

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JUNE 2009

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in June was 2.20 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% lower than that in May and 4% lower than that in June 2008, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Production for January through June was 16% lower than that in the same period of 2008.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in June 2009 was 1.82 Mt, which was 12% lower than that in May 2009 and 21% lower than that in June 2008. Total phosphate rock used in January through June was 27% lower than that in the same period of 2008. 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 May 2009 and 69% higher than those in June 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. Table 4 shows exports of phosphate rock from Morocco in the first half of 2009. Exports to the United States were 42% lower than in the first half of 2008 owing to lower phosphoric acid production and companies reducing stocks of phosphate rock.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was 31.7 Mt. Estimated annualized apparent consumption for 2009 was 24.4 Mt.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2008:			
January-June	15,400	15,400	XX
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
March	2,110	2,310	6,930
April	2,180	2,300	6,810
May	2,420	2,070	7,150
June	2,200	1,820	7,530
Total	12,900	11,200	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 ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2008:		
January-May	883	78,600
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 ³	2,750	266,000
2009: ⁴		
January	145	16,000
February	62	3,520
March	182	29,100
April	150	9,460
May	68	3,180
Total	607	61,300

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 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 ^{e,1}
Marketable production	29.7	30.0	26.0
Sold or used by producers	31.1	28.9	22.6
Yearend stocks	5.0	5.8	7.5
Imports for consumption ^e	2.7	2.8	1.8
Average value per ton	\$57.54	\$96.45	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 2, 3}	33.8	31.7	24.4

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - JUNE

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Argentina	21
Australia	27
Belgium	83
Brazil	240
Colombia	31
Croatia	74
India	401
Japan	23
Korea, Republic of	43
Mexico	44
New Zealand	86
Norway	23
Pakistan	43
Peru	42
Spain	217
Turkey	78
United States	899
Venezuela	29
Uruguay	17
Total	2,420

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

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates – Casablanca, Morocco.