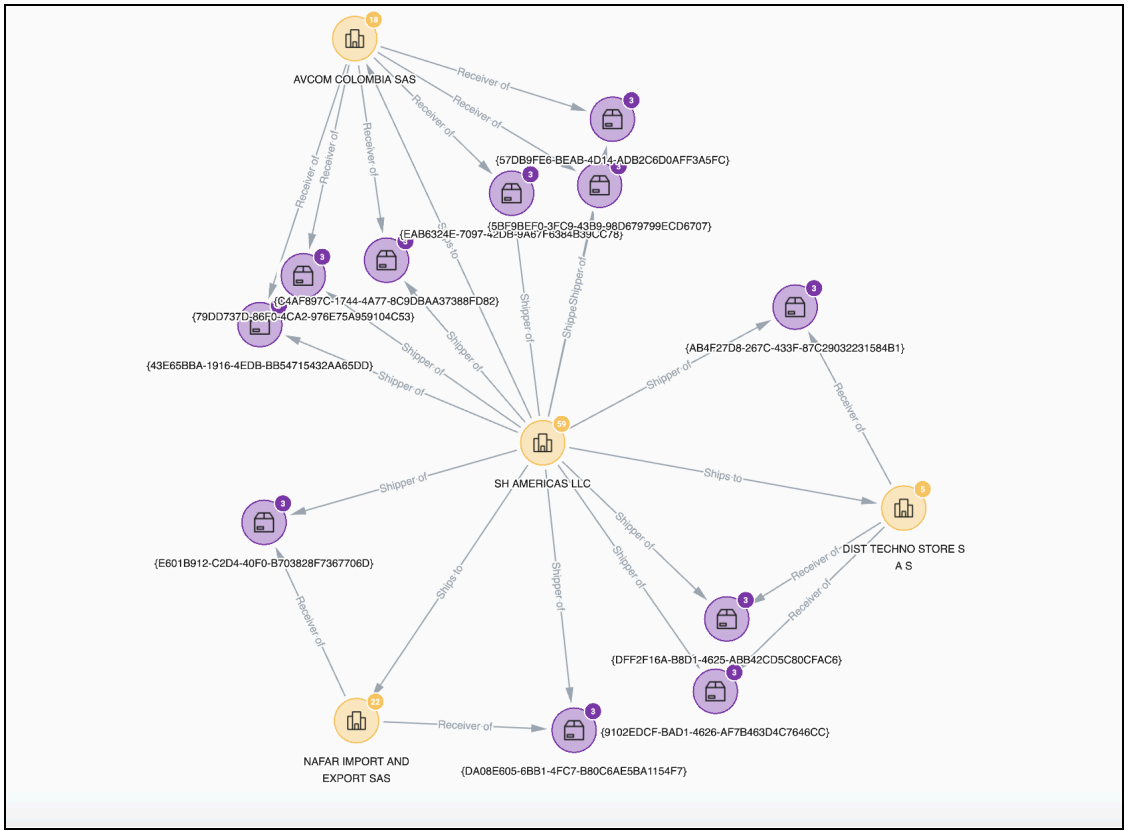
Visualizing trade relationships in a graph

Trade relationships—and the shipments underpinning them—can also be visualized in the graph. Users have the option to view the shipment relationships themselves or each individual shipment. All of the trade relationships can be found under “Relationships” in the pane that appears on the right after selecting a node.



To plot individual shipments on a graph, navigate to the "Trade" section and select either "Shipments Sent" or "Shipments Received." After selecting one, a window will open allowing users to apply many of the same shipment filters as the entity profile to select desired shipments to add to the graph. For example, let's say we were interested in plotting all shipments to Colombia from SH Americas between 1 Sep 2024 - 31 Dec 2024. We could select the relevant filters and then click the box in the top left corner next to "Arrival Date" to select all shipments. Finally, we'll select "Apply to graph" to add them to our graph.





