

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 2009

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 2.42 million metric tons (Mt), which was 11% higher than that in April 2009 and 14% lower than that in May 2008, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Production for January through May was 18% lower than that in the same period of 2008.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in May 2009 was 2.1 Mt, which was 10% lower than that in April 2009 and 21% lower than that in May 2008. Total phosphate rock used in January through May was 28% lower than that in the same period of 2008. 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 7% higher than those in April 2009 and 62% higher than those in May 2008.

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 31.7 Mt. Estimated annualized apparent consumption for 2009 was 24.3 Mt.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>
2008:			
January-May	13,100	13,100	XX
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
December	1,990	1,410	5,840
January-December	30,000	28,900	XX
2009:			
January	2,020	1,040	6,830
February	1,990	1,690	7,140
March	2,110	2,310	6,930
April	2,180	2,300	6,810
May	2,420	2,070	7,250
Total	10,700	9,400	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>
2008:		
January-April	699	58,600
April	220	22,200
May	184	20,000
June	157	18,900
July	125	8,240
August	149	7,650
September	189	11,600
October	100	21,300
November	30	1,450
December	220	30,900
January-December	1,850	179,000
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,750	266,000
2009: <sup>4</sup>		
January	145	16,000
February	62	3,520
March	182	29,100
April	150	9,460
Total	539	58,100

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>3</sup>Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>Data 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)

	2007	2008	2009 <sup>e,1</sup>
Marketable production	29.7	30.0	25.9
Sold or used by producers	31.1	28.9	22.8
Yearend stocks	5.0	5.8	7.3
Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>	2.7	2.8	1.5
Average value per ton	\$57.54	\$96.45	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup>	33.8	31.7	24.3

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.