

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK DECEMBER 2023

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was estimated to be 1.42 million metric tons (Mt), which was 6% lower than that in November and 7% lower than that in December 2022 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January through December was estimated to be 19.5 Mt, which was essentially unchanged from that the same period of 2022.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in December was estimated to be 1.62 Mt, which was 4% lower than that in November and 5% higher than that in December 2022. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January through December was estimated to be 20.1 Mt, which was essentially unchanged from that in the same period of 2022. U.S. producer stocks were estimated to be slightly lower than that in November and 19% lower than that in December 2022 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in December were 98,000 metric tons, which were 3% lower than those in November and 60%

lower than those in December 2022. Total imports for January through December were 2.59 Mt, which was 4% 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 was 22.7 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 ^c	19,800	19,800	10,600
2022, December ^c	1,530	1,550	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	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
November	1,510	1,690	8,810
December	1,420	1,620	8,600
January–December	19,500	20,100	8,600

^cEstimated.

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	2,500	339,000
2022, December	243	41,800
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
November	101	13,300
December	98	13,000
January–December	2,590	382,000

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
Marketable production	21.6	19.8 ^e	19.5 ^e
Sold or used by producers	21.9	19.8 ^e	20.1 ^e
Yearend stocks	10.7	10.6 ^e	8.6 ^e
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.5	2.6
Average value per ton	\$84.80	\$136.00	147.32
Apparent consumption ^{1, 2}	24.4	22.3 ^e	22.7 ^e

^eEstimated.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.