

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK AUGUST 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in August 2023 was estimated to be 1.95 million metric tons (Mt), which was essentially unchanged from that in July and 5% lower than that in August 2022 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January through August was estimated to be 13.6 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in the same period of 2022.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in August 2023 was estimated to be 1.72 Mt, which was 3% higher than that in July and 3% higher than that in August 2022. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January through August was estimated to be 13.9 Mt, which was essentially unchanged from that in the same period of 2022. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be essentially unchanged from those in July and 7% lower than the revised amount in August 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in August 2023 were 161,000 metric tons, which was 41% lower than those in July and 49%

lower than those in August 2022. Total imports for January through August were 1.74 Mt, which was 8% 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 23.6 Mt compared with 22.3 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–August	14,100 ^r	13,800 ^r	9,590 ^r
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	10,600 ^r
January–December ^e	19,800 ^r	19,800 ^r	10,600 ^r
2023: ^e			
January	1,680	1,800	9,060
February	1,460	1,890	8,620
March	1,550	1,820	8,360
April	1,500	1,730	8,130
May	1,860	1,710	8,280
June	1,700	1,600	8,380
July	1,940	1,670	8,810 ^r
August	1,950	1,720	8,880
January–August	13,600	13,900	8,880

^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–August	1,610	193,000
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
June	183	31,400
July	274	30,300
August	161	18,300
January–August	1,740	275,000

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	19.8 ^{r, e}	20.5
Sold or used by producers	21.9	19.8 ^{r, e}	20.9
Yearend stocks	10.7	10.6 ^{r, e}	8.9
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.6
Average value per ton	\$84.80	\$136.00	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	24.4	22.3 ^{r, e}	23.6

^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.