

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN NOVEMBER 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in November was 2.01 million metric tons (Mt), which was 21% lower than that in October according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Total production for January through November was 18% lower than in the same period of 2005.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in November was 2.06 Mt, a 30% decrease from that of October. Total used in January through November was 15% lower than in the same period of 2005. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than in October. The significant drop in reported production and usage was caused by lower demand for phosphate fertilizers and temporary plant closures, which resulted in lower phosphoric acid and fertilizer production in November.

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 supplied more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month.

Apparent consumption for 2006 was estimated to be 32.4 Mt using annualized used data, plus estimated imports. Domestic apparent consumption for 2005 was 37.8 Mt. Apparent consumption was based on phosphate rock used, plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2005:			
January-November	33,800	32,600	XX
November	2,490	2,730	7,000
December	2,380	2,580	6,780
January-December	36,200	35,200	XX
2006:			
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	3,000	2,540	7,000
June	2,590	2,510	7,260
July	2,540	2,590	6,600
August	2,800	2,660	6,750
September	2,470	2,460	6,750
October	2,530 ^r	2,950 ^r	6,210 ^r
November	2,010	2,060	6,160
Total	27,600	27,600	XX

^rRevised. 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 ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2005:		
January-October	1,410	59,000
October	159	6,290
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,880	76,600
Total year ³	2,630	107,000
2006: ⁴		
January	170	7,100
February	74	2,180
March	193	9,460
April	115	5,720
May	126	5,890
June	256	16,000
July	135	6,400
August	129	4,530
September	155	9,030
October	124	8,840
Total	1,480	75,100

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.

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 STATISTICS¹

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005	2006 ^{e, 2}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.3	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.4	W	W
Total	35.7	36.2	30.1
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	30.1
Yearend stocks	7.0	6.8	6.1
Exports reported by producers	--	--	--
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption ^e	2.5	2.6	2.3
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 3}	38.3	37.8	32.4

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Annualized data.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.