

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK NOVEMBER 2020

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November was 1.79 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly higher than that in October and 10% lower than that in November 2019 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production for January through November was 21.2 Mt, which was slightly lower than in same period of 2019.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in November was 1.89 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in October and 8% lower than that in November 2019. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January through November was 21.1 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 October and at the end of November 2019 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock were 164,000 metric tons in November, which was 59% lower than those in October but

slightly higher than those in November 2019 (table 2). Total imports for January through November were 2.28 Mt, which were 12% 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).

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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–November	21,400	21,800 ^r	9,560 ^r
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	1,830	9,480
August	1,800	1,690	9,580
September	1,890	1,710	9,760
October	1,760	1,900	9,620
November ^e	1,790	1,890	9,510
January–November ^e	21,200	21,100	9,510

^eEstimated. ^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–November	2,030	148,000
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
November	164	11,900
January–November	2,280	167,000

-- 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 ^{a,1}
Marketable production	25.8	23.3	23.2
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

^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.