

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: sjasinsk@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7965
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 3.2 million metric tons (Mt), which was 8% higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Cumulative production for the first 3 months of 2004 was 16% higher than the same period in 2003.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in March increased by 3% over February to 2.98 Mt. Phosphate rock sold or used for January to March was 3% higher in comparison with the same period in 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of March increased slightly from those in the prior month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier, were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau data. In addition, Census trade data are not available for the current month. Based on Census figures and data from the Moroccan producer, the USGS estimates that imports of phosphate rock average about 200,000 tons per month. Table 4 contains phosphate rock export data from the Moroccan producer.

Initial estimates indicate that domestic consumption in 2004 could be 38.5 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and trade estimates. Apparent domestic consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt.

Agrium Inc, through its NuWest Industries Inc. subsidiary, completed its acquisition of the Astaris Production LLC phosphate properties in Idaho. In October 2003, Astaris closed its high purity phosphoric acid plant, which it had operated in a

joint venture with Agrium, in Conda, ID. Astaris agreed to transfer ownership of the purified acid plant to Agrium at that time. Agrium will use the plant to supplement production capacity of wet-process phosphoric acid at its adjacent facility for fertilizer use. In addition to the plant, Agrium will receive Astaris' phosphate rock reserves and associated mining assets. Astaris closed its Dry Valley Mine in Caribou County, ID, in January 2003, because of the high inventory of phosphate rock concentrate (Agrium, Inc., 2004).

Cargill Crop Nutrition completed its acquisition of the Wingate Creek Mine in Manatee County, FL. The mine was previously owned by NuGulf Industries, Inc., which was a subsidiary of bankrupt Mulberry Corporation. Cargill and the holding company for the property reached an agreement to purchase the property in October 2003. The mine has been idle since December 1999 and the county mining permits must be transferred from the former owner to Cargill (Cargill Crop Nutrition, 2004).

References Cited

- Agrium Inc., 2004, Agrium finalizes agreement to acquire Astaris assets at Conda, Idaho: Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Agrium Inc. press release, March 8, 1 p.
Cargill Crop Nutrition, 2004, Cargill Crop Nutrition acquires Wingate Creek Mine: Riverview, FL, Cargill Crop Nutrition press release, March 23, 1 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks ²		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2003:									
January-March	7,020	962	7,980	7,400	1,340	8,740	XX	XX	XX
March	2,470	308	2,780	2,680	447	3,130	6,160	1,750	7,910
April	2,180	283	2,470	2,360	398	2,750	5,910	1,630	7,540
May	2,550	610	3,160	2,480	476	2,960	5,930	1,770	7,700
June	2,290	458	2,750	2,300	371	2,670	6,020	1,860	7,880
July	2,250	510	2,760	2,390	465	2,850	5,770	1,900	7,670
August	2,480	628	3,110	2,750	483	3,230	5,530	2,050	7,570
September	2,550	415	2,970	2,610	405	3,010	5,460	2,050	7,510
October	2,650	430	3,080	2,720	369	3,090	5,430	2,110	7,540
November	2,450	348	2,800	2,610	496	3,100	5,260	2,080	7,340
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
January-December	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX
2004:									
January	2,720	346	3,070	2,660	435	3,090	5,390	2,000	7,390
February	2,580	372	2,950	2,420	483	2,900	5,530	1,820	7,350
March	2,860	339	3,200	2,550	434	2,980	5,750	1,720	7,470
Total	8,160	1,060	9,220	7,630	1,350	8,980	XX	XX	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 ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2003:		
January-February	196	6,970
March	110	1,990
April	153	5,610
May	138	5,340
June	82	2,090
July	92	4,270
August	144	5,750
September	130	4,990
October	63	1,690
November	93	3,990
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,290	45,100
Total year ³	2,400	84,000
2004: ⁴		
January	174	5,950
February	100	3,680
Total	274	9,630

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

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

⁴Data for the current month were 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)

	2002	2003	2004 ^{e,1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	31.1	29.1	32.8
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.0	4.3
Total ²	36.1	34.1	37.1
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.8	30.2	30.7
Idaho and Utah	4.9	5.2	5.4
Total ²	34.7	35.4	36.1
Yearend stocks	8.9	7.3	7.5
Exports	(3) ⁴	W	--
Average value per ton	W	W	NA
Imports for consumption ^e	2.7	2.4	2.4
Average value per ton	\$41.45	\$35.55	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e,5}	37.4	37.8	38.5

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

⁴Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

⁵Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - MARCH

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	45
Austria	27
Belgium	104
Brazil	194
France	118
Germany	49
Greece	15
India	258
Iran	25
Italy	40
Japan	23
Korea, Republic of	89
Mexico	211
New Zealand	172
Pakistan	30
Poland	279
Portugal	19
Romania	52
Serbia and Montenegro	66
Spain	389
United States	667
Venezuela	34
Total	2,910

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco.