

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MARCH 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 2.0 million metric tons (Mt), which was 12% higher than that in February and 9% higher than that in March 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through March was 5.66 Mt, which was 6% higher than that in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in March was 2.02 Mt, which was 7% higher than that in February and slightly higher than that in March 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through March was 6.09 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in same period of 2019. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of February and 3% lower than those at the end of March 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in March were 259,000 metric tons (t), which was 59% higher than those in February and 10%

higher than those in March 2019 (table 2). Total imports for January through March were 582,000 t, which was 15% 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 26.8 Mt compared with 26.0 Mt in 2019 (table 3).

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2019:			
January–March	5,360 ^r	6,160 ^r	9,220 ^r
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	1,880 ^r	2,190 ^r	9,070 ^r
February	1,780	1,880	8,970 ^r
March	2,000	2,020	8,950
January–March	5,660	6,090	8,950

^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–March	683 ^r	47,900 ^r
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
March	259	19,300
January–March	582	42,500

^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)

	2018	2019	2020 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	25.8	23.3	23.8
Sold or used by producers	23.3	23.9	24.5
Yearend stocks	10.6	9.4	8.9
Imports for consumption	2.8	2.1	2.3
Average value per ton	\$72.39	\$72.88	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	26.0	26.0	26.8

^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.