# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK OCTOBER 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October was estimated to be 1.59 million metric tons (Mt), which was essentially unchanged from that in September and 26% higher than that in October 2022 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January through October was estimated to be 16.6 Mt, which was essentially unchanged from the revised total in the same period of 2022.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in October was estimated to be 1.64 Mt, which was 16% higher than that in September and 7% higher than that in October 2022. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January through October was estimated to be 16.8 Mt, which was essentially unchanged from the revised total the same period of 2022. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be essentially unchanged from that in September and 5% lower than that in October 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in October were 320,000 metric tons, which were 4% lower than those in September and 2.1 times greater than those in October 2022. Total imports for January through October were 2.39 Mt, which was 22% 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).

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TABLE 1

U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Marketable production | Sold or Used | Stocks, end of period[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2022: | | | |
| January–October | 16,800 [r] | 16,700 [r] | 9,420 [r] |
| October | 1,260 | 1,530 | 9,420 |
| November | 1,430 | 1,590 | 9,240 |
| December | 1,530 | 1,550 | 10,600 |
| January–December[e] | 19,800 | 19,800 | 10,600 |
| 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 | 1,680 | 1,530 | 8,440 |
| July | 1,980 | 1,640 | 8,780 |
| August | 1,730 | 1,650 | 8,860 |
| September | 1,580 | 1,410 | 9,030 |
| October | 1,590 | 1,640 | 8,980 |
| January–October | 16,600 | 16,800 | 8,980 |

[e]Estimated. [r]Revised.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK[1]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

| Period | Quantity | Value[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 2022: | | |
| January–October | 1,960 | 248,000 |
| 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 |
| October | 320 | 40,900 |
| January–October | 2,390 | 356,000 |

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Cost, 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] | 19.9 |
| Sold or used by producers | 21.9 | 19.8 [e] | 20.2 |
| Yearend stocks | 10.7 | 10.6 [e] | 8.8 |
| Imports for consumption | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.9 |
| Average value per ton | $84.80 | $136.00 | NA |
| Apparent consumption[2, 3] | 24.4 | 22.3 [e] | 23.1 |

[e]Estimated. NA Not Available.

[1]Annualized data.

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

[3]Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.