

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN APRIL 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in April was 2.94 million metric tons (Mt), which was 8% lower than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Cumulative production for the first 4 months of 2004 was 16% higher than the same period in 2003.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in April increased slightly over March to 3.05 Mt. Phosphate rock sold or used for January to April was 4% higher in comparison with the same period in 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of April decreased slightly from those in the prior month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier, were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau data. In addition, Census trade data are not available for the current month. Based on Census figures and data from the Moroccan producer, the USGS estimates that imports of phosphate rock average about 200,000 metric tons per month.

Estimates indicate that domestic consumption in 2004 could be 38.6 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and trade estimates. Apparent domestic consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks ²		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2003:									
January-April	9,200	1,250	10,400	9,760	1,740	11,500	XX	XX	XX
April	2,180	283	2,470	2,360	398	2,750	5,910	1,630	7,540
May	2,550	610	3,160	2,480	476	2,960	5,930	1,770	7,700
June	2,290	458	2,750	2,300	371	2,670	6,020	1,860	7,880
July	2,250	510	2,760	2,390	465	2,850	5,770	1,900	7,670
August	2,480	628	3,110	2,750	483	3,230	5,530	2,050	7,570
September	2,550	415	2,970	2,610	405	3,010	5,460	2,050	7,510
October	2,650	430	3,080	2,720	369	3,090	5,430	2,110	7,540
November	2,450	348	2,800	2,610	496	3,100	5,260	2,080	7,340
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
January-December	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX
2004:									
January	2,720	335 ^r	3,060 ^r	2,660	424 ^r	3,080 ^r	5,390	2,000	7,390
February	2,580	343 ^r	2,920 ^r	2,420	454 ^r	2,870 ^r	5,530	1,820	7,350
March	2,860	339	3,200 ^r	2,550	434	2,980 ^r	5,750	1,720	7,470
April	2,600	335	2,940	2,640	415	3,050	5,720	1,640	7,360
Total	10,800	1,350	12,100	10,300	1,730	12,000	XX	XX	XX

^rRevised. 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 ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2003:		
January-March	306	8,960
April	153	5,610
May	138	5,340
June	82	2,090
July	92	4,270
August	144	5,750
September	130	4,990
October	63	1,690
November	93	3,990
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,290	45,100
Total year ³	2,400	84,000
2004: ⁴		
January	174	5,950
February	100	3,680
March	145	5,580
Total	419	15,200

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were 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)

	2002	2003	2004 ^{e,1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	31.1	29.1	32.6
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.0	4.1
Total ²	36.1	34.1	36.7
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.8	30.2	31.0
Idaho and Utah	4.9	5.2	5.2
Total ²	34.7	35.4	36.2
Yearend stocks	8.9	7.3	7.4
Exports	(3) ⁴	W	--
Average value per ton	W	W	NA
Imports for consumption ^e	2.7	2.4	2.4
Average value per ton	\$41.45	\$35.55	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e,5}	37.4	37.8	38.6

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

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

³Less than 1/2 unit.

⁴Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

⁵Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.