

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN DECEMBER 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December was 2.47 million metric tons (Mt), which was 20% higher than in November according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production in 2006 was 17% lower than in 2005.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in December was 2.57 Mt, a 24% increase over that of November. The total used in 2006 was 14% lower than in 2005. There were no reported sales of phosphate rock by domestic producers in 2006; all phosphate fertilizer companies are vertically integrated. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than in November and 10% lower than in December, 2005.

Production and use of phosphate rock were both up in December because of increased phosphoric acid production in response to growing domestic demand for phosphate fertilizers. Overall for 2006, production and use were both down significantly owing to mine and phosphate plant closures and lower production of phosphate fertilizers. In 2006, domestic phosphoric acid and diammonium phosphate production

dropped by 10% and 12%, respectively, compared with that of 2005 (Fertilizer Institute, The, 2007).

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and export data from the Moroccan producer. Morocco supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported into the United States; however, the U.S. Census Bureau suppresses much of the phosphate rock data from Morocco. Table 4 shows exports of phosphate rock from Morocco in 2006. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month.

Apparent consumption in 2006 was estimated to be 32.6 Mt, compared with 37.8 Mt. in 2005.

Reference Cited

Fertilizer Institute, The, 2007, Fertilizer record, December 2006: The Fertilizer Institute, January 18, p. 3.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2005:			
December	2,380	2,580	6,970 ^r
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	2,950	6,210
November ^f	2,060	2,070	6,210
December	2,470	2,570	6,120
Total	30,100	30,200	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-November	1,610	66,200
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,720	70,300
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
November	55	2,240
Total	1,530	77,400

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
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	30.2
Yearend stocks	7.0	6.8	6.1
Exports reported by producers	--	--	--
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption ^c	2.5	2.6	2.4
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 2}	38.3	37.8	32.6

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

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

²Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2006

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Argentina	56
Australia	394
Austria	169
Bangladesh	56
Belgium	370
Brazil	633
Bulgaria	237
Colombia	90
Croatia	332
France	234
Germany	95
India	1,270
Indonesia	684
Iran	114
Italy	92
Japan	157
Korea, Republic of	395
Lithuania	524
Mexico	922
New Zealand	574
Norway	37
Pakistan	192
Peru	134
Philippines	168
Poland	888
Portugal	76
Romania	146
Spain	1,460
South Africa	30
Taiwan	53
Turkey	362
United States	2,420
Venezuela	138
Total	13,500

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

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco.