

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK SEPTEMBER 2019

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 2.04 million metric tons (Mt), which was 4% lower than that in August and 10% higher than that in September 2018. Total production for January through September was 17.5 Mt, which was 14% lower than that in the same period of 2018 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in September was 1.93 Mt, which was 6% lower than that in August and 4% lower than that in September 2018. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through September was 17.5 Mt, which was about the same as that in the same period of 2018. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher than those at the end of August and 8% lower than those at the end of September 2018 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in September were 157,000 metric tons, which was 57% higher than those in August and 24%

lower than those in September 2018. Imports of phosphate rock during January through September were 24% 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 25.4 Mt compared with 26.4 Mt in 2018 (table 3).

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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
2018:			
January–September	20,200 ^r	17,400	10,900 ^r
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	1,710	2,130	9,610
February	1,800	1,910	9,500
March	1,830	1,900	9,430
April	1,900	1,870	9,460
May	2,150	2,020	9,590
June	1,960	1,770	9,790
July	1,960	1,940	9,800
August	2,130 ^r	2,050 ^r	9,880 ^r
September	2,040	1,930	9,990
January–September	17,500	17,500	9,990

^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
2018:		
January–September	2,240 ^r	168,000 ^r
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
June	111	8,130
July	267	20,700
August	100	7,080
September	157	11,400
January–September	1,710	124,000

^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)

	2017	2018	2019 ^{c,1}
Marketable production	27.9	25.7	23.4
Sold or used by producers	26.3	23.6	23.4
Yearend stocks	8.4	10.1	10.0
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.8	2.0
Average value per ton	\$83.75	\$74.06	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2,3}	28.8	26.4	25.4

^cEstimated. NA Not Available.

¹Annualized data.

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

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.