Industrial Phosphates

December 2024

Abstract

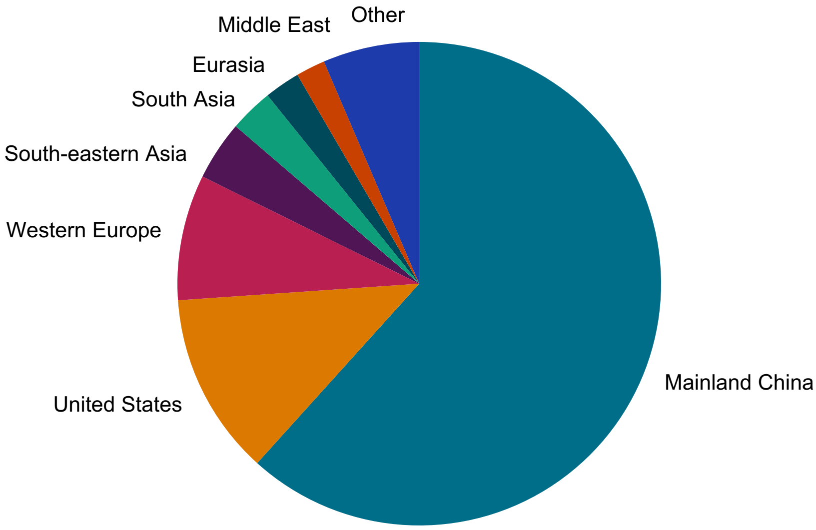
The industrial phosphate market is a minor but important segment of the total phosphate market. Fertilizer and feed are the major outlets for phosphates. Industrial phosphates are used in a broad range of end uses including food, detergents, personal hygiene and construction and account for only around 10%% of global phosphate consumption.

Detergents, which used to be the largest end use for industrial phosphates, have been affected by environmental pressure, and consumption has declined significantly. Producers are focusing on creating new markets in food and horticultural applications to counter the decrease in demand from the detergent industry.

The following pie chart shows consumption of industrial phosphates by major region:

S&P Global
Commodity Insights

Consumption of industrial phosphates by major region — 2024



Data compiled Oct. 2, 2024.
Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights.

From 2015 to 2019, the industrial phosphates markets experienced steady growth, but the recession resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic led to minimal growth in 2020, with up to 8% declines, depending on the region and the end-use application, including food and beverages, detergent builders and cleaners, specialty agricultural products and pharmaceuticals. A relatively new application, lithium-ion batteries, will lead growth over the next five years, with lithium iron phosphate (LFP) and lithium manganese iron phosphate (LMFP) taking a major share of the cathode active material market. In 2024, batteries are the largest single end use for industrial phosphates. Overall growth for industrial phosphates is expected to increase worldwide far ahead of average gross domestic product growth between 2024 and 2029.

Environmental concerns will continue to have a strong influence on phosphate demand in detergents in much of the world. In Western Europe, North America and Japan, legislation reducing phosphate content in automatic dishwashing detergents has led to further declines in recent years. Sodium phosphates' rapid contraction has stabilized, however, as producers have identified new markets in food, horticulture and water treatment applications.

For more detailed information, see the table of contents, shown below.

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Industrial Phosphates* is the comprehensive and trusted guide for anyone seeking information on this industry. This latest report details global and regional information, including

Global summary; regional coverage

Producers with annual capacities and plant sites

Production figures and trends

Consumption and forecasts by end use application

Manufacturing processes and environmental issues

Trade – imports and exports

Key benefits

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Industrial Phosphates* has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers and organizations, and leading representatives from the industry in combination with S&P Global's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence and expert insights into industry dynamics, trade and economics.

This report can help you

– Identify trends and driving forces influencing chemical markets

– Forecast and plan for future demand

– Understand the impact of competing materials

– Identify and evaluate potential customers and competitors

– Evaluate producers

– Track changing prices and trade movements

– Analyze the impact of feedstocks, regulations and other factors on chemical profitability

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