

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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 APRIL 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in April was 2.09 million metric tons (Mt), which was 5% higher than that in March and 12% higher than that in April 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through April was 7.75 Mt, which was 7% higher than that in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in April was 2.00 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in March and 7% higher than that in April 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through April was 8.08 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in same period of 2019. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher than those at the end of March and slightly lower than those at the end of April 2019 (table 1).

No imports of phosphate rock were reported in April compared with 259,000 metric tons (t) in March and 168,000 t in April 2019 (table 2). The Miski Mayo Mine in Peru was closed temporarily because of Covid-19 restrictions enacted by the Government of Peru in late March. The Mosaic Co. is the majority owner of the mine and imports phosphate rock from Peru for use at its phosphoric acid plant in Louisiana (Green

Markets, 2020). Total imports for January through April were 582,000 t, which was 32% 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 26.2 Mt compared with 26.0 Mt in 2019 (table 3).

### Reference Cited

Green Markets, 2020, Three Mosaic operations impacted by Covid-19; management consolidation accelerated: Green Markets, v. 44, no. 13, March 27, p. 1, 35. (Accessed March 27, 2020, via <https://fertilizerpricing.com>.)

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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>
2019:			
January–April	7,220 <sup>r</sup>	8,020 <sup>r</sup>	9,220 <sup>r</sup>
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	2,190	9,070
February	1,780	1,880	8,970
March	2,000	2,020	8,950
April	2,090	2,000	9,050
January–April	7,750	8,080	9,050

<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–April	851	60,400
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
April	--	--
January–April	582	42,500

--Zero.

<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	23.3	24.3
Sold or used by producers	23.3	23.9	24.4
Yearend stocks	10.6	9.4	9.0
Imports for consumption	2.8	2.1	1.8
Average value per ton	\$72.39	\$72.88	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>2, 3</sup>	26.0	26.0	26.2

<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.