

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 2008

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March was 2.74 million metric tons (Mt), which was 9% higher than that in February, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production for the period January through March 2008 was 11% higher than that in the same period of 2007.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in March was 2.64 Mt, which was 7% higher than that in February. Phosphate rock used in January through March 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 slightly higher than those in February and 21% lower than those in March 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. Table 4 shows export data from the Moroccan producer.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was projected to be 34.4 Mt, based on annualized data. Apparent consumption of phosphate rock was 34.1 Mt in 2007.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used
2007:		
January-March	7,050	7,500
March	2,510	2,590
April	2,450	2,590
May	2,710	2,650
June	2,510	2,330
July	2,580	2,640
August	2,480	2,890
September	2,370	2,600
October	2,520	2,740
November	2,610	2,710
December	2,590	2,710
January-December	29,900	31,400
2008:		
January	2,550	2,690
February	2,510	2,480
March	2,740	2,640
Total	7,800	7,810

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>
2007:		
January-March	299	20,000
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	1,970	117,000
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,670	154,000
2008:		
January	197	11,400
February	163	17,900
March	119	7,030
Total	479	36,400

<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.

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
Marketable production	30.1	29.9
Sold or used by producers	30.2	31.4
Yearend stocks	6.1	4.5
Imports for consumption <sup>c</sup>	2.4	2.7
Average value per ton	\$48.05	\$57.54
Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup>	32.6	34.1

<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 - MARCH

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Argentina	19
Australia	75
Austria	54
Belgium	178
Brazil	53
Bulgaria	25
Colombia	26
Croatia	104
Finland	6
France	64
India	146
Indonesia	41
Italy	21
Japan	28
Korea, Republic of	163
Lithuania	59
Mexico	245
New Zealand	152
Norway	54
Pakistan	79
Peru	74
Poland	206
Portugal	25
Romania	63
Spain	347
Taiwan	26
Turkey	77
United States	799
Venezuela	46
Total	3,260

<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.