

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 SEPTEMBER 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was estimated to be 1.58 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% lower than the revised amount in August and 9% higher than that in September 2022 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January through September was estimated to be 15.0 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in the same period of 2022.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in September was estimated to be 1.41 Mt, which was 14% lower than the revised amount in August and 5% higher than that in September 2022. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January through September was estimated to be 15.2 Mt, which was unchanged from that in the same period of 2022. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be slightly higher than the revised amount in August and 7% lower than that in September 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in September were 333,000 metric tons, which were more than double those in August and 68%

higher than those in September 2022. Total imports for January through September were 2.07 Mt, which was 15% 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 23.1 Mt compared with 22.3 Mt in 2022 (table 3).

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2022:			
January–September	15,600 ^r	15,200 ^r	9,690 ^r
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
January–December ^c	19,800	19,800	10,600
2023: ^c			
January	1,680	1,800	9,060
February	1,460	1,890	8,620
March	1,550	1,820	8,360
April	1,500	1,730	8,130
May	1,860	1,710	8,280
June	1,680 ^r	1,530 ^r	8,440 ^r
July	1,980 ^r	1,640 ^r	8,780 ^r
August	1,730 ^r	1,650 ^r	8,860 ^r
September	1,580	1,410	9,030
January–September	15,000	15,200	9,030

^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–September	1,810	224,000
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
September	333	40,200
January–September	2,070	315,000

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 ^e	20.1
Sold or used by producers	21.9	19.8 ^e	20.3
Yearend stocks	10.7	10.6 ^e	9.0
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.8
Average value per ton	\$84.80	\$136.00	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	24.4	22.3 ^e	23.1

^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.