

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN APRIL 2008

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in April was 2.45 million metric tons (Mt), which was 11% lower than that in March, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production for the period January through April 2008 was 8% higher than that in the same period of 2007.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in April was 2.67 Mt, which was slightly higher than that in March. Phosphate rock used in January through April 2008 was 4% higher than that 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 were 5% lower than those in March and 2% lower than those in April 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 some of the phosphate rock data from Morocco.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was projected to be 34.7 Mt, based on annualized data. Apparent consumption of phosphate rock was 34.1 Mt in 2007.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2007:			
January-April	9,500	10,100	XX
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
March	2,740	2,640	4,500
April	2,450	2,670	4,280
Total	10,300	10,500	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-April	511	31,800
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	1,970	117,000
Total year ³	2,670	154,000
2008:		
January	197	11,400
February	163	17,900
March	119	7,030
April	213	22,000
Total	692	58,300

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.

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	31.0
Sold or used by producers	30.2	31.4	31.7
Yearend stocks	6.1	4.5	4.3
Imports for consumption ^e	2.4	2.7	3.0
Average value per ton	\$48.05	\$57.54	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e,2,3}	32.6	34.1	34.7

^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.