

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN DECEMBER 2003

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was 8% higher than in November, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). U.S. production for 2003 was 34.1 million metric tons (Mt), which was 6% lower than in 2002.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in December decreased 3% from that in November, to 3.02 Mt. Total phosphate rock sold or used for the year was estimated to be 35.4 Mt, which was slightly higher than in 2002. U.S. producer ending stocks for December decreased slightly from those in the prior month and were 1.53 Mt (17%) lower than in December 2002.

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 in 2003 have averaged 200,000 tons per month.

Domestic apparent consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt, which was slightly higher than in 2002.

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
2002:									
December	2,450	362	2,810	2,390	448	2,840	6,560	2,300	8,860
January-December	31,100	5,040	36,100	29,800	4,920	34,700	XX	XX	XX
2003:									
January	2,580	333	2,910	2,420	425	2,850	6,650	2,030	8,680
February	1,970	321	2,290	2,300	465	2,760	6,320	1,890	8,210
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 ^r	3,110 ^r	2,750	483 ^r	3,230 ^r	5,530	2,050	7,570
September	2,550	415 ^r	2,970 ^r	2,610	405 ^r	3,010 ^r	5,460	2,050	7,510
October	2,650	430 ^r	3,080 ^r	2,720	369 ^r	3,090 ^r	5,430	2,110	7,540
November	2,450	348 ^r	2,800 ^r	2,610	496 ^r	3,100 ^r	5,260	2,080	7,340
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
Total	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX

^rRevised. 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
2002:		
January-November	1,170	49,000
November	86	2,370
December	127	5,230
January-December	1,320	54,900
Total year ³	2,700	112,000
2003: ⁴		
January	65	1,790
February	131	5,180
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
Total	1,200	42,700

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)

	2001	2002	2003
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	W	31.1	29.1
Idaho and Utah	W	5.0	5.0
Total ¹	31.9	36.1	34.1
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	28.1	29.8	30.2
Idaho and Utah	4.7	4.9	5.2
Total ¹	32.8	34.7	35.4
Yearend stocks	7.5	8.9	7.3
Exports ²	(3)	(3)	W
Average value per ton	W	W	W
Imports for consumption ^e	2.5	2.7	2.4
Average value per ton	\$49.30	\$41.45	\$35.55
Apparent consumption ^{e,4}	35.3	37.4	37.8

^eEstimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2001-02, reported by producers in 2003.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

⁴Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2003

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	204
Austria	169
Belgium	466
Brazil	490
Bulgaria	48
France	625
Germany	76
Greece	76
India	699
Indonesia	393
Iran	86
Italy	124
Japan	108
Korea, Republic of	291
Mexico	985
Netherlands	13
New Zealand	456
Pakistan	224
Peru	102
Poland	673
Portugal	9
Romania	225
Serbia and Montenegro	189
Spain	1,590
Taiwan	26
Thailand	203
United Kingdom	1
United States	2,390
Venezuela	69
Total	11,000

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

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