

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2012

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 17% less during January through September 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 September 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 September 2012 are published in this issue.

### Prices

Prices for September 2012 were sourced from Platt's Metals Week. 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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products					
	Reported consumption <sup>p</sup>	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Reported scrap consumption <sup>p</sup>	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:										
September	W	181	W	15,800	(7)	602	869	571	653	160
October	W	283	W	15,800	(7)	636	970	566	762	125
November	W	304	W	15,800	(7)	543	873	560	676	125
December	W	158	W	15,800	(7)	559	825	567	682	125
January–December	W	3,640	W	15,800	9,530	7,790	11,300	567	682	125
2012:										
January	W	340	W	15,800	614	498	927	568	659	125
February	W	224	W	15,800	640	612	901	566	639	125
March	W	402	W	15,800	898	723	946	W	767	125
April	W	318	W	15,800	654 <sup>r</sup>	647	1,020 <sup>r</sup>	W	734	125
May	W	276	W	15,800	(8)	596	979 <sup>r</sup>	W	683	125
June	W	269	W	15,800	(8)	501	790	W	742	125
July	W	301	W	15,800	(8)	490	851 <sup>r</sup>	W	723	125
August	W	266	W	14,200	(8)	387	755 <sup>r</sup>	W	681	125
September	W	239	W	14,200	(8)	585	948	W	723	121
January–September	W	2,640	W	14,200	6,530	5,040	8,120	W	723	121

<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."

<sup>8</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "January–September."

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	
		August	September	January–September <sup>4</sup>		August	September
Metal powder	3,330	W	W	W	273	300	350
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	W	W	W	410	381	373
Total	7,790	387	585	5,040	682	681	723

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. 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>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:								
July	301	141	34	78	130	195	879	6,010
August	266	208	--	71	88	234	867	6,880
September:								
Australia	16	--	--	--	--	--	16	22
Austria	--	--	--	--	9	4	14	108
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	18
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	903
Brazil	10	--	--	--	--	(3)	10	98
Canada	--	--	--	3	11	--	15	239
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	14	139	19	(3)	112	205	489	3,710
Colombia	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	89
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	11
Germany	--	--	--	17	4	2	23	423
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
India	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	9
Israel	--	--	--	6	1	--	7	193
Japan	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	40
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12	1	(3)	13	225
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Mexico	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	9
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Peru	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	261
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	504
Russia	18	--	--	--	--	2	20	30
Singapore	--	--	--	5	--	1	6	55
Spain	53	--	--	--	--	--	53	398
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	61
United Kingdom	15	(3)	--	--	(3)	(3)	15	20
Vietnam	--	--	21	--	--	--	21	170
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	10
Total	239	139	39	44	140	219	821	7,700
January–September	2,640	1,180	194	869	1,040	1,770	7,700	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 September 2012 totaled 136 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September 2012 total of 1,260 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:							
July	4	104	35	75	151	369	2,500
August	3	89	42	73	122	329	2,830
September:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Australia	--	--	1	2	(4)	3	14
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	105
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Brazil	(4)	--	(4)	--	9	10	71
Canada	--	--	6	11	45	63	679
Chile	--	--	--	1	--	1	6
China	--	--	3	1	1	5	113
Colombia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	12
Czech Republic	--	--	(4)	--	1	1	15
Denmark	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	5
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	44
Germany	--	108	7	17	6	137	593
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	15
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	56
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	3	3	62
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	--	--	61
Ireland	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	21
Israel	--	--	--	--	2	2	18
Italy	--	--	--	1	--	1	16
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	80
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	15
Malaysia	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	7
Mexico	--	--	(4)	2	6	9	96
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	17
Panama	--	--	--	--	12	12	13
Peru	--	--	--	1	--	1	9
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	135
Singapore	--	--	3	(4)	10	13	95
South Africa	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	11
Sweden	--	--	--	14	--	14	34
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	245
Taiwan	--	--	5	2	(4)	7	86
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	15
Turkey	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	62
United Kingdom	--	--	--	3	(4)	4	207
Venezuela	--	--	--	2	1	3	27
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
Other	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	17
Total	(4)	108	29	62	104	302	3,130
January–September	85	656	502	688	1,200	3,130	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 September 2012 totaled 179 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September 2012 total of 1,980 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.