

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK JANUARY 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in January 2023 was estimated to be 1.50 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly lower than in December 2022 and slightly higher than that in January 2022 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in January 2023 was estimated to be 1.66 Mt, which was 7% higher than that in December 2022 and 7% higher than that in January 2022. U.S. producer stocks in January 2023 were estimated to be 9.08 Mt, which were slightly lower than the revised amount in December 2022 and essentially unchanged from those in January 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in January 2023 were 263,000 metric tons, which were 8% higher than those in December 2022 and 20% higher than those in January 2022 (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 2023, using annualized data, was 22.7 Mt, compared with 21.9 Mt in 2022 (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
2022:			
January	1,480	1,550	8,970
February	1,500	1,540	8,940
March	1,580	1,940	8,570
April	1,530	1,750	8,360
May	1,940	1,820	8,480
June	1,810	1,460	8,830
July	2,010	1,650	9,170 ^r
August	2,070	1,670	9,590 ^r
September	1,440	1,340	9,690 ^r
October	1,260	1,530	9,420 ^r
November	1,430	1,590	9,240 ^r
December	1,530	1,550	9,240 ^r
January–December ^e	19,600	19,400	9,240 ^r
2023, January ^e	1,500	1,660	9,080

^eEstimated. ^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
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
2023, January	263	49,200

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)

	2021	2022	2023 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	21.6	19.6 ^e	18.9
Sold or used by producers	21.9	19.4 ^e	19.6
Yearend stocks	10.7	9.2 ^{r, e}	9.1
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	3.1
Average value per ton	\$84.80	\$136.00	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	24.4	21.9 ^e	22.7

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not Available.

¹Annualized data.

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

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.