

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK SEPTEMBER 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 2.04 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% higher than that in August and slightly higher than that in September 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through September was 17.9 Mt, which was 3% higher than that in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in September was 1.85 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in August and 5% lower than that in September 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through September was 17.7 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 August and slightly lower than those at the end of September 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock were 153,000 metric tons in September, which were 42% lower than those in August and 3%

lower than those in September 2019 (table 2). Total imports for January through September were 1.7 Mt, which were the same as 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 26.0 Mt, which was the same as that 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–September	17,300 ^r	17,600 ^r	9,670 ^r
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	2,220	2,010	9,260
June	1,960	1,950	9,270
July	2,010	1,920	9,350
August ^c	1,870	1,890	9,340
September ^c	2,040	1,850	9,530
January–September	17,900	17,700	9,530

^cEstimated. ^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–September	1,710	124,000
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
June	225	16,600
July	220	16,200
August	266	19,300
September	153	11,300
January–September	1,710	126,000

-- 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 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	25.8	23.3	23.8
Sold or used by producers	23.3	23.9	23.7
Yearend stocks	10.6	9.4	9.5
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	26.0

^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.