

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK FEBRUARY 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February was 1.78 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% lower than that in January and slightly lower than that in February 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January and February was 3.72 Mt, which was 6% higher than that in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in February was 1.88 Mt, which was 12% lower than that in January and 4% lower than that in February 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January and February was 4.03 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in same period of 2019. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of January and 3% lower than those at the end of February 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in February were 163,000 metric tons, which was slightly higher than those in both January 2020

and in February 2019 (table 2). Total imports for January and February were 323,000 metric tons, which were 28% lower than those in the same period of 2019. 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 26.6 Mt compared with 26.0 Mt in 2019 (table 3).

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

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period           | Marketable<br>production | Sold or<br>Used    | Stocks,<br>end of period <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2019:            |                          |                    |                                       |
| January–February | 3,520 <sup>r</sup>       | 4,170 <sup>r</sup> | 9,380 <sup>r</sup>                    |
| February         | 1,800                    | 1,970              | 9,380                                 |
| March            | 1,830                    | 1,990              | 9,220                                 |
| April            | 1,870                    | 1,860              | 9,220                                 |
| May              | 2,160                    | 1,980              | 9,390                                 |
| June             | 1,960                    | 1,730              | 9,630                                 |
| July             | 1,810                    | 1,930              | 9,500                                 |
| August           | 2,120                    | 2,040              | 9,580                                 |
| September        | 2,030                    | 1,940              | 9,670                                 |
| October          | 2,080                    | 2,130              | 9,620                                 |
| November         | 1,990                    | 2,050              | 9,560                                 |
| December         | 1,900                    | 2,090              | 9,380                                 |
| January–December | 23,300                   | 23,900             | 9,380                                 |
| 2020:            |                          |                    |                                       |
| January          | 1,950                    | 2,150              | 9,200                                 |
| February         | 1,780                    | 1,880              | 9,090                                 |
| January–February | 3,720                    | 4,030              | 9,090                                 |

<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> |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 2019:            |          |                    |
| January–February | 448      | 31,300             |
| 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             |
| February         | 163      | 11,700             |
| January–February | 323      | 23,200             |

<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)

|                                     | 2018                 | 2019    | 2020 <sup>e,1</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Marketable production               | 25.8 <sup>r</sup>    | 23.3    | 23.8                |
| Sold or used by producers           | 23.3 <sup>r</sup>    | 23.9    | 24.6                |
| Yearend stocks                      | 10.6 <sup>r</sup>    | 9.4     | 9.0                 |
| Imports for consumption             | 2.8                  | 2.1     | 2.0                 |
| Average value per ton               | \$72.39 <sup>r</sup> | \$72.88 | NA                  |
| Apparent consumption <sup>2,3</sup> | 26.0 <sup>r</sup>    | 26.0    | 26.6                |

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.