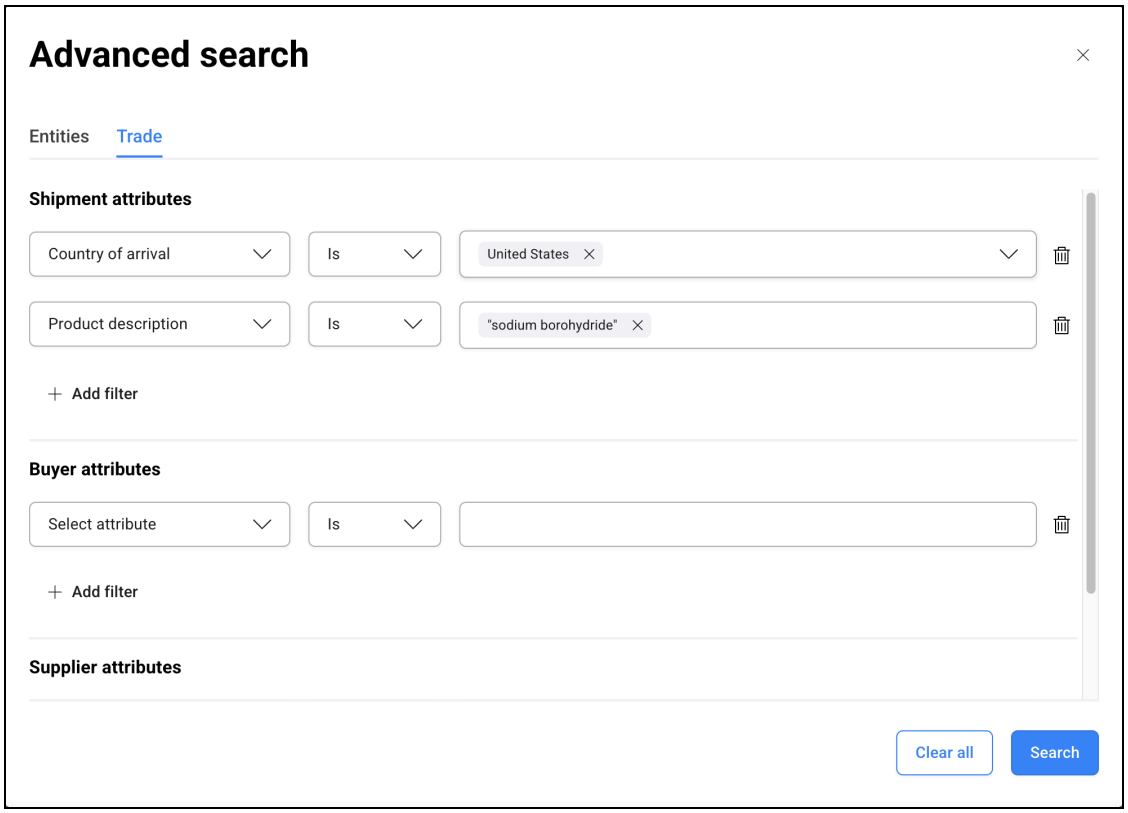
Querying trade data at scale with Advanced Trade Search

The Advanced Trade Search can be used for two primary workflows: narrowing the aperture to drill into specific buyers, suppliers, and shipments, or broadening the aperture by assigning certain search parameters against all of our trade data to identify shipments and companies of interest.

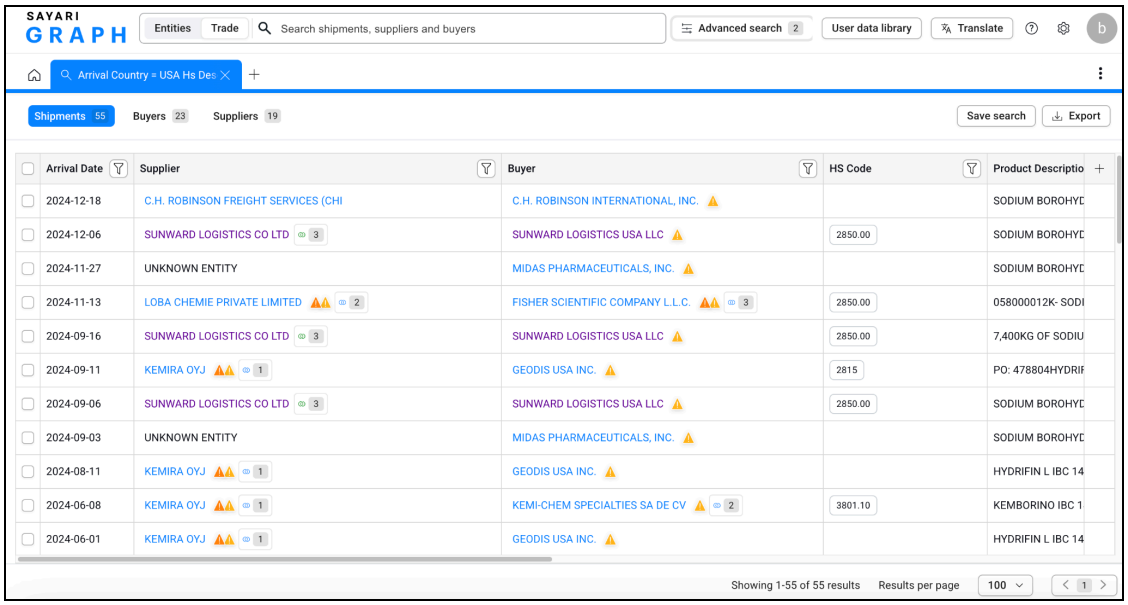
The Advanced Trade Search allows users to query by HS code, product description, buyer, supplier, departure country, and arrival country, among other fields and at scale against over 1 billion shipments in our database.

