

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER 2009

The following quarterly comparisons are based on preliminary data. During the quarter ending September 30, 2009, total U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was slightly more than net production during the quarter ending June 30, 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products during the first three quarters of 2009 was approximately one-half of that produced during the first three quarters of 2008.

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, 2009, was 4% more than consumption during the quarter ending June 30, 2009. U.S. reported consumption of these materials during the first three quarters of 2009 was 7% less than that consumed during the first three quarters of 2008. These materials were used to make alloys, cemented carbides, mill products, and other products, such as catalysts and pigments.

Data for U.S. imports and exports of tungsten for January through August 2009 and full year 2008 totals by material are published in this issue.

Update

Selected prices from Metal Bulletin for July, August, and September 2009, are listed below. U.S. ammonium paratungstate prices in dollars per metric ton unit were converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest

dollar. Prices for tungsten ore concentrates represent combined prices for wolframite and scheelite concentrates with a minimum tungsten trioxide (WO₃) content of 65%. Concentrate prices in dollars per short ton unit were converted from metric-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

July:

Low—\$176/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$160/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/short ton unit WO₃)

August:

Low—\$176/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$160/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/short ton unit WO₃)

September:

Low—\$176/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$160/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

July:

Low—\$140/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$127/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$160/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$145/short ton unit WO₃)

August:

Low—\$140/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$127/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$160/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$145/short ton unit WO₃)

September:

Low—\$140/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$127/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$160/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$145/short ton unit WO₃)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products				
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Reported scrap consumption	Net production ⁴	Reported consumption ⁵	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³				Industry ⁶	U.S. Government ³
2008:									
July	W	400	W	20,500	305	892	891	767 ^r	196
August	W	224	W	20,400	447	751	1,040	757	196
September	W	314	W	19,800	314	789	978	700	183
October	W	393	W	19,700	510	789	999	762	183
November	W	432	W	19,700	252	601	906	736	183
December	W	312	W	19,700	223	563	831	707	183
January-December	W	3,990	XX	XX	4,700	8,950	11,700	XX	XX
2009:									
January	W	459	W	19,700	313	334	697	779	183
February	W	341	W	19,800	231	389	633	696	183
March	W	408	W	19,800	264	436	706	725	183
April	W	319	W	19,800	276	330	614	694	183
May	W	315	W	19,700	257	379	703	713	183
June	W	272	W	19,700	184	441	743 ^r	690	183
July	W	289	W	19,700	281	286	638	623	183
August	W	270	W	19,700	218	400	721	633	183
September	W	165	W	19,700	309	488	771	736	172
Total	W	2,840	XX	XX	2,330	3,480	6,230	XX	XX

^rRevised. 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. Data are uncommitted material only.

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
2008:			
July	W	(3)	W
August	W	539	W
September	W	882	W
October	W	904	W
November	W	(3)	W
December	W	478	W
January-December	W	9,700	XX
2009:			
January	W	428	W
February	W	557	W
March	W	404	W
April	W	490	W
May	W	676	W
June	W	521	W
July	W	311	W
August	W	535	W
September	W	W	W
Total	W	3,920 ⁴	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.

³Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

⁴Data for September not included.

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product ³	Net production ²					Year to date	Stocks at end of period				
	2009						2009				
	2008	June	July	August	September		2008	June	July	August	September
Metal powder	4,230	250	138	224	256	1,930	377	405	372	368	427
Tungsten carbide powder	4,720	191	148	176	232	1,550	330	284	251	265	309
Total	8,950	441	286	400	488	3,480	707	690	623	633	736

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

²Receipts plus gross 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	2009			
	July	August	September	Year to date
Steels	24	23	24	212
Superalloys	W	W	W	W
Other alloys (excludes steels and superalloys) ⁴	W	W	W	W
Cemented carbides ⁵	438	438	438	3,960
Mill products made from metal powder	W	W	W	W
Chemical uses	W	W	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	176	260	309	2,060
Total	638	721	771	6,230

