

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: sjasinsk@usgs.gov

Joseph J. Kohler (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7954
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: jkohler@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN DECEMBER 2018

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was 1.77 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly higher than that in November and 19% lower than that in December 2017. Total production in 2018 was 25.7 Mt, which was 8% lower than that in 2017 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in December was 1.97 Mt, which was 5% lower than that in November and 21% higher than that in December 2017. Total phosphate rock used in 2018 was 23.6 Mt, which was 10% lower than that in 2017. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower those at the end of November and 20% higher than those at the end of December 2017 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in December were 209,000 metric tons, which was nearly twice those in November and 36% lower than those in December 2017. Imports of phosphate rock in 2018 were 10% higher than those in 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, was 26.4 Mt, compared with 28.8 Mt in 2017 (table 3). Consumption and production of phosphate rock were lower in 2018 owing to the lower

production of phosphoric acid, which was affected primarily by the temporary closure of The Mosaic Co.'s Plant City, FL, phosphoric acid and fertilizer plant that began in December 2017. Mosaic closed the facility to reduce production costs (Mosaic Co., The, 2019, p. F-5).

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

References Cited

Fertilizer Institute, The, 2019, Fertilizer Record—October, November, and December 2018: Washington, DC, The Fertilizer Institute, February 21, 6 p.
Mosaic Company, The, 2019, Form 10-K—2018: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 177 p. (Accessed March 15, 2019, via <http://investors.mosaicco.com/Doc/Index?did=50532596>.)

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2017:			
January–December	27,900 ^r	26,300 ^r	8,440 ^r
December	2,190	1,630	8,440 ^r
2018:			
January	2,200 ^r	1,810 ^r	8,880 ^r
February	2,080 ^r	1,950 ^r	9,020 ^r
March	2,230 ^r	2,070 ^r	9,070 ^r
April	2,300 ^r	2,030 ^r	9,200 ^r
May	2,550 ^r	1,870 ^r	9,770 ^r
June	2,280 ^r	1,780 ^r	10,300 ^r
July	2,260 ^r	1,910	10,600 ^r
August	2,510 ^r	2,010	11,100 ^r
September	1,850 ^r	2,000	10,900 ^r
October	1,950 ^r	2,150 ^r	10,700 ^r
November	1,740 ^r	2,070	10,300 ^r
December	1,770	1,970	10,100
January–December	25,700	23,600	10,100

^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–December	2,520	211,000
December	329	24,300
2018:		
January	232 ^r	16,900 ^r
February	178	11,000
March	167	10,400 ^r
April	280 ^r	23,000 ^r
May	319 ^r	21,800 ^r
June	246	21,000 ^r
July	257	17,800 ^r
August	350 ^r	30,800 ^r
September	206	15,600 ^r
October	220	14,100
November	108	6,950 ^r
December	209	16,000
January–December	2,770	205,000

^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
Marketable production	27.1	27.9 ^r	25.7
Sold or used by producers	26.7	26.3 ^r	23.6
Yearend stocks	7.5	8.4 ^r	10.1
Imports for consumption	1.6	2.5	2.8
Average value per ton	\$100.79	\$83.75	\$74.06
Apparent consumption ^{1,2}	28.2	28.8 ^r	26.4

^rRevised.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.