

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-7711
Email: sjasinsk@usgs.gov

Joseph J. Kohler (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7954
Email: jkohler@usgs.gov
Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK FEBRUARY 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February 2023 was estimated to be 1.55 million metric tons (Mt), which was 3% higher than that in January and 3% higher than that in February 2022 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January and February was 3.05 Mt, which was 3% higher than the revised amount in the same period of 2022.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in February 2023 was estimated to be 1.71 Mt, which was 3% higher than that in January and 12% higher than that in February 2022. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January and February was estimated to be 3.38 Mt, which was 9% higher than the revised amount in the same period of 2022. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be slightly lower than the revised amount in January and essentially unchanged from the revised amount at the end of February 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in February 2023 were 210,000 metric tons (t), which were 20% lower than those in January and

slightly higher than those in February 2022. Total imports for January and February were 473,000 t, which was 11% higher than those in same period in 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, based on annualized data, was 23.8 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–February	2,970 ^r	3,090 ^r	8,940 ^r
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
August	2,070	1,670	9,590
September	1,440	1,340	9,690
October	1,260	1,530	9,420
November	1,430	1,590	9,240
December	1,530	1,550	9,240
January–December ^e	19,600	19,400	9,240
2023: ^e			
January	1,500	1,660	9,020 ^r
February	1,550	1,710	8,850
January–February	3,050	3,380	8,850

^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–February	425	43,900
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
February	210	37,700
January–February	473	86,800

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)

	2021	2022	2023 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	21.6	19.6 ^e	20.1
Sold or used by producers	21.9	19.4 ^e	20.9
Yearend stocks	10.7	9.2 ^e	8.9
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.9
Average value per ton	\$84.80	\$136.00	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	24.4	21.9 ^e	23.8

^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.