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:						
2008:						
July	20	W	555	W	6	891
August	20	W	562	W	6	1,040
September	20	W	560	W	6	978
October	20	W	563	W	6	999
November	20	W	564	W	6	906
December	20	W	557	W	6	831
January-December	237	W	6,750	W	72	11,700
2009:						
January	21	W	456	W	6	697
February	21	W	448	W	6	633
March	21	W	450	W	6	706
April	21	W	446	W	6	614
May	20	W	445	W	6	703
June	20	W	446 ^r	W	6	743 ^r
July	21	W	446	W	6	638
August	20	W	446	W	6	721
September	21	W	446	W	10	771
Total	186	W	4,030	W	58	6,230
Stocks:						
2008:						
July	18	25	429	28	9	508
August	17	25	426	27	9	504
September	17	25	421	45	9	517
October	16	25	423	50	9	522
November	15	25	421	35	9	504
December	15	25	448	28	9	524
2009:						
January	18	24	467	27	9	545
February	16	25	461	39	9	550
March	18	25	462	26	9	540
April	19	25	455	25	9	533
May	18	25	415	31	9	498
June	15	25	455 ^r	22	9	526 ^r
July	16	25	455	28	9	533
August	15	25	455	28	9	532
September	18	24	455	17	15	529

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

¹Includes estimates.

²Includes tungsten chemicals.

