

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [sjasinsk@usgs.gov](mailto:sjasinsk@usgs.gov)

Raymond I. Eldridge III (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7982  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [reldridge@usgs.gov](mailto:reldridge@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN FEBRUARY 2009

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February was 1.99 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly lower than that in January 2009 and 21% lower than that in February 2008, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in February 2009 was 1.69 Mt, which was 63% higher than that in January 2009 and 32% lower than that in February 2008. The steep drop in phosphate rock use compared to 2008 resulted from reductions in phosphate fertilizer production that began in October 2008 in response to deteriorating market conditions. U.S. phosphate producers were affected by farmers postponing fertilizer purchases until spring 2009, declining global demand, falling grain prices, and the world economic downturn. There have been no reported sales of phosphate rock by domestic producers

since late 2006 because all phosphate rock is used internally by domestic producers to manufacture phosphoric acid or elemental phosphorus. U.S. producer stocks were 5% higher than those in January 2009 and 62% higher than those in February 2008.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and export data provided by the Moroccan producer. Morocco supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported into the United States; however, the U.S. Census Bureau suppresses some of the phosphate rock data from Morocco.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was 31.7 Mt. Estimated apparent consumption in February 2009 was 39% lower than the average monthly consumption in 2008.

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>
2008:			
January-February	5,060	5,170	XX
February	2,510	2,480	4,410
March	2,740	2,640	4,500
April	2,450	2,670	4,280
May	2,820	2,610	4,480
June	2,280	2,300	4,460
July	2,410	2,630	4,490
August	2,760	2,710	4,610
September	2,700	2,600	4,710
October	2,580	2,490	4,800
November	2,170	1,710	5,260
December	1,990	1,410	5,840
January-December	30,000	28,900	XX
2009:			
January	2,020	1,040	6,830
February	1,990	1,690	7,140
Total	4,010	2,720	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>
2008:		
January	197	11,400
February	163	17,900
March	119	7,030
April	220	22,200
May	184	20,000
June	157	18,900
July	125	8,240
August	149	7,650
September	189	11,600
October	100	21,300
November	30	1,450
December	220	30,900
January-December	1,850	179,000
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,750	266,000
2009 <sup>4</sup> , January	145	16,000

<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 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)

	2007	2008	2009 <sup>e,1</sup>
Marketable production	29.7	30.0	24.8
Sold or used by producers	31.1	28.9	16.8
Yearend stocks	5.0	5.8	7.1
Imports for consumption <sup>c</sup>	2.7	2.8	2.6
Average value per ton	\$57.54	\$96.45	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup>	33.8	31.7	19.4

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

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