

Mineral Industry Surveys

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

Joseph J. Kohler (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7954
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: jkohler@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK OCTOBER 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October was 1.76 million metric tons (Mt), which was 7% lower than that in September and 15% lower than that in October 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through October was 19.4 Mt, which was the same as that in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in October was 1.90 Mt, which was 11% higher than that in September and 11% lower than that in October 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through October was 19.2 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 September and the same as those at the end of October 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock were 403,000 metric tons in October, which was 2.6 times more than those in September and

2.6 times more than those in October 2019 (table 2). Total imports for January through October were 2.11 Mt, which were 13% higher 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 25.5 Mt, compared with 26.0 Mt in 2019 (table 3).

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services/>.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold or Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2019:			
January–October	19,400	19,800 ^r	9,620 ^r
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	2,030 ^r	1,830 ^r	9,480 ^r
August	1,800 ^r	1,690 ^r	9,580 ^r
September	1,890 ^r	1,710 ^r	9,760 ^r
October	1,760	1,900	9,620
January–October	19,400	19,200	9,620

^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–October	1,860	135,000
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
October	403	29,500
January–October	2,110	155,000

-- 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	23.3
Sold or used by producers	23.3	23.9	23.0
Yearend stocks	10.6	9.4	9.5
Imports for consumption	2.8	2.1	2.5
Average value per ton	\$72.39	\$72.88	NA
Apparent consumption ^{2,3}	26.0	26.0	25.5

^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.