

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

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK JANUARY 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in January was 1.95 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly higher than that in December 2019 and 13% higher than that in January 2019. (table 1).

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in January was 2.15 Mt, which was 3% higher than that in December 2019 and slightly lower than that in January 2019. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of December and 4% lower than those at the end of January 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in January were 160,000 metric tons, which was 33% higher than those in December 2019 and 44% lower than those in January 2019 (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 2020, was 27.2 Mt compared with 26.0 Mt in 2019 (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 STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2019:			
January	1,720 ^r	2,200 ^r	9,540 ^r
February	1,800	1,970 ^r	9,380 ^r
March	1,830	1,990 ^r	9,220 ^r
April	1,870 ^r	1,860 ^r	9,220 ^r
May	2,160 ^r	1,980 ^r	9,390 ^r
June	1,960	1,730 ^r	9,630 ^r
July	1,810	1,930 ^r	9,500 ^r
August	2,120 ^r	2,040 ^r	9,580 ^r
September	2,030 ^r	1,940 ^r	9,670 ^r
October	2,080 ^r	2,130 ^r	9,620 ^r
November	1,990 ^r	2,050 ^r	9,560 ^r
December	1,900 ^r	2,090 ^r	9,380 ^r
January–December	23,300	23,900 ^r	9,380 ^r
2020, January	1,950	2,150	9,200

^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
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
December	120	8,790
January–December	2,150	156,000
2020, January	160	11,500

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)

	2018	2019	2020 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	25.7	23.3	23.0
Sold or used by producers	23.6	23.9 ^r	25.3
Yearend stocks	10.1	9.4 ^r	9.0
Imports for consumption	2.8	2.1	1.9
Average value per ton	\$74.06	\$72.88	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1, 2, 3}	26.4	26.0 ^r	27.2

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not Available.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.