

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN SEPTEMBER 2014

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 2.17 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% less than that in August and 16% less than that in September 2013. Production for January through September was 20.4 Mt, which was 15% less than that in the same period of 2013.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in September was 2.34 Mt, which was 12% less than that in August and 4% less than that in September 2013. Phosphate rock used in January through September was 21.0 Mt, which was 4% less than that in the same period of 2013. U.S. producer stocks were 5% less than those at the end of August and 19% less than those at the end of September 2013.

U.S. phosphate rock imports for 2013 were revised to include shipments of phosphate rock that were reported in another trade category and were previously estimated based in PIERS data. Imports of phosphate rock were 106,000 metric tons in

September, which was 55% less than that in August and 54% less than that in September 2013. Imports were less because of lower domestic production of phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizers in 2014 compared with 2013, which resulted from lower exports and domestic sales. Total imports for January through September were 1.94 Mt, which was 17% less than that in the same period of 2013.

Estimated apparent consumption for 2014, using annualized data, was 30.6 Mt, compared with 31.9 Mt in 2013.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period            | Marketable production | Used   | Stocks, end of period <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 2013:             |                       |        |                                    |
| January–September | 24,100 <sup>r</sup>   | 21,800 | 8,140 <sup>r</sup>                 |
| September         | 2,570                 | 2,450  | 8,140                              |
| October           | 2,430                 | 2,340  | 8,300                              |
| November          | 2,410                 | 2,370  | 8,420                              |
| December          | 2,320                 | 2,260  | 9,000                              |
| January–December  | 31,300 <sup>r</sup>   | 28,800 | 9,000                              |
| 2014:             |                       |        |                                    |
| January           | 2,250                 | 2,110  | 8,830                              |
| February          | 2,040                 | 2,130  | 8,820                              |
| March             | 2,340                 | 2,250  | 9,020                              |
| April             | 2,250                 | 2,420  | 8,700                              |
| May               | 2,410                 | 2,540  | 7,710                              |
| June              | 2,290                 | 2,180  | 7,590                              |
| July              | 2,290                 | 2,420  | 7,280                              |
| August            | 2,380                 | 2,640  | 6,870                              |
| September         | 2,170                 | 2,340  | 6,560                              |
| January–September | 20,400                | 21,000 | 6,560                              |

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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> |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 2013:                          |          |                    |
| January–September <sup>r</sup> | 2,350    | 289,000            |
| September                      | 231      | 31,300             |
| October                        | 299      | 38,100             |
| November                       | 229      | 22,300             |
| December                       | 285      | 32,200             |
| January–December               | 3,170    | 382,000            |
| 2014:                          |          |                    |
| January                        | 210      | 22,000             |
| February                       | 289      | 25,400             |
| March                          | 209      | 21,200             |
| April                          | 277      | 30,400             |
| May                            | 224      | 28,300             |
| June                           | 171      | 15,400             |
| July                           | 224      | 20,000             |
| August                         | 234      | 25,900             |
| September                      | 106      | 7,490              |
| January–September              | 1,940    | 196,000            |

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

|   | 2012     | 2013              | 2014 <sup>e,1</sup> |
|---|----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Marketable production                   | 30.1     | 31.3 <sup>r</sup> | 27.1                |
| Used by producers                       | 27.3     | 28.8              | 28.1                |
| Yearend stocks                          | 6.7      | 9.0               | 6.8                 |
| Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>    | 3.1      | 3.2               | 2.5                 |
| Average value per ton                   | \$144.04 | \$126.15          | NA                  |
| Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup> | 30.4     | 31.9 <sup>r</sup> | 30.6                |

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.