

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 2012

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 20% less during January through October 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 October 2012 was 8% 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 October 2012 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for October 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 WO₃ (\$395/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$463/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$420/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$353/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$320/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$364/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$330/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:										
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	647	1,020	W	734	125
May	W	276	W	15,800	(8)	596	979	W	683	125
June	W	269	W	15,800	(8)	501	790	W	742	125
July	W	301	W	15,800	(8)	490	851	W	723	125
August	W	266	W	14,200	(8)	387	755	W	681	125
September	W	239	W	14,200	(8)	585	948	W	723	121
October	W	260	W	14,200	684	343	736	W	663	125
January–October	W	2,900	W	14,200	7,210	5,380	8,850	W	663	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."

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

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	
		September	October	January–October ⁴		September	October
Metal powder	3,330	W	W	W	273	350	257
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	W	W	W	410	373	406
Total	7,790	585	343	5,380	682	723	663

^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.

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	Ferrotungsten	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:								
August	266	208	--	71	88	234	867	6,880
September	239	139	39	44	140	219	821	7,700
October:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	22
Austria	--	--	--	--	7	3	10	118
Belgium	--	--	--	--	3	(3)	3	21
Bolivia	89	--	--	--	--	--	89	993
Brazil	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	116
Canada	--	--	--	10	5	--	15	254
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	--	158	--	70	60	164	451	4,160
Colombia	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	109
France	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	13
Germany	--	--	--	8	6	2	16	439
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	20
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
Israel	--	--	--	--	13	--	13	206
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	2	4	45
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	31	(3)	(3)	31	256
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	2	--	2	4
Peru	27	--	--	--	--	--	27	288
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	550
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	31
Singapore	--	--	--	9	--	2	11	66
Spain	48	--	--	--	--	--	48	445
Thailand	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	74
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	20
Vietnam	--	--	26	--	--	16	42	212
Other	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	2	9
Total	260	158	26	130	99	192	864	8,560
January–October	2,900	1,340	220	998	1,140	1,970	8,560	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 October 2012 totaled 52 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October 2012 total of 1,310 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:							
August	3	89	42	73	122	329	2,830
September	(4)	108	29	62	104	302	3,130
October:							
Argentina	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	10
Australia	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	16
Austria	--	--	--	--	2	2	107
Belgium	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	11
Brazil	1	--	3	1	(4)	5	76
Canada	(4)	--	7	11	51	69	747
Chile	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	7
China	6	--	2	2	16	26	139
Colombia	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	9
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	13
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	1	1	16
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
France	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	46
Germany	--	54	8	9	1	71	664
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	15
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	56
India	--	2	4	(4)	2	9	72
Indonesia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	61
Ireland	--	--	5	--	--	5	26
Israel	--	--	--	--	2	2	20
Italy	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	17
Japan	--	--	3	2	7	11	91
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	17
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	7
Mexico	--	--	1	1	18	21	117
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	17
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Peru	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	135
Singapore	--	--	1	(4)	6	7	102
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	11
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	34
Switzerland	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	245
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	4	91
Thailand	--	--	(4)	--	9	9	24
Turkey	--	--	2	(4)	--	2	64
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	15	3	17	225
Venezuela	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	32
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
Other	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	20
Total	7	56	39	58	120	280	3,410
January–October	92	712	541	746	1,320	3,410	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 October 2012 totaled 199 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October 2012 total of 2,180 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.