Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN OCTOBER 2008

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in October was 2.58 million metric tons (Mt), which was 4% lower than that in September, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Phosphate rock production for the period January through October 2008 was 4% higher than that in the same period of 2007.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in October was 2.49 Mt, which was 4% lower than that in September. Phosphate rock used in January through October 2008 was slightly lower 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 September and were slightly higher than those in October 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 34.0 Mt, based on annualized data. Apparent consumption of phosphate rock was 33.8 Mt in 2007.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks[2]
2007:			
January-October	24,700	25,900	XX
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	31,100	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
October	2,580	2,490	4,800
Total	25,800	25,800	XX

XX Not applicable.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK[1]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value[2]
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[3]	2,670	154,000
2008:[4]		
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
September	121	7,030
Total	1,420	120,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

[3]Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

[4]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[e, 1]
Marketable production	30.1	29.7	31.0
Sold or used by producers	30.2	31.1	31.0
Yearend stocks	6.1	5.0	4.8
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	33.8	34.0

[e]Estimated. NA Not available.

[1]Annualized data.

[2]Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

[3]Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.