

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MAY 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May 2023 was estimated to be 1.86 million metric tons (Mt), which was 15% higher than that in April and 4% lower than that in May 2022 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January through May was estimated to be 8.16 Mt, which was slightly higher than the revised amount in the same period of 2022.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in May 2023 was estimated to be 1.62 Mt, which was 7% lower than that in April and 11% lower than that in May 2022. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January through May was estimated to be 8.86 Mt, which was 3% higher than the revised amount in the same period of 2022. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be 8% higher than those in April and 5% higher than the revised amount in May 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in May 2023 were 203,000 metric tons, which was slightly lower than those in April and 2.1 times

greater than those in May 2022. Total imports for January through May were 1.12 Mt, which was 29% 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 24.1 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–May	8,020 ^r	8,600 ^r	8,480 ^r
May	1,940	1,820	8,480
June	1,810	1,470	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 ^c	19,600	19,400	9,240
2023: ^c			
January	1,680	1,800	9,060
February	1,460	1,890	8,620
March	1,550	1,820	8,360
April	1,610	1,730	8,240
May	1,860	1,620	8,860
January–May	8,160	8,860	8,860

^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
2022:		
January–May	872	93,800
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
March	240	41,000
April	208	35,000
May	203	31,900
January–May	1,120	195,000

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)

	2021	2022	2023 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	21.6	19.6 ^e	20.4
Sold or used by producers	21.9	19.4 ^e	21.4
Yearend stocks	10.7	9.2 ^e	8.9
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.7
Average value per ton	\$84.80	\$136.00	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	24.4	21.9 ^e	24.1

^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.