



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: sjasinsk@usgs.gov

Joseph J. Kohler (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7954
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: jkohler@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JULY 2018

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in July was 2.17 million metric tons (Mt), which was 4% lower than that in June and 11% lower than that in July 2017. Total production for January through July was 15.7 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in the same period of 2017 (table 1).

Phosphate rock used in the United States in July was 2.0 Mt, which was 12% higher than that in June and 9% lower than that in July 2017. Total phosphate rock used in January through July was 13.5 Mt, which was 13% lower than that in same period of 2017. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher than those at the end of June and 50% higher than those at the end of July 2017 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in July were 257,000 metric tons, which was 4% higher than those in June and 4% lower than those in July 2017. Imports of phosphate rock for January

through July were 37% 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 26.1 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–July	16,200	15,500	6,910
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	1,950	9,000
March	2,210	2,070	9,030
April	2,280	2,030	9,140
May	2,530	1,870	9,700
June	2,270	1,780	10,200
July	2,170	2,000	10,400
January–July	15,700	13,500	10,400

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–July	1,230	103,000 ^r
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
June	246	20,500
July	257	17,500
January–July	1,680	119,000

^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	27.0
Used by producers	26.5	25.7	23.2
Yearend stocks	7.2	9.0	10.0
Imports for consumption	1.6	2.5	2.9
Average value per ton	\$100.79	\$83.75	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1, 2, 3}	28.1	28.2	26.1

^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.