



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN SEPTEMBER 2018

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 1.84 million metric tons (Mt), which was 27% lower than that in August and 11% lower than that in September 2017. Total production for January through September was 20.1 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in the same period of 2017 (table 1).

Phosphate rock used in the United States in September was 2.0 Mt, which was virtually the same as that in August and 5% lower than that in September 2017. Total phosphate rock used in January through September was 17.4 Mt, which was 13% lower than that in same period of 2017. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of August and 41% higher than those at the end of September 2017 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in September were 206,000 metric tons, which was 41% lower than those in August and 27% lower than those in September 2017. Imports of phosphate rock for

January through September were 29% higher than those in same period of 2017 (table 2). Imports of phosphate rock can vary substantially from month to month based on sales contracts and production schedules of the phosphate plants.

Apparent consumption for 2018, based on annualized data, was estimated to be 26.3 Mt, compared with 28.2 Mt in 2017 (table 3).

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TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period <sup>2</sup>
2017:			
January–September	20,800 <sup>r</sup>	19,900 <sup>r</sup>	7,650 <sup>r</sup>
September	2,070	2,100	7,650
October	2,370	1,860	8,210
November	2,390	2,340	8,350
December	2,190	1,630	9,020
January–December	27,700	25,700	9,020
2018:			
January	2,160	1,790	8,870
February	2,070	1,950	9,000
March	2,210	2,070	9,030
April	2,280	2,030	9,140
May	2,530	1,870	9,700
June	2,270	1,780	10,200
July	2,240 <sup>r</sup>	1,910 <sup>r</sup>	10,500 <sup>r</sup>
August	2,500 <sup>r</sup>	2,010 <sup>r</sup>	11,000 <sup>r</sup>
September	1,840	2,000	10,700
January–September	20,100	17,400	10,700

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>
2017:		
January–September	1,730	150,000 <sup>r</sup>
September	282	25,700
October	259	22,000
November	203	14,600
December	329	24,300
January–December	2,520	211,000
2018:		
January	231	16,600
February	178	11,000
March	167	9,930
April	279	22,600
May	318	21,200
June	246	20,500
July	257	17,500
August	349	29,600
September	206	15,300
January–September	2,230	164,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2016	2017	2018 <sup>e, 1</sup>
Marketable production	27.1 <sup>f</sup>	27.7	26.9
Used by producers	26.7 <sup>f</sup>	25.7	23.3
Yearend stocks	7.5 <sup>f</sup>	9.0	10.6
Imports for consumption	1.6	2.5	3.0
Average value per ton	\$100.79	\$83.75	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>	28.2 <sup>f</sup>	28.2	26.3

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>f</sup>Revised. NA Not Available.

<sup>1</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.