

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK MAY 2021

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 1.47 million metric tons (Mt), which was 12% lower than that in April and 34% lower than that in May 2020 (table 1). Total phosphate rock production in January through May was 8.37 Mt, which was 17% lower than that in the same period of 2020.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in May was 1.83 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in April and 10% lower than that in May 2020. Total phosphate rock sold or used in January through May was 9.05 Mt, which was 11% lower than that in the same period of 2020. U.S. producer stocks were 4% lower than those at the end of April and 3% lower than those at the end of May 2020 (table 1).

Imports of phosphate rock in May were 113,000 metric tons (t), which were 48% lower than those in April and 57% lower

than those in May 2020 (table 2). Total imports in January through May were 972,000 t, which were 15% higher than those in the same period of 2020. 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 2021, was 24.3 Mt compared with 25.6 Mt in 2020 (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
2020:			
January–May	10,100 ^r	10,200 ^r	9,330 ^r
May	2,240	2,030	9,330
June	2,000	1,970	9,350
July	2,060	1,850	9,570
August	1,860	1,690	9,730
September	1,950	1,730	9,940
October	1,810	1,920	9,830
November	1,720	1,950	9,740
December	1,940	1,820	9,870
January–December	23,400	23,100	9,870
2021:			
January	1,780	1,760	9,700
February	1,640	1,750	9,600
March	1,800	1,910	9,490
April	1,670	1,810	9,360
May	1,470	1,830	9,000
January–May	8,370	9,050	9,000

^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
2020:		
January–May	844	62,700
May	262	20,200
June	165	12,200
July	280	20,600
August	97	7,050
September	272	19,900
October	453	33,100
November	164	11,900
December	242	20,400
January–December	2,520	188,000
2021:		
January	163	12,400
February	264	20,600
March	212	16,200
April	219	16,500
May	113	8,630
January–May	972	74,300

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)

	2019	2020	2021 ^{e,1}
Marketable production	23.3	23.4	20.8
Sold or used by producers	23.4	23.1	21.9
Yearend stocks	9.9	9.9	9.0
Imports for consumption	2.1	2.5	2.4
Average value per ton	\$72.88	\$74.55	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1,2,3}	25.5	25.6	24.3

^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.