

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2004

During the quarter ending September 30, 2004, U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder produced from metal powder, was slightly lower than net production during the quarter ending June 30, 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products during the first three quarters of 2004 was 32% lower than net production during the first three quarters of 2003.

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials during the quarter ending September 30, 2004, was 5% lower than reported consumption during the quarter ending June 30, 2004. U.S. reported consumption of these materials during the first three quarters of 2004 was 4% higher than reported consumption during the same period in 2003. These materials were used to make alloys, cemented carbides, mill products, catalysts, and pigments.

Data for U.S. imports and exports for September 2004 will be published in a subsequent issue.

Update

Prices for tungsten ore concentrates, in dollars per metric ton unit from Metal Bulletin, are listed below. Prices in dollars per short ton unit were converted from metric ton unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar. These prices represent combined prices for wolframite and scheelite ore concentrates with a minimum tungsten trioxide (WO₃) content of 65%. The prices for October 1-31, 2004, are as follows:

Low—\$59/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$54/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$61/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$55/short ton unit WO₃)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Reported scrap consumption	Intermediate products			
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period			Net production ⁴	Reported consumption ⁵	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³			Industry ⁶	U.S. Government ³	
2003:									
September	W	530	W	29,500	252	567	753	661	767
October	W	223	W	29,500	314	536	755	780	767
November	W	244	W	29,400	311	476	679	813	767
December	W	402	W	29,400	265	509	697	806	765
January-December	W	4,690	XX	XX	4,010	9,030	9,400	XX	XX
2004:									
January	W	328	W	28,900	318	535	788	834	757
February	W	92	W	28,800	220	560	797	769	743
March	W	157	W	28,800	335	578	855	734	736
April	W	207	W	28,500	321	606	853	749	730
May	W	68	W	28,400	369	537	830	845	729
June	W	190	W	28,400	326	581	947	833	729
July	W	78	W	28,400	268	529	825	828	699
August	W	326	W	28,400	238	590	833 ^r	871	699
September	W	NA	W	28,400	267	558	851	693	699
Total	W	NA	XX	XX	2,660	5,070	7,580	XX	XX

^rRevised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

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

²Reported by consumers.

³Data from Defense National Stockpile Center. Includes material committed for sale pending shipment.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁵Includes estimates and scrap.

⁶Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF
AMMONIUM PARATUNGSTATE, BY MONTH¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Production	Consumption	Stocks, end of period ²
2003:			
September	W	839	42
October	W	1,010	W
November	W	933	W
December	W	W	W
January-December ³	W	6,590	XX
2004:			
January	W	790	W
February	W	650	W
March	W	W	W
April	W	881	W
May	W	769	129
June	W	827	W
July	W	634	150
August	W	W	95
September	W	759	67
Total ³	W	5,310	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

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

²Producers and consumers.

³Does not include withheld data.

TABLE 3
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product ³	Net production ²				Stocks at end of period		
	2004				2004		
	2003	August	September	Year to date	2003	August	September
Metal powder	5,350	266	225	1,970	544	512	353
Tungsten carbide powder (made from metal powder)	3,680	324	333	3,100	263	359	340
Total	9,030	590	558	5,070	807	871	693

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

²Gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

³Data for cast and crystalline tungsten carbide powder and tungsten chemicals are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in "Total."

TABLE 4
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY END USE^{1,2,3}

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

End use	2004		
	August	September	Year to date
Steels	22	22	198
Superalloys	W	W	W
Other alloys (excludes steels and superalloys) ⁴	W	W	W
Cemented carbides ⁵	432	452	3,950
Mill products made from metal powder	W	W	W
Chemical uses	W	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	379 ^r	377	3,440
Total	833 ^r	851	7,580

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

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

²Does not include materials used in making primary tungsten products.

³Includes estimates.

⁴Includes welding and hard-facing rods and materials, wear- and corrosion-resistant alloys, and nonferrous alloys.

⁵Includes diamond tool matrices, cemented and sintered carbides, and cast carbide dies or parts.

