Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN DECEMBER 2014

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was 1.87 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% less than that in November and 19% less than that in December 2013. Production for 2014 was 26.6 Mt, which was 15% less than that in 2013.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in December was 2.25 Mt, which was 9% higher than that in November and slightly less than that in December 2013. Phosphate rock used in 2014 was 27.7 Mt, which was 4% less than that in 2013. U.S. producer stocks were 6% less than those at the end of November and 34% less than those at the end of December 2013.

Imports of phosphate rock were 99,000 metric tons in December, which was 39% less than that in November and 65% less than that in December 2013. Imports were lower in the last quarter of 2014 owing in part to Mississippi Phosphates Corporation ceasing production of phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizers in early December. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and stopped importing phosphate rock in October 2014 (Green Markets, 2014). Total imports for 2014 were 2.39 Mt, which was 31% less than that in 2013.

Apparent consumption for 2014 was 30.1 Mt, compared with 32.3 Mt in 2013.

Reference Cited

Green Markets, 2014, Miss Phos puts liabilities at $140.9 M, assets at $98.8 M; DAP production idled: Green Markets, v. 38, no. 50, December 15, p. 1, 16.

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period[2]
2013:			
January–December	31,300	28,800	9,000
December	2,320	2,260	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
October	2,200	2,370	6,270
November	2,070	2,070	6,370
December	1,870	2,250	5,970
January–December	26,600	27,700	5,970

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK[1]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value[2]
2013:		
January–December	3,460	420,000
December	285	32,200
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
October	182	21,100
November	161	13,000
December	99	6,970
January–December	2,390	237,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]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
Marketable production	30.1	31.3 [r]	26.6
Used by producers	27.3	28.8	27.7
Yearend stocks	6.7	9.0	5.9
Imports for consumption	3.1 [e]	3.5 [r]	2.4
Average value per ton	$144.04	$121.31	$99.37
Apparent consumption[e, 1, 2]	30.4 [e]	32.3 [r]	30.1

[e]Estimated. [r]Revised.
[1]Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2]Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.