

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MAY 2016

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in May was 2.08 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly higher than that in April and 22% lower than that in May 2015. Total production for January through May was 10.3 Mt, which was 7% lower than that in the same period of 2015.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in May was 2.22 Mt, which was 6% higher than that in April and 4% lower than that in May 2015. Total phosphate rock used in January through May was 11.0 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in the same period of 2015. U.S. producer stocks were 7% lower than those at the end of April and slightly lower than those at the end of May 2015.

Imports of phosphate rock in May were 219,000 metric tons (t) compared with 407 t in April. Imports increased by 39%

when compared with those in May 2015. Total imports for January through May were 617,000 t, which was 14% lower 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 28.0 Mt, compared with 28.4 Mt in 2015.

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TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Used	Stocks, end of period ²
2015:			
January–May ^f	11,200	10,900	6,280
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	2,090	2,360	6,890
April	2,070	2,110	6,720
May	2,080	2,220	6,260
January–May	10,300	11,000	6,260

^fRevised.

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
2015:		
January–May ^f	718	81,000
May	158	18,800
June	258	31,600
July	114	11,300
August	210	29,000
September	151	15,200
October	180	23,700
November	171	18,000
December	160	16,200
January–December	1,960	226,000
2016:		
January	--	--
February	110	10,900
March	287 ^r	32,200
April	(3)	47
May	219	21,100
January–May	617	64,300

^fRevised. -- Zero.

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.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2014	2015	2016 ^{e,1}
Marketable production	25.3	27.8	25.0
Used by producers	26.7	26.4	26.6
Yearend stocks	5.9	6.9	6.2
Imports for consumption	2.4	2.0	1.5
Average value per ton	99.75	115.17	NA
Apparent consumption ^{1, 2, 3}	29.1	28.4	28.0

^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.