

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MAY 2012

The following comparisons are based on preliminary data. U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 16% less during January through May 2012 than net production during the same period in 2011.

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in January through May 2012 was 7% less than that consumed during the same period in 2011. 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 May 2012 are published in this issue.

### Prices

Selected prices from Metal Bulletin for May 2012 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 (WO<sub>3</sub>) 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:

Low—\$408/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$370/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)  
High—\$452/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$410/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$140/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$127/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)  
High—\$160/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$145/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Reported scrap consumption <sup>p</sup>	Intermediate products				
	Reported consumption <sup>p</sup>	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period			Net production <sup>p,4</sup>	Reported consumption <sup>p,5</sup>	Stocks, end of period		U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
			Industry <sup>p,2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>				Consumer <sup>p,5</sup>	Producer <sup>p,6</sup>	
2011:										
May	W	469	W	15,900	685	717	1,050	553 <sup>r</sup>	605	171
June	W	259	W	15,900	1,140	745	1,280	556 <sup>r</sup>	653	171
July	W	432	W	15,900	630	578	968	551 <sup>r</sup>	686	171
August	W	277	W	15,800	577	469	952 <sup>r</sup>	546 <sup>r</sup>	686	160
September	W	181	W	15,800	(7)	602	947	543 <sup>r</sup>	653	160
October	W	283	W	15,800	(7)	636	946	536 <sup>r</sup>	762	125
November	W	304	W	15,800	(7)	543	942	534 <sup>r</sup>	676	125
December	W	158	W	15,800	(7)	559	930	541 <sup>r</sup>	682	125
January–December	W	3,640	W	15,800	9,520	7,790	12,100	541 <sup>r</sup>	682	125
2012:										
January	W	340	W	15,800	609	498	945	541	659	125
February	W	224	W	15,800	636	612	946	541	639	125
March	W	402	W	15,800	896	723	953	W	767	125
April	W	318	W	15,800	642	647	994	W	734	125
May	W	276	W	15,800	W	586	944	W	673	125
January–May	W	1,560	W	15,800	W	3,070	4,780	W	673	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

<sup>2</sup>Reported by consumers.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials. Data are uncommitted material only.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

<sup>5</sup>Data for ferrotungsten, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten chemicals, tungsten metal powder, and tungsten scrap reported by consumers. Includes estimates.

<sup>6</sup>Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

<sup>7</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "January–December."

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS<sup>p, 1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product <sup>3</sup>	Net production <sup>2</sup>				Stocks at end of period		
	2011	2012			2011	2012	
		April	May	January–May <sup>4</sup>		April	May
Metal powder	3,330	308	247	1,220	273	321	307
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	339	338	1,850	410	413	366
Total	7,790	647	586	3,070	682	734	673

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

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

<sup>2</sup>Receipts plus gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

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

<sup>4</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2011	3,640	2,020	206	1,370	1,690	2,950	11,900	XX
2012:								
March	402	65	36	101	71	214	889	2,610
April	318	121	8	132	102	195	875	3,490
May:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Austria	--	--	--	--	13	7	20	59
Belgium	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	9
Bolivia	78	--	--	--	--	--	78	497
Brazil	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	69
Canada	--	--	--	17	9	(3)	26	156
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	--	90	5	32	113	172	412	1,940
Colombia	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	42
France	--	--	--	--	3	1	4	7
Germany	1	--	--	25	15	3	44	239
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Israel	--	--	--	9	1	(3)	10	110
Japan	--	--	--	1	--	2	3	24
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	18	--	(3)	18	147
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mongolia	18	--	--	--	--	--	18	40
Peru	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	150
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	352
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	9
Singapore	--	--	--	7	--	1	8	22
Spain	43	--	--	--	--	(3)	43	232
Thailand	7	--	--	--	--	--	7	39
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	5
Vietnam	--	--	23	--	--	--	23	139
Other	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	2	6
Total	276	90	28	108	158	192	852	4,340
January–May	1,560	604	118	570	572	914	4,340	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in May 2012 totaled 142 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May 2012 total of 705 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder <sup>2</sup>	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2011	169	977	686	1,250	1,390	4,470	XX
2012:							
March	15	30	47	96	100	288	964
April	(4)	72	86	53	97	308	1,270
May:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Australia	--	--	1	3	(4)	4	7
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	66
Belgium	--	--	(4)	(4)	9	9	10
Brazil	--	--	1	3	8	12	45
Canada	2	--	12	7	93	114	422
China	41	--	2	1	5	49	87
Colombia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	3
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	7
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	2	2	10
Denmark	--	--	--	2	--	2	5
France	--	--	--	(4)	20	21	42
Germany	--	26	10	9	2	48	289
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	13
Hungary	--	--	--	--	1	1	31
India	--	3	2	--	8	13	41
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	--	--	34
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	20
Israel	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	11
Italy	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	6
Japan	--	--	1	1	2	4	39
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	6
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	1	1	5
Mexico	--	--	(4)	2	16	19	51
Netherlands	--	--	--	2	15	17	17
Peru	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	7
Saudi Arabia	--	--	22	--	(4)	22	98
Singapore	--	--	2	(4)	6	9	30
South Africa	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	9
Sweden	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	16
Switzerland	--	29	--	--	--	29	32
Taiwan	--	--	1	18	(4)	19	51
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	10
Turkey	--	--	1	--	27	27	33
United Kingdom	(4)	--	(4)	17	12	29	127
Venezuela	--	--	--	9	(4)	9	23
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	16
Other	--	--	2	(4)	(4)	3	11
Total	43	59	58	77	231	468	1,740
January–May	60	238	317	421	704	1,740	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

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

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in May 2012 totaled 225 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May 2012 total of 997 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.