

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
983 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [sjasinsk@usgs.gov](mailto:sjasinsk@usgs.gov)

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7965  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [hphamdan@usgs.gov](mailto:hphamdan@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN SEPTEMBER 2007

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 2.37 million metric tons (Mt), which was 5% lower than that in August, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Production in January through September was 4% lower than in the same period of 2006.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in September was 2.60 Mt, which was 10% lower than in August. Reported use of phosphate rock in January through September was 3% higher than that in the same period of 2006. U.S. producer stocks were 4% lower than those in August and 27% lower than those in September 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. Table 4 shows phosphate rock exports through September 30, 2007, as reported by the Moroccan phosphate producer.

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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period            | Marketable<br>production | Sold and/or<br>used | Ending<br>stocks <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2006:             |                          |                     |                               |
| January-September | 23,000                   | 22,600              | XX                            |
| 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                         |
| September         | 2,370                    | 2,600               | 4,940                         |
| Total             | 22,100                   | 23,200              | XX                            |

XX Not applicable.

<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> |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 2006:                   |          |                    |
| January-August          | 1,010    | 47,800             |
| 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 <sup>3</sup> | 2,400    | 115,000            |
| 2007: <sup>4</sup>      |          |                    |
| 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             |
| August                  | 214      | 12,100             |
| Total                   | 1,260    | 74,600             |

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

<sup>4</sup>Data 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 <sup>e, 1</sup> |
|---|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Marketable production                   | 36.2    | 30.1    | 29.6                 |
| Sold or used by producers               | 35.2    | 30.2    | 31.0                 |
| Yearend stocks                          | 6.8     | 6.1     | 4.9                  |
| Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>    | 2.6     | 2.4     | 2.8                  |
| Average value per ton                   | \$40.87 | \$48.05 | NA                   |
| Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup> | 37.8    | 32.6    | 33.8                 |

<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.

TABLE 4  
MOROCCAN  
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>  
JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2007

(Thousand metric tons)

| Country of destination | Quantity |
|------------------------|----------|
| Argentina              | 120      |
| Australia              | 248      |
| Austria                | 49       |
| Bangladesh             | 31       |
| Belgium                | 323      |
| Brazil                 | 805      |
| Bulgaria               | 169      |
| Canada                 | 127      |
| Colombia               | 79       |
| Croatia                | 255      |
| El Salvador            | 9        |
| France                 | 227      |
| Germany                | 55       |
| India                  | 863      |
| Indonesia              | 255      |
| Iran                   | 42       |
| Italy                  | 70       |
| Japan                  | 132      |
| Korea, Republic of     | 322      |
| Lithuania              | 303      |
| Mexico                 | 737      |
| New Zealand            | 534      |
| Norway                 | 81       |
| Pakistan               | 225      |
| Peru                   | 88       |
| Poland                 | 747      |
| Portugal               | 67       |
| Romania                | 148      |
| Spain                  | 1,280    |
| Turkey                 | 176      |
| United States          | 2,040    |
| Venezuela              | 102      |
| Total                  | 10,700   |

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--  
Casablanca, Morocco.