

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MAY 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 2.27 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% higher than that in April and 5% higher than that in May 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through May was 10.0 Mt, which was 7% higher than that in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in May was 2.04 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in April and 3% higher than that in May 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through May was 10.1 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in same period of 2019. U.S. producer stocks were 3% higher than those at the end of April and slightly lower than those at the end of May 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock were 262,000 metric tons (t) in May compared with zero in April, and they were 19% higher

than those in May 2019 (table 2). Total imports for January through May were 844,000 t, which was 21% 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 26.4 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–May	9,380 ^r	10,000 ^r	9,390 ^r
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
May	2,270	2,040	9,280
January–May	10,000	10,100	9,280

^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–May	1,070	76,400
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	--	--
May	262	20,200
January–May	844	62,700

-- Zero.

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 ^{a, 1}
Marketable production	25.8	23.3	24.6
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	2.0
Average value per ton	\$72.39	\$72.88	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2, 3}	26.0	26.0	26.4

^aEstimated. NA Not Available.

¹Annualized data.

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

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.