

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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](mailto:sjasinsk@usgs.gov)

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

**Internet:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MARCH 2019

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 1.88 million metric tons (Mt), which was 5% higher than that in February and 16% lower than that in March 2018. Total production for January through March was 5.33 Mt, which was 18% lower than that in the same period of 2018 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in March was 1.99 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in February and 4% lower than that in March 2018. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through March was 6.14 Mt, which was 5% higher than that in the same period of 2018. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of February and slightly higher than those at the end of March 2018 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in March were 227,000 metric tons, which was 42% higher than those in February and 36% higher

than those in March 2018. Imports of phosphate rock January through March were 17% higher than those in the same period of 2018 (table 2). Imports of phosphate rock can vary substantially from month to month based on sales contracts and production schedules of the phosphate plants.

Estimated apparent consumption, based on annualized data, for 2019, was 27.8 Mt, compared with 26.4 Mt in 2018 (table 3).

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period <sup>2</sup>
2018:			
January–March	6,500 <sup>r</sup>	5,840 <sup>r</sup>	9,070 <sup>r</sup>
March	2,230	2,070	9,070
April	2,300	2,030	9,200
May	2,550	1,870	9,770
June	2,280	1,780	10,300
July	2,260	1,910	10,600
August	2,510	2,010	11,100
September	1,850	2,000	10,900
October	1,950	2,150	10,700
November	1,740	2,070	10,300
December	1,770	1,970	10,100
January–December	25,700	23,600	10,100
2019:			
January	1,670	2,190	9,490
February	1,780 <sup>r</sup>	1,960 <sup>r</sup>	9,320 <sup>r</sup>
March	1,880	1,990	9,210
January–March	5,330	6,140	9,210

<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>
2018:		
January–March	577 <sup>r</sup>	38,300 <sup>r</sup>
March	167	10,400
April	280	23,000
May	319	21,800
June	246	21,000
July	257	17,800
August	350	30,800
September	206	15,600
October	220	14,100
November	108	6,950
December	209	16,000
January–December	2,770	205,000
2019:		
January	288	20,100
February	160	11,200
March	227	16,100
January–March	675	47,300

<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)

	2017	2018	2019 <sup>c,1</sup>
Marketable production	27.9	25.7	23.0
Sold or used by producers	26.3	23.6	25.0
Yearend stocks	8.4	10.1	8.5
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.8	2.8
Average value per ton	\$83.75	\$74.06	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>1,2,3</sup>	28.8	26.4	27.8

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. 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.