

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MAY 2022

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was estimated to be 2.02 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% higher than that in April and 13% higher than that in May 2021 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through May was estimated to be 8.51 Mt, which was 4% lower than the revised amount in the same period of 2021.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in May was estimated to be 1.8 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in April and 7% lower than that in May 2021. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through May was estimated to be 8.89 Mt, which was 6% lower than the revised amount in the same period of 2021. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be 3% higher than that in April and 4% lower than the revised amount at the end of May 2021 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in May 2022 were 97,000 metric tons (t), which were 63% lower than those in April and 14% lower than those in May 2021. Total imports for January through May were 872,000 t, which was 10% lower than those

in the same period in 2021 (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 for 2022, based on annualized data, was 23.6 Mt compared with 24.5 Mt in 2021 (table 3), owing to lower domestic production of phosphoric acid and elemental phosphorus in the first quarter of 2022. U.S. exports of phosphate fertilizers were higher in the first five months of 2022 compared with the same period in 2021, but U.S. companies face increased competition in the world phosphate export market.

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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
2021:			
January–May	8,850 ^r	9,480 ^r	9,070 ^r
May	1,780	1,940	9,070
June	2,100	1,650	9,520
July	1,880	1,840	9,570
August	1,920	1,920	9,340
September	1,990	1,690	9,630
October	1,730	1,610	9,630
November	1,680	2,160	9,150
December ^c	1,700	1,630	9,220
January–December ^c	21,800	22,000	9,220
2022: ^c			
January	1,510	1,660	8,900
February	1,530	1,650	8,780
March	1,600	1,930	8,450
April	1,850	1,850	8,450
May	2,020	1,800	8,670
January–May	8,510	8,890	8,670

^cEstimated. ^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
2021:		
January–May	972	74,300
May	113	8,630
June	121	9,460
July	262	20,900
August	213	19,100
September	155	13,500
October	320	30,700
November	99	9,430
December	323	31,600
January–December	2,460	209,000
2022:		
January	219	22,100
February	206	21,700
March	85	9,110
April	264	30,000
May	97	10,700
January–May	872	93,800

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)

	2020	2021	2022 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	23.5	21.8 ^e	21.0
Sold or used by producers	22.6	22.0 ^e	21.5
Yearend stocks	11.0	9.2 ^e	8.7
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.1
Average value per ton	\$74.55	\$84.80	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	25.1	24.5 ^e	23.6

^eEstimated. NA Not Available.

¹Annualized data.

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

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.