

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 2012

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 19% less during January through August 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 August 2012 was 6% 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 August 2012 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for August 2012 were sourced from Platt's Metals Week. Metal Bulletin ceased reporting prices for U.S. ammonium paratungstate in July, and announced in September that it planned to discontinue publishing the price of tungsten ore concentrates. The prices listed below in dollars per metric ton unit were converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$435/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$395/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$463/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$420/short ton unit WO_3)

Concentrates:

Low—\$353/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$320/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$364/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$330/short ton unit WO_3)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Reported scrap consumption ^p	Net production ^{p,4}	Intermediate products				
	Reported consump- tion ^p	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period				Reported consump- tion ^{p,5}	Stocks, end of period			U.S. Gov- ernment ³
			Industry ^{p,2}	U.S. Gov- ernment ³				Industry			
								Consumer ^{p,5}	Producer ^{p,6}		
2011:											
August	W	277	W	15,800	581 ^r	469	887 ^r	576 ^r	686	160	
September	W	181	W	15,800	(7)	602	869 ^r	571 ^r	653	160	
October	W	283	W	15,800	(7)	636	970 ^r	566 ^r	762	125	
November	W	304	W	15,800	(7)	543	873 ^r	560 ^r	676	125	
December	W	158	W	15,800	(7)	559	825 ^r	567 ^r	682	125	
January–December	W	3,640	W	15,800	9,530 ^r	7,790	11,300 ^r	567 ^r	682	125	
2012:											
January	W	340	W	15,800	614 ^r	498	927 ^r	568 ^r	659	125	
February	W	224	W	15,800	640 ^r	612	901 ^r	566 ^r	639	125	
March	W	402	W	15,800	898 ^r	723	946 ^r	W	767	125	
April	W	318	W	15,800	648 ^r	647	1,010 ^r	W	734	125	
May	W	276	W	15,800	(8)	596 ^r	974 ^r	W	683 ^r	125	
June	W	269	W	15,800	(8)	501 ^r	790 ^r	W	742 ^r	125	
July	W	301	W	15,800	(8)	490 ^r	901 ^r	W	723 ^r	125	
August	W	266	W	14,200	517	387	893	W	681	125	
January–August	W	2,400	W	14,200	5,700	4,450	7,340	W	681	125	

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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."

⁸Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "January–August."

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	
		July ^r	August	January–August ⁴		July ^r	August
Metal powder	3,330	168	W	W	273	308	300
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	321	W	W	410	415	381
Total	7,790	490	387	4,450	682	723	681

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

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:								
June	269	89	2	107	112	212	791	5,130
July	301	141	34	78	130	195	879	6,010
August:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	94
Belgium	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	17
Bolivia	106	--	--	--	--	--	106	811
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	89
Canada	1	--	--	1	1	(3)	3	225
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	--	173	--	31	65	208	477	3,220
Colombia	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	79
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	11
Germany	1	36	--	8	13	1	58	400
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	16	16	20
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Israel	--	--	--	--	6	(3)	6	186
Japan	--	--	--	3	--	1	4	39
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	18	2	(3)	21	212
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	16
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Peru	41	--	--	--	--	--	41	251
Portugal	58	--	--	--	--	--	58	504
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	10
Singapore	--	--	--	7	--	1	8	49
Spain	37	--	--	(3)	--	--	37	345
Thailand	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	61
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	149
Other	--	--	--	1	--	(3)	2	9
Total	266	208	--	71	88	234	867	6,880
January–August	2,400	1,040	155	825	902	1,560	6,880	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 2012 totaled 148 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August 2012 total of 1,130 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:							
June	17	117	78	57	122	392	2,130
July	4	104	35	75	151	369	2,500
August:							
Argentina	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	10
Australia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	11
Austria	--	--	(4)	12	1	13	105
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	10
Brazil	3	--	(4)	(4)	3	6	61
Canada	--	--	13	10	47	70	616
Chile	--	--	1	--	--	1	6
China	--	--	3	1	(4)	4	108
Colombia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	6
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	12
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	14
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
France	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	44
Germany	--	87	10	14	4	115	456
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	14
Hungary	--	--	--	--	2	2	56
India	--	2	2	(4)	1	5	59
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	4	4	61
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	20
Israel	--	--	3	(4)	--	3	16
Italy	--	--	--	2	2	3	15
Japan	--	--	2	(4)	9	11	77
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	13
Malaysia	(4)	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	6
Mexico	--	--	1	1	2	4	87
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	17
Peru	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	8
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	135
Singapore	--	--	3	2	12	17	82
South Africa	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	10
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	20
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	19	19	245
Taiwan	--	--	2	6	(4)	8	79
Thailand	--	--	--	--	3	3	13
Turkey	--	--	1	--	--	1	61
United Kingdom	--	(4)	--	20	(4)	21	204
Venezuela	--	--	--	1	--	1	25
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	9	9	27
Other	--	--	--	2	1	2	15
Total	3	89	42	73	122	329	2,830
January–August	85	548	473	627	1,100	2,830	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 2012 totaled 236 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August 2012 total of 1,800 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.