



Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 2018

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 2.43 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% higher than that in April and 3% lower than that in May 2017. Total production for January through May was 11.2 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in the same period of 2017 (table 1).

Phosphate rock used in the United States in May was 1.95 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in April and 19% lower than that in May 2017. Total phosphate rock used in January through May was 9.77 Mt, which was 13% lower than that in same period of 2017. U.S. producer stocks were 4% higher those at the end of April and 31% higher than those at the end of May 2017 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in May were 318,000 metric tons, which was 14% higher than those in April and 36% higher than those in May 2017. Imports of phosphate rock for January

through May were 65% higher than those in same period of 2017 (table 2). Imports of phosphate rock can vary substantially from month to month based on sales contracts and production schedules of the phosphate plants.

Apparent consumption for 2018, based on annualized data, was estimated to be 26.2 Mt, compared with 28.2 Mt in 2017 (table 3).

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2017:			
January–May	11,300 ^r	11,200 ^r	7,320 ^r
May	2,510	2,420	7,320
June	2,390	2,090	7,450
July	2,440	2,190	6,910
August	2,580	2,290	7,830
September	2,070	2,100	7,650
October	2,370	1,860	8,210
November	2,390	2,340	8,350
December	2,190	1,630	9,020
January–December	27,700	25,700	9,020
2018:			
January	2,160	1,790	8,870
February	2,070	1,960	8,980
March	2,300	2,050	9,120
April	2,220 ^r	2,010 ^r	9,190 ^r
May	2,430	1,950	9,560
January–May	11,200	9,770	9,560

^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
2017:		
January–May	712	64,900 ^r
May	233	22,900
June	248	18,200
July	267	20,200
August	216	21,300
September	282	25,700
October	259	22,000
November	203	14,600
December	329	24,300
January–December	2,520	211,000
2018:		
January	231	16,600
February	178	11,000
March	167	9,930
April	279	22,600
May	318	21,200
January–May	1,170	81,300

^rRevised.

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)

	2016	2017	2018 ^{e,1}
Marketable production	27.3	27.7	26.9
Used by producers	26.5	25.7	23.6
Yearend stocks	7.2	9.0	9.2
Imports for consumption	1.6	2.5	2.6
Average value per ton	\$100.79	\$83.75	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1,2,3}	28.1	28.2	26.2

^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.