

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 3.41 million metric tons (Mt), which was 33% higher than in April according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Total production for January to May was 16% lower than in the same period of 2005.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in May was 3.01 Mt, a 17% increase over that of April. Total used in January to May was 15% lower than in the same period of 2005. U.S. producer stocks were 6% higher than in April. The significant spike in production and usage was attributed primarily to seasonal production increase in the Western States.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer,

because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco. The Moroccan producer supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock have averaged about 157,000 metric tons per month in 2006.

Apparent consumption for 2006 is estimated to be 33 Mt using annualized use data, plus estimated imports. Domestic apparent consumption for 2005 was 37.8 Mt, a slight decrease from that of 2004. Apparent consumption was based on phosphate rock used, plus imports minus exports.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>
<b>2005:</b>			
January-May	15,600	15,100	XX
May	3,480	3,050	6,270
June	3,100	2,810	6,560
July	3,230	3,210	6,580
August	3,340	3,190	6,660
September	3,250	2,940	7,040
October	2,850	2,670	7,280
November	2,490	2,730	7,000
December	2,380	2,580	6,780
January-December	36,200	35,200	XX
<b>2006:</b>			
January	2,520	2,670	6,620
February	1,970	2,230	6,370
March	2,570	2,370	6,500
April	2,570	2,570	6,540
May	3,410	3,010	6,940
Total	13,000	12,800	XX

XX Not applicable.

<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>
2005:		
January-April	514	21,100
May	227	11,000
June	184	8,420
July	103	4,840
August	66	1,810
September	158	5,520
October	159	6,290
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,720	70,300
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,630	107,000
2006: <sup>4</sup>		
January	170	7,100
February	74	2,180
March	193	9,460
April	115	5,720
Total	552	24,500

<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.

<sup>3</sup>Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>Data 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<sup>1</sup>

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005	2006 <sup>e,2</sup>
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.3	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.4	W	W
Total	35.7	36.2	31.5
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.8	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.0	W	W
Total	35.8	35.2	31.0
Yearend stocks	7.0	6.8	6.9
Exports reported by producers			
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>	2.5	2.6	2.0
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e,3</sup>	38.3	37.8	33.0

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>2</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.