

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK DECEMBER 2022

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was estimated to be 1.53 million metric tons (Mt), which was 7% higher than the revised amount in November and 10% lower than that in December 2021 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through December was estimated to be 19.6 Mt, which was 9% lower than the revised amount in the same period of 2021.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in December was estimated to be 1.55 Mt, which was 3% lower than the revised amount in November and 5% lower than that in December 2021. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through December was estimated to be 19.4 Mt, which was 12% lower than the revised amount in the same period of 2021. U.S. producer stocks in December were estimated to be 9.34 Mt, which was essentially unchanged than those in November and 13% lower the revised amount in December 2021 (table 1). Revised stock data for December 2021 included inventory adjustments and may not be comparable to December 2022 stock data.

Imports of phosphate rock in December 2022 were 243,000 metric tons, which were 18% lower than those in November and 25% lower than those in December 2021. Total imports for January through December were 2.5 Mt, which was essentially

unchanged from 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 was 21.9 Mt compared with 24.4 Mt in 2021 (table 3), owing to lower domestic production of phosphoric acid and elemental phosphorus. U.S. consumption of phosphate fertilizers was affected by adverse weather conditions in some areas of the United States during the spring planting season, rail delays, and plant closures in Florida caused by Hurricane Ian in October. High fertilizer prices in the second and third quarters contributed to lower consumption as many farmers delayed fertilizer purchases.

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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 ^c	21,600 ^r	21,900 ^r	10,700 ^r
2021, December ^c	1,700	1,630	10,700 ^r
2022: ^c			
January	1,480 ^r	1,550 ^r	8,970 ^r
February	1,500 ^r	1,540 ^r	8,940 ^r
March	1,580 ^r	1,940 ^r	8,570 ^r
April	1,530 ^r	1,750 ^r	8,360 ^r
May	1,940 ^r	1,820	8,480 ^r
June	1,820	1,470 ^r	8,830 ^r
July	2,010 ^r	1,650 ^r	9,180 ^r
August	2,070 ^r	1,670 ^r	9,600 ^r
September	1,440 ^r	1,340 ^r	9,700 ^r
October	1,260 ^r	1,530 ^r	9,430 ^r
November	1,430 ^r	1,590 ^r	9,260 ^r
December	1,530	1,550	9,340
January–December	19,600	19,400	9,340

^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	2,460	209,000
2021, December	323	31,600
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
November	295	49,900
December	243	41,800
January–December	2,500	339,000

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
Marketable production	23.5	21.6 ^r	19.6
Sold or used by producers	22.6	21.9 ^r	19.4
Yearend stocks	11.0	10.7 ^r	9.3
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.5
Average value per ton	\$74.55	\$84.80	\$136.00
Apparent consumption ^{1, 2}	25.1	24.4 ^r	21.9

^eEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.