

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 3.22 million metric tons (Mt), which was 10% higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Cumulative production for the first 5 months of 2004 was 13% higher than the same period in 2003.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in May increased slightly over that in April to 3.11 Mt. Phosphate rock sold or used for January to May was 5% higher in comparison with the same period in 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of May 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. 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 averaged about 200,000 tons per month in 2003.

Initial estimates indicate that domestic consumption in 2004 could be 38.8 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and trade estimates. Apparent domestic consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt.

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-May | 11,700 | 1,860 | 13,600 | 12,200 | 2,210 | 14,400 | XX | XX | XX |
| 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 | 335 | 3,060 | 2,660 | 424 | 3,080 | 5,390 | 2,000 | 7,390 |
| February | 2,580 | 343 | 2,920 | 2,420 | 454 | 2,870 | 5,530 | 1,820 | 7,350 |
| March | 2,860 | 339 | 3,200 | 2,550 | 434 | 2,980 | 5,750 | 1,720 | 7,470 |
| April | 2,600 | 335 | 2,940 | 2,640 | 415 | 3,050 | 5,720 | 1,640 | 7,360 |
| May | 2,700 | 525 | 3,220 | 2,720 | 385 | 3,110 | 5,680 | 1,780 | 7,460 |
| Total | 13,500 | 1,880 | 15,300 | 13,000 | 2,110 | 15,100 | 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-April | 459 | 14,600 |
| 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 |
| March | 145 | 5,580 |
| April | 28 | 760 |
| Total | 447 | 16,000 |

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 | 32.4 |
| Idaho and Utah | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.5 |
| Total ² | 36.1 | 34.1 | 36.9 |
| Sold or used by producers: | | | |
| Florida and North Carolina | 29.8 | 30.2 | 31.3 |
| Idaho and Utah | 4.9 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Total ² | 34.7 | 35.4 | 36.4 |
| 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 | 38.8 |

^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.