

# 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](mailto:sjasinsk@usgs.gov)

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

**Internet:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK OCTOBER 2019

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October was 2.10 million metric tons (Mt), which was 3% higher than that in September and 8% higher than that in October 2018. Total production for January through October was 19.4 Mt, which was 12% lower than that in the same period of 2018 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in October was 2.12 Mt, which was 13% higher than that in September and slightly lower than that in October 2018. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through October was 19.6 Mt, which was about the same as that in the same period of 2018. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of September and 7% lower than those at the end of October 2018 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in October were 157,000 metric tons, which was the same as those in September and 29% lower

than those in October 2018. Imports of phosphate rock during January through October were 24% lower than those in the same period of 2018 (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, based on annualized data, for 2019, was 25.8 Mt compared with 26.4 Mt in 2018 (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/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services/>.*

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period <sup>2</sup>
2018:			
January–October	22,200 <sup>r</sup>	19,600	10,700 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,950	2,150	10,700
November	1,740	2,070	10,300
December	1,770	1,970	10,100
January–December	25,700	23,600	10,100
2019:			
January	1,710	2,130	9,610
February	1,800	1,910	9,500
March	1,830	1,900	9,430
April	1,900	1,870	9,460
May	2,150	2,020	9,590
June	1,960	1,770	9,790
July	1,810 <sup>r</sup>	2,000 <sup>r</sup>	9,590 <sup>r</sup>
August	2,130 <sup>r</sup>	1,990 <sup>r</sup>	9,730 <sup>r</sup>
September	2,040 <sup>r</sup>	1,870 <sup>r</sup>	9,900 <sup>r</sup>
October	2,100	2,120	9,890
January–October	19,400	19,600	9,890

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>
2018:		
January–October	2,460 <sup>r</sup>	182,000 <sup>r</sup>
October	220	14,100
November	108	6,950
December	209	16,000
January–December	2,770	205,000
2019:		
January	288	20,100
February	160	11,200
March	235	16,600
April	168	12,500
May	221	16,000
June	111	8,130
July	267	20,700
August	100	7,080
September	157	11,400
October	157	11,700
January–October	1,860	135,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>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)

	2017	2018	2019 <sup>c,1</sup>
Marketable production	27.9	25.7	23.3
Sold or used by producers	26.3	23.6	23.5
Yearend stocks	8.4	10.1	10.0
Imports for consumption	2.5	2.8	2.2
Average value per ton	\$83.75	\$74.06	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>2,3</sup>	28.8	26.4	25.8

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. NA Not Available.

<sup>1</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.