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2008	3,990	2,510	309	1,180	1,600	2,180	11,800	XX
2009:								
April	319	209	15	47	16	213	819	3,660
May	315	123	--	75	29	114	657	4,310
June:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	(3)	2	3	14
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	4
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	463
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Canada	90	--	--	--	1	--	91	591
China	--	139	--	5	21	88	253	2,160
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	6
Germany	--	--	--	7	5	2	14	196
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Israel	--	--	--	12	4	(3)	16	177
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	5	5	18
Kenya	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	--	--	19	107
Mexico	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	12
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Peru	46	--	--	--	--	--	46	219
Portugal	73	--	--	--	--	--	73	465
Rwanda	38	--	--	--	--	--	38	129
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Spain	20	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	20	157
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	13
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	12
Vietnam	--	16	--	--	--	--	16	45
Other	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Total	272	156	--	43	31	100	602	4,910
Total, year to date	2,120	1,200	32	464	319	784	4,910	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 oxides, 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 ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in June 2009 totaled 82 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date total of 454 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2008	3,990	2,510	309	1,180	1,600	2,180	11,800	XX
2009:								
May	315	123	--	75	29	114	657	4,310
June	272	156	--	43	31	100	602	4,910
July:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	15
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	5
Bolivia	72	--	--	--	--	--	72	535
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Canada	86	--	--	--	1	--	87	678
China	--	246	--	6	61	107	420	2,580
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	6
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	1	7
Germany	--	--	--	22	7	1	30	226
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Israel	--	--	--	14	3	(3)	17	194
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	1	19
Kenya	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	7	--	(3)	7	114
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Peru	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	247
Portugal	52	--	--	--	--	--	52	517
Rwanda	41	--	--	--	--	--	41	170
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Spain	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	167
Sweden	--	--	--	--	4	(3)	5	17
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	12
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	45
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	12
Total	289	246	--	50	78	114	777	5,690
Total, year to date	2,400	1,450	32	514	397	897	5,690	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 oxides, 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 ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in July 2009 totaled 49 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date total of 503 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2008	3,990	2,510	309	1,180	1,600	2,180	11,800	XX
2009:								
June	272	156	--	43	31	100	602	4,910
July	289	246	--	50	78	114	777	5,690
August:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	(3)	3	3	19
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	5
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	535
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Canada	111	--	--	--	1	--	112	790
China	--	285	2	--	36	53	375	2,950
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	8
France	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	8
Germany	--	--	--	34	3	3	40	267
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Israel	--	--	--	20	--	--	20	214
Japan	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	21
Kenya	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	15	--	--	15	129
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Peru	54	--	--	--	--	--	54	301
Portugal	62	--	--	--	--	--	62	579
Rwanda	34	--	--	--	--	--	34	204
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Spain	10	--	--	(3)	--	--	10	177
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	17
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
United Kingdom	--	(3)	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	12
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	45
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	13
Total	270	285	2	71	42	62	732	6,420
Total, year to date	2,670	1,730	34	585	439	959	6,420	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 oxides, 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 ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in August 2009 totaled 57 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date total of 560 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7A
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
2008	496	621	981	1,340	888	4,320	XX
2009:							
April	(4)	--	23	29	38	90	507
May	(4)	27	26	47	51	152	659
June:							
Australia	(4)	--	(4)	--	1	1	13
Austria	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	39
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	19
Canada	--	--	3	4	3	10	95
China	--	--	1	--	4	5	35
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	20
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	26
Germany	--	37	7	9	1	53	223
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	7
Hungary	--	--	--	--	2	2	8
India	--	--	1	--	--	1	6
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Ireland	--	--	--	--	1	1	15
Italy	(4)	--	1	--	(4)	1	8
Japan	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	22
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	4
Malaysia	--	--	--	1	--	1	7
Mexico	--	--	1	--	1	1	24
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	19	19	41
Philippines	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Singapore	--	--	4	(4)	3	7	23
South Africa	--	--	--	4	--	4	25
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	16
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	2	2	5	57
Vietnam	5	--	--	--	(4)	5	5
Other	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	19
Total	5	37	20	23	41	126	785
Total, year to date	6	147	163	220	249	785	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 ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in June 2009 totaled 89 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date total of 502 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7B
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
2008	496	621	981	1,340	888	4,320	XX
2009:							
May	(4)	27	26	47	51	152	659
June	5	37	20	23	41	126	785
July:							
Australia	--	--	--	3	1	4	17
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Brazil	1	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	20
Canada	--	--	5	6	11	23	119
China	2	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	3	38
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	1	1	22
France	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	27
Germany	--	31	24	10	3	68	292
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	7
Hungary	--	--	--	--	2	2	10
India	--	--	(4)	2	1	3	9
Indonesia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Italy	--	--	2	--	--	2	9
Japan	--	--	(4)	1	3	4	26
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	5
Malaysia	(4)	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Mexico	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	24
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	41
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Singapore	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	25
South Africa	--	--	--	1	--	1	26
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Taiwan	--	--	--	(4)	4	5	21
United Kingdom	--	--	1	2	1	3	60
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Other	--	--	2	3	2	8	27
Total	3	31	36	33	32	135	919
Total, year to date	10	178	199	253	281	919	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 ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in July 2009 totaled 111 metric tons, tungsten content. a year-to-date total of 613 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7C
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
2008	496	621	981	1,340	888	4,320	XX
2009:							
June	5	37	20	23	41	126	785
July	3	31	36	33	32	135	919
August:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	19
Austria	--	--	(4)	6	14	20	59
Brazil	--	--	1	2	1	4	24
Canada	--	--	8	4	4	16	135
China	--	--	3	(4)	1	4	42
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	1	1	22
France	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	28
Germany	--	20	8	12	2	42	334
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
India	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	9
Indonesia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	6
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Italy	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	10
Japan	--	--	(4)	--	2	3	29
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	7
Mexico	--	2	(4)	(4)	1	3	28
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	41
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Singapore	--	--	1	(4)	2	3	27
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	26
Sweden	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Taiwan	--	1	(4)	3	(4)	3	24
United Kingdom	--	--	1	5	5	10	71
Venezuela	--	--	--	2	--	2	7
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Other	2	--	1	3	2	9	32
Total	2	22	25	41	38	127	1,050
Total, year to date	12	200	223	293	319	1,050	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 ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in August 2009 totaled 67 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a year-to-date total of 680 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.