

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 2013

January 2013 U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 13% more than that produced in December 2012. Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in January 2013 was 6% less than reported consumption in December 2012. 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 January 2013 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for January 2013 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	
2012:											
January	W	340	W	15,800	614	498	968	568	659	125	
February	W	224	W	15,800	640	612	942	566	639	125	
March	W	402	W	15,800	898	723	986	W	767	125	
April	W	318	W	15,800	654	647	1,060	W	734	125	
May	W	276	W	15,800	(7)	596	1,020	W	683	125	
June	W	269	W	15,800	(7)	501	831	W	742	125	
July	W	301	W	15,800	(7)	490	891	W	723	125	
August	W	266	W	14,200	(7)	387	796	W	681	125	
September	W	239	W	14,200	(7)	585	989	W	723	121	
October	W	260	W	14,200	684	343	777	W	663	125	
November	W	327	W	14,100	473	485	894	W	679	125	
December	W	421	W	14,000	503	494	896	W	653	125	
January–December	W	3,650	W	14,000	8,190	6,360	11,000	W	653	125	
2013, January	W	487	W	13,900	432	557	844	W	629	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 2012."

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	
	2013		2013	
	2012	January	2012	January
Metal powder	W	W	300	297
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	353	333
Total	6,360	557	653	629

^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."

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
2012	3,650	1,500	316	1,230	1,240	2,280	10,200
2013, January:							
Australia	10	--	--	--	--	--	10
Austria	--	--	--	--	(3)	7	7
Bolivia	120	--	--	--	--	--	120
Canada	202	--	--	3	5	--	210
China	--	75	17	105	41	204	442
Colombia	18	--	--	--	--	(3)	18
Germany	1	--	--	28	1	5	35
India	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Israel	--	--	--	19	--	--	19
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	17	1	(3)	18
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47
Russia	12	--	--	--	--	--	12
Rwanda	14	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	3	--	2	5
Spain	64	--	--	--	--	--	64
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	3	4
Total	487	75	17	175	50	225	1,030

-- 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 January 2013 totaled 187 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
2012	203	833	637	878	1,550	4,100
2013, January:						
Australia	--	--	3	(4)	8	11
Austria	--	--	2	--	1	3
Brazil	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	7	8
Canada	--	--	10	7	81	97
China	13	--	(4)	2	1	17
Germany	--	57	8	7	7	79
Israel	--	--	--	3	(4)	3
Japan	--	--	2	1	1	3
Mexico	--	--	1	1	7	9
Panama	--	--	--	--	12	12
Saudi Arabia	--	--	27	1	(4)	29
Singapore	--	--	1	2	13	16
Switzerland	--	65	1	1	--	67
United Kingdom	--	1	(4)	3	3	7
Venezuela	--	--	--	3	(4)	3
Other	(4)	--	5	3	6	14
Total	13	123	61	35	147	378

-- 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 January 2013 totaled 214 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.