

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK—CROP YEAR 2006

U.S. production of marketable phosphate rock was 32.6 million metric tons (Mt) in Crop Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006) compared with 35.8 Mt in Crop Year 2005 according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The decrease was attributed to the permanent closure of two mines and the temporary closure of another mine in Florida and lower production Idaho. Mosaic Co., the leading U.S. producer, permanently closed its Kingsford and Fort Green Mines in September 2005 and May 2006, respectively. Its Wingate Mine was closed indefinitely in November 2005 (Mosaic Company, The, 2006, p. 8). In addition, the company's four active mines were closed in February 2006 to reduce phosphate rock stocks (Green Markets, 2006).

Data for this report were collected through monthly and semi-annual canvasses of U.S. phosphate rock producers. All companies that produced phosphate rock in the United States during the period participated in the voluntary surveys, representing 100% of the production, sold or used, and value data shown in the tables. Trade data were provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Moroccan phosphate producer.

Marketable phosphate rock sold or used was 32.3 Mt, an 11% decrease from that of Crop Year 2005, owing to lower production of phosphoric acid. The manufacturing of wet-process phosphoric acid for fertilizers and animal feed

supplements was estimated to have accounted for more than 95% of phosphate rock consumption. The remainder was used to produce elemental phosphorus, defluorinated phosphate rock, or direct application to soil.

Estimated domestic consumption decreased by 11% to 34.6 Mt compared with 38.8 Mt in Crop Year 2005. Producers' stocks decreased slightly to 7.45 Mt from 7.56 Mt in Crop Year 2005.

The average value of marketable phosphate rock sold or used in the United States was \$29.14 per metric ton, compared with \$28.27 per ton in Crop Year 2005. No exports of phosphate rock were reported by producers in Crop Year 2006. Imports of phosphate rock were estimated to be 2.3 Mt, using U.S. Census Bureau trade data and export data from the Moroccan producer. Much of the import tonnage and value data for Moroccan phosphate rock imports were suppressed by the Census Bureau.

References Cited

- Green Markets, 2006, Phosphate, central Florida: Green Markets, v. 30, no. 6, February 6, p. 6.
- Mosaic Company, The, 2006, Form 10-K—2006 fiscal year: Securities and Exchange Commission, 119 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

	Crop year ²	
	2005	2006
Mine production (crude ore)	152,000	128,000
Marketable phosphate rock production	35,800	32,600
P ₂ O ₅ content	10,300	9,420
Value	999,000	987,000
Average, dollars per metric ton ³	27.89	30.24
Sold or used by producers ⁴	36,100	32,200
P ₂ O ₅ content	10,400	9,300
Value ⁵	1,020,000	968,000
Average, dollars per metric ton ³	28.27	30.04
Exports	--	--
Value	XX	XX
Average, dollars per metric ton ⁶	XX	XX
Imports for consumption ^{e, 7}	2,730	2,300
Cost, insurance, and freight value	109,000	101,000
Average, dollars per metric ton	39.91	44.07
Consumption ^{e, 8}	38,800	34,500
Stocks, June 30, producers ¹	7,560	7,450

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices.

²July 1-June 30.

³Average value is based on sold or used values.

⁴Includes domestic sales and exports.

⁵Total value of all domestic and export sales.

⁶Value of exports reported to the U.S. Geological Survey by companies.

⁷Some phosphate rock import tonnage and value data were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates are based on reports from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Moroccan phosphate rock producer.

⁸Expressed as sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 2
PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHATE ROCK IN THE UNITED STATES, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period and region	Mine production, crude ore		Marketable production, beneficiated			Ending stocks, rock
	Rock	P ₂ O ₅ content	Rock	P ₂ O ₅ content	Value ²	
Crop Year 2005	152,000	14,900	35,800	10,300	999,000	7,560
Crop Year 2006:						
July-December 2005	70,300	7,090	17,400	5,050	531,000	6,970
January-June 2006	57,300	5,900	15,200	4,370	456,000	7,450
Total	128,000	13,000	32,600	9,420	987,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

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

²Based on the per ton sold or used values.

TABLE 3
 PHOSPHATE ROCK SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS
 IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Rock	P ₂ O ₅ content	Value ²
Crop Year 2005	36,100	10,400	1,020,000
Crop Year 2006:			
July-December 2005	17,300	4,990	525,000
January-June 2006	14,900	4,300	443,000
Total	32,200	9,300	968,000

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

²Free on board mine.