For example, let's say we were interested in identifying U.S. importers of sodium borohydride, a chemical used in illicit fentanyl manufacturing. We could navigate to the "Advanced Search, and set the parameters as:

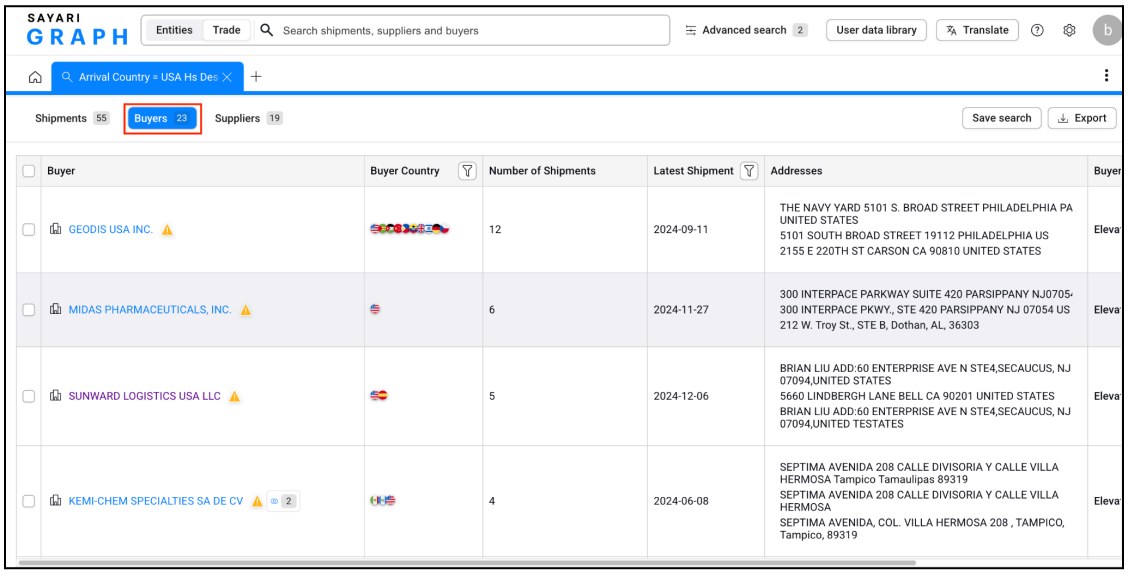
- Product Description = "sodium borohydride"
- Country of Arrival = "United States"



When we run this query, Sayari will provide us all shipments that meet the parameters:



Users can also navigate to the “Buyers” and “Suppliers” tab to see which entities have sent or received shipments that abide by the selected parameters–the buyers and suppliers are ranked in descending order by number of shipments.



As in the entity profile or in the graph, users can then export the shipments, suppliers, or buyers into a csv file.

We hope this step-by-step guide on leveraging Sayari trade data has been helpful. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

ABOUT SAYARI

Sayari is the counterparty and supply chain risk intelligence provider trusted by government agencies, multinational corporations, and financial institutions. Its intuitive network analysis platform surfaces hidden risk through integrated corporate ownership, supply chain, trade transaction and risk intelligence data from over 250 jurisdictions.

Sayari is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and its solutions are used by thousands of frontline analysts in over 35 countries.

To learn how Sayari powers safer global commerce, please contact info@sayari.com >