

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN NOVEMBER 2008

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November was 2.17 million metric tons (Mt), which was 16% lower than that in October, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production for the period January through November 2008 was 3% higher than that in the same period of 2007.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in November was 1.71 Mt, which was 31% lower than that in October. The large decrease corresponded to a similar decrease in phosphoric acid production in November that was caused by a drop in world demand for phosphate fertilizer products. Phosphate rock used in January through November 2008 was 3% lower than that in the same period of 2007. There have been no reported sales of phosphate rock by domestic producers since late 2006 because all phosphate rock is used internally by domestic producers to

manufacture phosphoric acid or elemental phosphorus. U.S. producer stocks were 10% higher than those in October and 14% higher than those in November 2007.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and export data provided by the Moroccan producer. Morocco supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported into the United States; however, the U.S. Census Bureau suppresses some of the phosphate rock data from Morocco.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was projected to be 33.1 Mt, based on annualized data. Apparent consumption of phosphate rock was 33.8 Mt in 2007.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2007:			
January-November	27,100	28,400	XX
November	2,610	2,710	4,630
December	2,590	2,710	4,970
January-December	29,700	31,100	XX
2008:			
January	2,550	2,690	4,380
February	2,510	2,480	4,410
March	2,740	2,640	4,500
April	2,450	2,670	4,280
May	2,820	2,610	4,480
June	2,280	2,300	4,460
July	2,410	2,630	4,490
August	2,760	2,710	4,610
September	2,700	2,600	4,710
October	2,580	2,490	4,800
November	2,170	1,710	5,260
Total	28,000	27,500	XX

XX Not applicable.

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
2007:		
January-October	1,540	90,200
October	145	8,560
November	49	1,680
December	205	11,000
January-December	1,790	103,000
Total year ³	2,670	154,000
2008: ⁴		
January	197	11,400
February	163	17,900
March	119	7,030
April	220 ^r	22,200
May ^r	184	20,000
June	157 ^r	18,900
July	125	8,240 ^r
August	149	7,650 ^r
September ^r	189	11,600
October	100	21,300
Total	1,600	146,000

^rRevised.

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.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2006	2007	2008 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	30.1	29.7	30.6
Sold or used by producers	30.2	31.1	30.1
Yearend stocks	6.1	5.0	5.3
Imports for consumption ^c	2.4	2.7	3.0
Average value per ton	\$48.05	\$57.54	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 2, 3}	32.6	33.8	33.1

^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.