

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JUNE 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 19% less during January through June 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 June 2012 was 11% 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 June 2012 are published in this issue.

Prices

Selected prices from Metal Bulletin for June 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 (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:

Low—\$430/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$390/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$452/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$410/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

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 ^p	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Reported scrap consumption ^p	Net production ^{p, 4}	Reported consumption ^{p, 5}	Stocks, end of period		U.S. Government ³
			Industry ^{p, 2}	U.S. Government ³				Consumer ^{p, 5}	Producer ^{p, 6}	
2011:										
June	W	259	W	15,900	1,140	745	1,280	556	653	171
July	W	432	W	15,900	630	578	968	551	686	171
August	W	277	W	15,800	577	469	952	546	686	160
September	W	181	W	15,800	(7)	602	947	543	653	160
October	W	283	W	15,800	(7)	636	946	536	762	125
November	W	304	W	15,800	(7)	543	942	534	676	125
December	W	158	W	15,800	(7)	559	930	541	682	125
January–December	W	3,640	W	15,800	9,520	7,790	12,100	541	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
June	W	269	W	15,800	W	504	947	W	734	125
January–June	W	1,830	W	15,800	4,420	3,570	5,730	W	734	125

^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

²Reported by consumers.

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS^{p, 1}

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product ³	Net production ²				Stocks at end of period		
	2011	2012			2011	2012	
		May	June	January-June ⁴		May	June
Metal powder	3,330	247	152	1,370	273	307	321
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	338	351	2,200	410	366	413
Total	7,790	586	504	3,570	682	673	734

^pPreliminary.

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."

⁴May include revisions to previously published data.

TABLE 3
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
2011	3,640	2,020	206	1,370	1,690	2,950	11,900	XX
2012:								
April	318	121	8	132	102	195	875	3,490
May	276	90	28	108	158	192	852	4,340
June:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Austria	--	--	--	--	14	4	19	78
Belgium	--	--	--	--	2	1	2	12
Bolivia	69	--	--	--	--	--	69	567
Brazil	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	79
Canada	42	--	--	10	4	(3)	56	212
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	--	89	--	45	73	198	404	2,340
Colombia	14	--	--	--	--	--	14	57
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	2	9
Germany	--	--	--	7	15	1	23	262
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Israel	--	--	--	31	--	(3)	31	140
Japan	--	--	--	3	--	2	4	28
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	6	4	--	9	156
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Peru	40	--	--	--	--	--	40	190
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	(3)	47	398
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Singapore	--	--	--	6	--	2	8	29
Spain	37	--	--	(3)	--	--	38	270
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	149
Other	--	--	2	--	--	2	5	10
Total	269	89	2	107	112	212	791	5,130
January-June	1,830	693	121	676	685	1,130	5,130	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 2012 totaled 149 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January-June 2012 total of 854 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
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
2011	169	977	686	1,250	1,390	4,470	XX
2012:							
April	(4)	72	86	53	97	308	1,270
May	43	59	58	77	231	468	1,740
June:							
Argentina	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	9
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Austria	--	--	8	--	(4)	9	75
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Brazil	(4)	--	1	(4)	6	7	52
Canada	--	--	12	9	37	58	480
Chile	--	--	2	(4)	--	2	4
China	--	--	2	1	4	6	94
Colombia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	9
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	2	2	12
Denmark	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	5
France	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	43
Germany	--	--	12	13	7	32	321
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	13
Hungary	--	23	--	--	--	23	54
India	--	2	1	(4)	4	8	49
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	16	16	50
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	20
Israel	--	--	1	--	--	1	13
Italy	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
Japan	17	--	2	2	3	23	62
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	9
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	6
Mexico	--	--	1	2	5	7	59
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	17
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Saudi Arabia	--	--	31	--	--	31	128
Singapore	--	--	(4)	1	14	15	46
South Africa	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	9
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Switzerland	--	91	--	1	(4)	92	124
Taiwan	--	(4)	4	12	(4)	16	67
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	10
Turkey	--	--	1	--	20	21	54
United Kingdom	--	1	(4)	11	(4)	12	139
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Other	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	11
Total	17	117	78	57	122	392	2,130
January–June	78	355	396	479	826	2,130	XX

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 2012 totaled 297 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June 2012 total of 1,290 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.