

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MAY 2019

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 2.15 million metric tons (Mt), which was 3% higher than that in April and 16% lower than that in May 2018. Total production for January through May was 9.56 Mt, which was 16% lower than that in the same period of 2018 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in May was 1.98 Mt, which was 7% higher than that in April and 6% higher than that in May 2018. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through May was 9.98 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in the same period of 2018. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher those at the end of April and slightly lower than those at the end of May 2018 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in May were 221,000 metric tons, which was 32% higher than those in April and 31% lower than

those in May 2018. Imports of phosphate rock during January through May were 9% lower 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 26.6 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–May	11,300 <sup>r</sup>	9,740 <sup>r</sup>	9,770 <sup>r</sup>
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	1,960	9,320
March	1,880	1,990	9,210
April	2,080	1,860	9,430
May	2,150	1,980	9,600
January–May	9,560	9,980	9,600

<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–May	1,180 <sup>r</sup>	83,100 <sup>r</sup>
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	235	16,600
April	168	12,500
May	221	16,000
January–May	1,070	76,400

<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>6,1</sup>
Marketable production	27.9	25.7	23.7
Sold or used by producers	26.3	23.6	24.1
Yearend stocks	8.4	10.1	9.5
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.8	2.5
Average value per ton	\$83.75	\$74.06	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>2,3</sup>	28.8	26.4	26.6

<sup>6</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.