TABLE 5
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN MATERIALS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Ferro- tungsten	Tungsten metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Tungsten scrap	Other tungsten materials ²	Total
Consumption:						
2003:						
September	25	W	447	W	6	753
October	23	W	444	W	6	755
November	22	W	436	W	6	679
December	22	W	445	W	6	697
January-December	275	W	5,300	W	72	9,400
2004:						
January	21	W	452	W	6	788
February	21	W	450	W	6	797
March	22	W	444	W	6	855
April	21	W	447	W	6	853
May	22	W	441	W	6	830
June	22	W	445	W	6	947
July	21	W	434	W	6	825
August	21	W	438	W	6	833 ^r
September	22	W	458	W	6	851
Total	193	W	4,010	W	54	7,580
Stocks:						
2003:						
September	28	30	276	25	9	368
October	25	30	331	21	9	417
November	33	30	347	28	9	447
December	31	33	301	24	9	398
2004:						
January	30	33	312	25	9	409
February	29	31	307	23	9	399
March	27	31	308	26	9	401
April	26	30	304	29	9	398
May	24	33	317	24	9	407
June	33	31	308	18	9	399
July	31	28	307	27	9	403
August	30	26 ^r	313	26	9	404 ^r
September	29	28	307	25	9	397

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

¹Includes estimates.

²Includes tungsten chemicals.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2003	4,690	2,640	377	1,090	1,370	1,020	11,200	XX
2004:								
June	190	150	15	76	112	209	753	4,330
July	78	148	14	82	179	208	709	5,040
August:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	26
Belgium	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	3
Bolivia	56	--	--	--	--	--	56	259
Canada	121	--	--	10	36	--	167	1,010
China	--	219	31	161	96	72	579	2,940
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	6
Germany	--	--	--	39	5	3	47	455
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	54
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Israel	--	--	--	8	14	--	22	271
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	4	6	56
Kenya	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	6	1	--	7	110
Liechtenstein	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)
Mexico	--	--	--	8	--	--	8	19
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	51
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Portugal	137	--	--	--	--	--	137	307
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	100	100	181
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	105
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3)
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	12
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	114
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
United Kingdom	12	--	--	--	(3)	13	25	57
Total	326	219	31	236	152	199	1,160	6,200
Total, year to date	1,450	1,270	137	980	1,220	1,150	6,200	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Includes other unwrought tungsten, wrought tungsten, calcium and other tungstates, tungsten chlorides, other tungsten compounds, ash and residues containing mainly tungsten, and other mixtures of inorganic compounds containing tungsten. Tungsten content estimated in part.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in August 2004 totaled 170 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date total of 869 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Ores and concentrates ²	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder ²	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ³	Total	Total, year to date
2003	20	99	1,130	1,700	1,440	4,390	XX
2004:							
June	3	18	24	126	59	230	1,730
July	1	16	24	132	125	298	2,030
August:							
Argentina	(4)	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1
Australia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	28
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	12
Brazil	--	--	2	1	1	4	19
Canada	2	--	3	8	5	19	153
Chile	--	--	--	1	--	1	2
China	--	--	(4)	--	7	7	35
Columbia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
France	--	--	2	1	1	4	130
Georgia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1
Germany	--	--	15	13	9	36	396
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Hungary	--	--	--	--	1	1	76
India	(4)	--	--	3	1	5	20
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Israel	--	--	4	--	(4)	4	16
Italy	--	--	1	--	2	2	53
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	4	6	75
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	30
Luxembourg	--	--	(4)	3	--	3	29
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	12
Mexico	--	--	(4)	--	7	7	239
Netherlands	(4)	--	--	--	--	(4)	21
Norway	--	--	--	1	--	1	4
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Romania	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
South Africa	1	--	--	--	(4)	1	4
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	21
Sweden	--	--	(4)	19	1	20	55
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	5	5	21
Taiwan	--	--	6	(4)	5	11	234
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Turkey	--	--	--	--	16	16	18
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	2
United Kingdom	1	--	4	31	2	38	468
Venezuela	--	--	1	--	--	1	1
Other	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	2
Total	4	--	40	85	70	198	2,220
Total, year to date	29	125	291	910	869	2,220	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

³Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

⁴Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in August 2004 totaled 12 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date estimated total of 389 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.