



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK NOVEMBER 2019

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November was 2.0 million metric tons (Mt), which was 5% lower than that in October and 15% higher than that in November 2018. Total production for January through November was 21.4 Mt, which was 11% lower than that in the same period of 2018 (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in November was 2.02 Mt, which was 5% lower than that in October and slightly lower than that in November 2018. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through November was 21.6 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in the same period of 2018. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of October and 4% lower than those at the end of November 2018 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in November were 162,000 metric tons, which was 3% higher than those in October and 50%

higher than those in November 2018. Imports of phosphate rock during January through November were 21% 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).

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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>
<b>2018:</b>			
January–November	23,900 <sup>r</sup>	21,700 <sup>r</sup>	10,300
November	1,740	2,070	10,300
December	1,770	1,970	10,100
January–December	25,700	23,600	10,100
<b>2019:</b>			
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	2,000	9,590
August	2,130	1,990	9,730
September	2,040	1,870	9,900
October	2,100	2,120	9,890
November	2,000	2,020	9,870
January–November	21,400	21,600	9,870

<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–November	2,560	189,000 <sup>r</sup>
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
November	162	12,200
January–November	2,030	148,000

<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>e,1</sup>
Marketable production	27.9	25.7	23.4
Sold or used by producers	26.3	23.6	23.6
Yearend stocks	8.4	10.1	9.8
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>e</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.