

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 2013

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 3% less during January through February 2013 than net production during the same period in 2012.

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in January through February 2013 was 6% less than that consumed during the same period in 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 February 2013 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for February 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—\$358/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$325/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$364/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$330/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	Intermediate products				
	Reported consumption ^p	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period			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}	
2012:										
February	W	224	W	15,800	639 ^r	612	1,030 ^r	566	639	125
March	W	402	W	15,800	896 ^r	723	1,070 ^r	W	767	125
April	W	318	W	15,800	652 ^r	647	1,150 ^r	W	734	125
May	W	276	W	15,800	(7)	596	1,110 ^r	W	683	125
June	W	269	W	15,800	(7)	501	920 ^r	W	742	125
July	W	301	W	15,800	(7)	490	980 ^r	W	723	125
August	W	266	W	14,200	(7)	387	885 ^r	W	681	125
September	W	239	W	14,200	(7)	585	1,080 ^r	W	723	121
October	W	260	W	14,200	682 ^r	343	866 ^r	W	663	125
November	W	327	W	14,100	471 ^r	485	983 ^r	W	679	125
December	W	421	W	14,000	502 ^r	494	984 ^r	W	653	125
January–December	W	3,650	W	14,000	8,170 ^r	6,360	12,100 ^r	W	653	125
2013:										
January	W	487	W	13,900	427 ^r	544 ^r	976 ^r	W	615 ^r	125
February	W	439	W	13,900	485	530	983	W	660	125
January–February	W	926	W	13,900	912	1,070	1,960	W	660	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 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		
	2012	2013			2012	2013	
		January	February	January–February ⁴		January	February
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	297	335
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	318 ^r	325
Total	6,360	544 ^r	530	1,070	653	615 ^r	660

^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	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to data
2012	3,650	1,500	316	1,230	1,240	2,280	10,200	XX
2013:								
January	487	75	17	175	50	225	1,030	1,030
February:								
Australia	18	--	--	--	--	(3)	18	28
Austria	--	--	--	--	12	3	16	23
Belgium	--	--	--	--	3	(3)	4	4
Bolivia	146	--	--	--	--	--	146	266
Canada	156	--	--	4	4	--	164	374
China	--	60	26	--	40	94	220	662
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Germany	--	--	--	20	6	3	29	64
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Israel	--	--	--	15	--	--	15	34
Japan	--	--	--	1	--	2	3	5
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	71	2	(3)	74	92
Poland	--	--	--	12	--	(3)	12	12
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	93
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	12
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	6	--	1	7	12
Spain	60	--	--	--	--	--	60	124
Thailand	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	13
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	16	16	16
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	3	4	6
Total	439	60	26	130	69	123	848	1,880
January–February	926	134	43	305	119	348	1,880	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 February 2013 totaled 59 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 246 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
2012	203	833	637	878	1,550	4,100	XX
2013:							
January	13	123	61	35	147	378	378
February:							
Australia	--	(4)	--	1	(4)	1	12
Austria	--	--	(4)	10	--	10	13
Brazil	--	--	4	--	(4)	4	12
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	5	5	5
Canada	--	--	20	7	32	59	156
China	18	--	(4)	(4)	6	25	42
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
Czech Republic	--	25	--	--	(4)	25	26
Germany	46	--	8	4	5	63	141
Hong Kong	10	--	(4)	(4)	--	10	10
India	--	3	2	--	1	5	7
Israel	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Japan	--	--	2	2	2	5	9
Mexico	--	--	1	1	2	4	13
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	9	9	9
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	29
Singapore	--	--	2	(4)	18	20	36
Switzerland	--	162	--	--	(4)	163	229
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	5	7
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	3	3	10
Venezuela	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	7
Other	1	--	7	4	6	18	24
Total	76	191	46	37	90	440	818
January–February	89	313	107	72	236	818	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 February 2013 totaled 267 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 481 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.