

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 2016

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 2.02 million metric tons (Mt), which was 10% lower than that in February and 14% lower than that in March 2015. Total production for January through March was 6.13 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in the same period of 2015.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in March was 2.30 Mt, which was 13% higher than that in February and 6% higher than that in March 2015. Total phosphate rock used in January through March was 6.63 Mt, which was 5% higher than that in the same period of 2015. U.S. producer stocks were 3% lower than those at the end of February and 14% higher than those at the end of March 2015.

Imports of phosphate rock were 288,000 tons, which was more than two and one-half times those in February 2016 and March

2015. Total imports for January through March were 542,000 tons, which was 62% higher than that in same period of 2015. Imports of phosphate rock can vary substantially from month to month based on sales contracts and production schedules of the phosphate plants. Estimated apparent consumption for 2016, using annualized data, was 28.9 Mt, compared with 28.4 Mt in 2015.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period <sup>2</sup>
2015:			
January–March <sup>f</sup>	6,210	6,340	6,050
March	2,340	2,160	6,050
April	2,310	2,230	6,030
May	2,660	2,320	6,280
June	2,650	1,940	6,880
July	2,230	2,230	6,770
August	2,310	2,270	6,680
September	2,450	2,360	6,680
October	2,500	2,350	6,690
November	2,290	2,250	6,710
December	2,200	2,140	6,890
January–December	27,800	26,400	6,890
2016:			
January	1,860	2,300	6,760
February	2,250	2,040	7,080
March	2,020	2,300	6,890
January–March	6,130	6,630	6,890

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

<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>
2015:		
January–March <sup>f</sup>	335	33,700
March	115	15,600
April	225	21,700
May	158	16,800
June	258	28,700
July	114	10,100
August	210	26,500
September	151	14,100
October	180	21,700
November	171	16,100
December	160	14,600
January–December	1,960	204,000
2016:		
January	144	23,000
February	110	9,840
March	288	29,200
January–March	542	62,100

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

<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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2014	2015	2016 <sup>e, 1</sup>
Marketable production	25.3	27.8	24.7
Used by producers	26.7	26.4	26.7
Yearend stocks	5.9	6.9	6.6
Imports for consumption	2.4	2.0	2.2
Average value per ton	99.75	103.93	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>	29.1	28.4	28.9

<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.