

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN MAY 2013

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 18% less during January through May 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 May 2013 was 11% 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 May 2013 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for May 2013 were sourced from Platts Metals Daily. 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:										
May	W	276	W	15,800	(7)	596	1,040	W	683	125
June	W	269	W	15,800	(7)	501	848	W	742	125
July	W	301	W	15,800	(7)	490	909	W	723	125
August	W	266	W	14,200	(7)	387	813	W	681	125
September	W	239	W	14,200	(7)	585	1,010	W	723	121
October	W	260	W	14,200	679	343	794	W	663	125
November	W	327	W	14,100	469	485	911	W	679	125
December	W	421	W	14,000	502	494	915	W	653	125
January—December	W	3,650	W	14,000	8,140	6,360	11,300	W	653	125
2013:										
January	W	487	W	13,900	424	544	903	W	615	125
February	W	439	W	13,900	485	530	913	W	660	125
March	W	265	W	13,800	477	494	901	W	651	125
April	W	410	W	13,800	506	542	895	W	692	125
May	W	253	W	13,700	470	420	900	W	776	125
January—May	W	1,850	W	13,700	2,360	2,530	4,510	W	776	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		
	2012	2013		January—May ⁴	2012	2013	
		April	May			April	May
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	331	420
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	360	356
Total	6,360	542	420	2,530	653	692	776

^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 data
2012	3,650	1,500	316	1,230	1,240	2,280	10,200	XX
2013:								
March	265	97	--	50	45	114	571	2,450
April	410	189	21	107	63	208	998	3,440
May:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	62
Austria	--	--	--	--	25	3	28	95
Belgium	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	8
Bolivia	106	--	--	--	--	--	106	517
Canada	71	--	--	12	16	(3)	100	799
China	--	106	11	54	61	163	394	1,700
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	28
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	6
Germany	--	--	--	11	4	4	18	116
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Israel	--	--	--	4	3	--	7	70
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	2	2	13
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	17	--	(3)	17	169
Netherlands	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	6
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	247
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	1	--	2	3	26
South Africa, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	6	6	6
Spain	28	--	--	--	--	(3)	29	203
Thailand	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	38
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	16
Vietnam	--	--	4	--	--	--	4	35
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	3
Total	253	106	15	99	111	183	767	4,210
January—May	1,850	526	78	562	338	852	4,210	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 May 2013 totaled 106 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—May total of 521 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 ⁴
2012	203	833	637	878	1,550	4,100	XX
2013:							
March	40	246	33	99	133	549	1,370
April	4	314	30	37	125	509	1,880
May:							
Australia	--	--	(5)	(5)	--	(5)	20
Austria	--	(5)	--	--	1	1	31
Belgium	--	--	--	--	13	13	13
Brazil	(5)	--	1	4	(5)	5	21
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Canada	--	--	4	12	52	67	344
China	32	--	1	(5)	(5)	33	101
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	51
France	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	7
Germany	--	27	12	31	38	108	408
Hong Kong	20	--	--	(5)	(5)	20	54
Hungary	--	19	--	--	1	20	40
India	--	5	2	(5)	4	10	37
Israel	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	7
Italy	--	--	--	(5)	--	(5)	5
Japan	--	--	2	1	(5)	3	20
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	1	16
Luxembourg	--	--	--	15	--	15	15
Malaysia	(5)	--	(5)	--	1	1	7
Mexico	--	2	2	2	4	9	54
Netherlands	--	--	7	(5)	(5)	7	17
Panama	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	12
Saudi Arabia	--	--	12	2	--	13	43
Singapore	--	--	3	(5)	21	24	98
South Africa, Republic of	--	--	(5)	--	--	(5)	4
Switzerland	--	52	--	1	(5)	53	725
Taiwan	--	(5)	(5)	1	(5)	1	24
Thailand	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Turkey	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
United Kingdom	(5)	--	(5)	1	(5)	1	62
Venezuela	--	--	--	1	--	1	10
Vietnam	48	--	--	--	--	48	48
Other	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	1	20
Total	101	105	45	70	138	459	2,330
January–May	233	978	215	277	632	2,330	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.

⁴May include revisions to previously published data.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in May 2013 totaled 224 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 1,100 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.