

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN SEPTEMBER 2008

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 2.70 million metric tons (Mt), which was 2% lower than that in August, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production for the period January through September 2008 was 5% higher than that in the same period of 2007.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in September was 2.6 Mt, which was 4% lower than that in August. Phosphate rock used in January through September 2008 was slightly 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 2% higher than those in August and were 5% lower than those in September 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 exports of phosphate rock from Morocco. Exports of phosphate rock from Morocco to the United States for January through September 2008 were 8% higher than that in the same period of 2007.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was projected to be 34.2 Mt, based on annualized data. Apparent consumption of phosphate rock was 33.8 Mt in 2007.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>
2007:			
January-September	22,100	23,200	XX
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	4,970
January-December	29,700 <sup>r</sup>	31,100 <sup>r</sup>	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
May	2,820	2,610	4,480
June	2,280	2,300	4,460
July	2,410	2,630	4,490
August	2,760	2,710	4,610
September	2,700	2,600	4,710
Total	23,200	23,300	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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-September	1,390	81,700
September	129	7,090
October	145	8,560
November	49	1,680
December	205	11,000
January-December	1,790	103,000
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,670	154,000
2008: <sup>4</sup>		
January	197	11,400
February	163	17,900
March	119	7,030
April	213	22,200
May	180	19,800
June	155	18,800
July	125	8,210
August	149	7,630
Total	1,300	113,000

<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 the current month 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 <sup>e, 1</sup>
Marketable production	30.1	29.7	31.0
Sold or used by producers	30.2	31.1	31.2
Yearend stocks	6.1	5.0	4.6
Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>	2.4	2.7	3.0
Average value per ton	\$48.05	\$57.54	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup>	32.6	33.8	34.2

<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

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Argentina	117
Australia	284
Austria	131
Belgium	549
Brazil	586
Bulgaria	85
Colombia	63
Croatia	277
Finland	23
France	154
Ghana	(2)
India	642
Indonesia	41
Italy	61
Japan	105
Korea, Republic of	370
Lithuania	264
Mexico	747
New Zealand	543
Norway	174
Pakistan	159
Peru	126
Poland	609
Portugal	64
Romania	186
Spain	1,110
Taiwan	26
Turkey	215
United States	2,210
Venezuela	97
Total	10,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates - Casablanca, Morocco.