

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN APRIL 2016

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in April was 2.07 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly lower than that in March and 10% lower than that in April 2015. Total production for January through April was 8.27 Mt, which was 3% lower than that in the same period of 2015.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in April was 2.11 Mt, which was 11% lower than that in March and 5% lower than that in April 2015. Total phosphate rock used in January through April was 8.81 Mt, which was 3 % higher than that in the same period of 2015. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than those at the end of March and 12% higher than those at the end of April 2015.

Imports of phosphate rock were 407 metric tons (t), which was negligible when compared with those in March 2016 and April

2015. Total imports for January through April were 398,000 t, which was 29% lower than that in same period of 2015. Imports of phosphate rock can vary substantially from month to month based on sales contracts and production schedules of the phosphate plants. Estimated apparent consumption for 2016, using annualized data, was 27.8 Mt, compared with 28.4 Mt in 2015.

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2015:			
January–April	8,520 ^r	8,560 ^r	6,030
April	2,310	2,230	6,030
May	2,660	2,320	6,280
June	2,650	1,940	6,880
July	2,230	2,230	6,770
August	2,310	2,270	6,680
September	2,450	2,360	6,680
October	2,500	2,350	6,690
November	2,290	2,250	6,710
December	2,200	2,140	6,890
January–December	27,800	26,400	6,890
2016:			
January	1,860	2,300	6,760
February	2,250	2,040	7,080
March	2,090 ^r	2,360 ^r	6,890
April	2,070	2,110	6,720
January–March	8,270	8,810	6,720

^rRevised.

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 ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2015:		
January–April ^r	560	62,200
April	225	24,400 ^r
May	158	18,800 ^r
June	258	31,600 ^r
July	114	11,300 ^r
August	210	29,000 ^r
September	151	15,200 ^r
October	180	23,700 ^r
November	171	18,000 ^r
December	160	16,200 ^r
January–December	1,960	226,000 ^r
2016:		
January ^r	--	--
February	110	10,900 ^r
March	288	32,200 ^r
April	(3)	47
January–April	398	43,200

^rRevised.

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2014	2015	2016 ^{e,1}
Marketable production	25.3	27.8	25.0
Used by producers	26.7	26.4	26.6
Yearend stocks	5.9	6.9	6.7
Imports for consumption	2.4	2.0	1.2
Average value per ton	99.75	115.17 ^r	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1,2,3}	29.1	28.4	27.8

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Annualized data.

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

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.