

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 2012

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

Prices

Prices for November 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 STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Reported scrap consumption ^p	Net production ^{p,4}	Intermediate products				
	Reported consumption ^p	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period				Reported consumption ^{p,5}	Stocks, end of period			
			Industry ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³				Consumer ^{p,5}	Producer ^{p,6}	U.S. Government ³	
2011:											
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	
November	W	327	W	14,100	471	485	852	W	679	125	
January–November	W	3,220	W	14,100	7,680	5,870	9,700	W	679	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–November."

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	
		October	November	January–November ⁴		October	November
Metal powder	3,330	W	W	W	273	257	330
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	W	W	W	410	406	349
Total	7,790	343	485	5,870	682	663	679

^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:								
September	239	139	39	44	140	219	821	7,700
October	260	158	26	130	99	192	864	8,560
November:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	22
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	120
Belgium	--	--	--	--	3	(3)	3	24
Bolivia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	1,020
Brazil	16	--	--	--	--	(3)	16	132
Canada	165	--	--	8	4	(3)	177	432
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	--	85	6	4	62	87	244	4,400
Colombia	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	120
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	14
Germany	--	--	--	24	4	4	33	471
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	10
Israel	--	--	--	14	--	--	14	220
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	6	6	51
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	61	--	(3)	61	317
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Peru	4	--	--	--	--	--	4	293
Portugal	58	--	--	--	--	--	58	609
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	31
Singapore	--	--	--	4	--	1	5	71
Spain	47	--	--	--	--	(3)	47	492
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	74
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	22
Vietnam	--	--	46	--	--	--	46	257
Other	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	10
Total	327	85	52	116	74	106	760	9,320
January–November	3,220	1,420	272	1,110	1,210	2,070	9,320	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 November 2012 totaled 127 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November 2012 total of 1,440 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:							
September	(4)	108	29	62	104	302	3,130
October	7	56	39	58	120	280	3,410
November:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Australia	1	--	(4)	1	--	2	18
Austria	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	107
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	11
Brazil	1	--	1	5	(4)	6	82
Canada	--	--	9	8	60	77	824
Chile	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	7
China	--	--	2	1	1	3	142
Colombia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	14
Czech Republic	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	17
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
France	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	47
Germany	--	72	12	20	6	110	774
Hong Kong	--	--	--	2	--	2	16
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	56
India	--	2	4	--	2	8	80
Indonesia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	61
Ireland	--	--	2	--	--	2	28
Israel	--	--	1	--	--	1	21
Italy	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	17
Japan	--	--	4	10	(4)	15	105
Korea, Republic of	(4)	--	1	--	(4)	1	18
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	2	2	9
Mexico	--	--	2	2	2	7	123
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	17
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Peru	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	9
Saudi Arabia	--	--	24	--	(4)	24	159
Singapore	--	--	1	(4)	12	13	116
South Africa	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	11
Sweden	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	34
Switzerland	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	246
Taiwan	--	--	5	2	4	10	100
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	25
Turkey	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	64
United Kingdom	--	--	--	16	3	18	243
Venezuela	--	--	--	1	1	2	34
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	27
Other	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	22
Total	2	74	69	69	97	311	3,720
January–November	94	786	609	816	1,420	3,720	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 November 2012 totaled 266 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November 2012 total of 2,440 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.