

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN NOVEMBER 2018

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November was 1.80 million metric tons (Mt), which was 4% lower than that in October and 25% lower than that in November 2017. Total production for January through November was 23.8 Mt, which was 7% lower than that in the same period of 2017 (table 1).

Phosphate rock used in the United States in November was 2.07 Mt, which was 4% lower than that in October and 11% lower than that in November 2017. Total phosphate rock used in January through November was 21.6 Mt, which was 10% lower than that in same period of 2017. U.S. producer stocks were slightly 3% lower than those at the end of October and 22% higher than those at the end of November 2017 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in November were 108,000 metric tons, which was 51% lower than those in October and 47% lower than those in November 2017. Imports of phosphate rock for January through November were 17% 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 26.4 Mt, compared with 28.2 Mt in 2017

(table 3). Consumption and production of phosphate rock were lower primarily from the temporary closure of a phosphoric acid plant that began in January 2018. The phosphate rock mine that supplied the plant was idled in the second half of 2018.

In 2018, phosphoric acid production was 10% lower than that in 2017, and production of ammonium phosphate fertilizers were 23% lower than that in 2017 (Fertilizer Institute, The, 2019).

Reference Cited

Fertilizer Institute, The, 2019, Fertilizer Record— October, November and December 2018: Washington, DC, The Fertilizer Institute, February 21, 6 p.

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2017:			
January–November	25,600 ^r	24,100 ^r	8,350 ^r
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	1,910	10,500
August	2,500	2,010	11,000
September	1,840	2,000	10,700
October	1,880	2,170	10,500
November	1,800	2,070	10,200
January–November	23,800	21,600	10,200

^rRevised.

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

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2017:		
January–November	2,190	187,000 ^r
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
October	220	14,100
November	108	6,910
January–November	2,560	185,000

^rRevised.

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

²Cost, 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 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	27.1	27.7	26.0
Used by producers	26.7	25.7	23.6
Yearend stocks	7.5	9.0	10.0
Imports for consumption	1.6	2.5	2.8
Average value per ton	\$100.79	\$83.75	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1, 2, 3}	28.2	28.2	26.4

^eEstimated. NA Not Available.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.