

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN FEBRUARY 2008

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February was 2.51 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly lower than that in January, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production in January and February 2008 was 12% higher than in the same period of 2007.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in February was 2.48 Mt, which was 8% lower than in January. Phosphate rock used in January and February 2008 was 5% higher than in the same period of 2007. There have been no reported sales of phosphate rock by domestic producers since late 2006 because all phosphate rock is used internally by domestic producers to manufacture phosphoric acid or elemental phosphorus. U.S. producer stocks at the end of February were slightly higher than

those at the end of January and 23% lower than at the end of February 2007.

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 data from Morocco. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was projected to be 34.2 Mt, based on annualized data.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2007:			
January-February	4,540	4,910	XX
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
October	2,520	2,740	4,730
November	2,610	2,710	4,630
December	2,590	2,710	4,520
January-December	29,900	31,400	XX
2008:			
January	2,550	2,690	4,380
February	2,510	2,480	4,410
Total	5,060	5,170	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
2007:		
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
September	129	7,090
October	145	8,560
November	49	1,680
December	205	11,000
January-December	1,790	103,000
Total year ³	2,670	154,000
2008 ⁴ , January	197	11,400

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)

	2006	2007	2008 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production	30.1	29.9	30.9
Sold or used by producers	30.2	31.4	31.5
Yearend stocks	6.1	4.5	4.4
Imports for consumption ^e	2.4	2.7	2.7
Average value per ton	\$48.05	\$57.54	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 2, 3}	32.6	34.1	34.2

^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.