

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN AUGUST 2016

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in August was 2.9 million metric tons (Mt), which was 26% higher than that in July and in August 2015, owing to seasonal increases in production. Total production for January through August was 18 Mt, which was slightly lower than that in the same period of 2015.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in August was 2.5 Mt, which was 5% higher than that in July and 10% higher than that in August 2015. Total phosphate rock used in January through August was 17.8 Mt, which was 3% higher than that in the same period of 2015. U.S. producer stocks were 3% higher than those at the end of July and slightly lower than those at the end of August 2015.

Imports of phosphate rock in August were 120,000 metric tons (t), which was 7% higher than those in July and 43% lower than

those in August 2015. Imports for January through August were 964,000 t, which was 26% lower than those 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 28.2 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–August	18,400	17,300 <sup>r</sup>	6,680 <sup>r</sup>
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
June	2,430	1,930	6,630
July	2,300	2,370 <sup>r</sup>	6,360 <sup>r</sup>
August	2,900	2,500	6,570
January–August	18,000	17,800	6,570

<sup>r</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–August	1,300	153,000 <sup>r</sup>
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	32,200
April	( <sup>3</sup> )	47
May	219	21,100
June	116	15,000
July	112	9,740
August	120	9,670
January–August	964	98,700

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<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>Less 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 <sup>e, 1</sup>
Marketable production	25.3	27.8	26.9
Used by producers	26.7	26.4	26.8
Yearend stocks	5.9	6.9	6.5
Imports for consumption	2.4	2.0	1.4
Average value per ton	99.75	115.17	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>	29.1	28.4	28.2

<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 used plus imports.