

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN AUGUST 2007

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in August was 2.48 million metric tons (Mt), which was 4% lower than that in July, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Production in January through August was 4% lower than in the same period of 2006.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in August was 2.89 Mt, which was 9% higher than in July. Reported use of phosphate rock in January through August was 2% higher than that in the same period of 2006. U.S. producer stocks were 9% lower than those in July and 23% lower than those in August 2006.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and export data from the Moroccan producer. Morocco supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported into the United States; however, the U.S. Census Bureau suppresses much of the phosphate rock tonnage and value data from Morocco. Import data for the current month were not available.

Estimated apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2007, based on annualized data, was 33.8 Mt, compared with 32.6 Mt in 2006.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Marketable production | Sold and/or used | Ending stocks ² |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2006: | | | |
| January-August | 20,500 | 20,100 | XX |
| August | 2,800 | 2,660 | 6,750 |
| September | 2,470 | 2,460 | 6,750 |
| October | 2,530 | 2,950 | 6,210 |
| November | 2,060 | 2,070 | 6,210 |
| December | 2,470 | 2,570 | 6,120 |
| January-December | 30,100 | 30,200 | XX |
| 2007: | | | |
| January | 2,340 | 2,590 | 5,880 |
| February | 2,200 | 2,320 | 5,750 |
| March | 2,510 | 2,590 | 5,680 |
| April | 2,450 | 2,590 | 5,540 |
| May | 2,710 | 2,650 | 5,590 |
| June | 2,510 | 2,330 | 5,770 |
| July | 2,580 | 2,640 | 5,660 |
| August | 2,480 | 2,890 | 5,170 |
| Total | 19,800 | 20,600 | 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 |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 2006: | | |
| January-July | 876 | 43,300 |
| July | 135 | 6,400 |
| August | 129 | 4,530 |
| September | 155 | 9,030 |
| October | 124 | 8,840 |
| November | 55 | 2,240 |
| December | 398 | 18,700 |
| January-December | 1,930 | 96,100 |
| Total year ³ | 2,400 | 115,000 |
| 2007: ⁴ | | |
| January | 62 | 3,800 |
| February | 57 | 2,360 |
| March | 180 | 13,800 |
| April | 212 | 11,800 |
| May | 132 | 7,070 |
| June | 224 | 12,300 |
| July | 181 | 11,300 |
| Total | 1,050 | 62,500 |

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 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)

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 ^{e, 1} |
|---|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Marketable production | 36.2 | 30.1 | 29.7 |
| Sold or used by producers | 35.2 | 30.2 | 31.0 |
| Yearend stocks | 6.8 | 6.1 | 5.2 |
| Imports for consumption ^e | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.8 |
| Average value per ton | \$40.87 | \$48.05 | NA |
| Apparent consumption ^{e, 2, 3} | 37.8 | 32.6 | 33.8 |

^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.