

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK OCTOBER 2022

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October was estimated to be 1.95 million metric tons (Mt), which was essentially unchanged from that in September and 13% higher than that in October 2021 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through October was estimated to be 17.8 Mt, which was 4% lower than that in the same period of 2021.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in October was estimated to be 1.83 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in September and 14% higher than that in October 2021. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through October was estimated to be 17.9 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in the same period of 2021. U.S. producer stocks in October were estimated to be 8.96 Mt, which was essentially unchanged from those in September and 7% lower than those in October 2021 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in October 2022 were 149,000 metric tons, which were 25% lower than those in September and 53% lower than those in October 2021. Total imports for January through October were 1.96 Mt, which was 4% 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 23.9 Mt compared with 24.5 Mt in 2021 (table 3), owing to lower domestic production of phosphoric acid and elemental phosphorus in the first half of 2022. Adverse weather conditions in some areas of the United States during the spring planting season and rail delays contributed to lower domestic sales and production of phosphate fertilizers in the first half of 2022 (Mosaic Co, The, 2022).

Reference Cited

Mosaic Company, The, 2022, The Mosaic Company reports second quarter 2022 results: Mosaic Company press release, October 1, 2022. (Accessed October 10, 2022, at https://s1.q4cdn.com/823038994/files/doc_financials/2022/q2/Final-Press-Release-Q2-2022_8.1.22_3PM.pdf.)

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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–October	18,500 ^r	18,200 ^r	9,630 ^r
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	1,550	1,640	8,370
May	2,000	1,820	8,550
June	1,820	1,800	8,570
July	1,900	1,790	8,690
August	2,000	1,970	8,730
September	1,920	1,810	8,850
October	1,950	1,830	8,960
January–October	17,800	17,900	8,960

^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–October	2,040	168,000
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
June	176	22,800
July	249	32,600
August	314	43,700
September	198	30,700
October	149	24,300
January–October	1,960	248,000

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	21.3
Sold or used by producers	22.6	22.0 ^e	21.5
Yearend stocks	11.0	9.2 ^e	9.0
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.4
Average value per ton	\$74.55	\$84.80	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	25.1	24.5 ^e	23.9

^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.