

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JULY 2013

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 10% less during January through July 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 July 2013 was 8% 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 July 2013 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for July 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				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}	
2012:										
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	668	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	462	433	900	W	787	125
June	W	368	W	13,000	414	617	891	W	755	125
July	W	249	W	12,300	467	491	887	W	730	125
January—July	W	2,470	W	12,300	3,240	3,650	6,290	W	730	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—July ⁴	2012	2013	
		June	July			June	July
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	328	307
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	427	423
Total	6,360	617	491	3,650	653	755	730

^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	Ferro-tungsten	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:								
May	253	106	15	99	111	183	767	4,210
June	368	169	78	109	64	274	1,060	5,270
July:								
Australia	38	--	--	--	--	(3)	38	118
Austria	--	--	--	--	23	7	30	145
Belgium	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	12
Bolivia	40	--	--	--	--	--	40	702
Brazil	--	--	19	--	--	(3)	19	19
Canada	64	--	--	24	13	(3)	101	982
China	--	64	24	11	33	160	291	2,480
Colombia	14	--	--	--	--	--	14	42
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	10
Germany	--	36	--	19	20	5	80	252
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	13
Israel	--	--	--	6	--	(3)	6	94
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	3	3	19
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	--	17	36	251
Mexico	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	6
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	354
Russia	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	48
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	8	--	--	5	--	(3)	13	47
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Spain	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	266
Thailand	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	50
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	19
Vietnam	--	--	18	--	--	--	18	79
Other	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	6
Total	249	99	60	84	90	199	782	6,050
January—July	2,470	794	216	756	492	1,320	6,050	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 July 2013 totaled 114 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—July total of 705 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:							
May	101	105	45	70	138	459	2,330
June	(5)	261	23	51	3,640	3,980	6,310
July:							
Australia	--	--	--	2	--	2	27
Austria	--	--	--	9	5	13	49
Belgium	--	--	1	(5)	--	1	15
Brazil	(5)	--	1	1	1	2	27
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Canada	--	--	6	11	34	51	440
China	45	--	2	(5)	2	49	156
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	8
Czech Republic	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	63
France	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	8
Germany	--	--	8	30	2	39	562
Hong Kong	13	--	--	(5)	(5)	13	67
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	40
India	--	3	2	(5)	6	11	56
Indonesia	--	--	--	1	8	9	11
Israel	--	--	1	4	(5)	5	12
Italy	--	--	(5)	1	--	1	6
Japan	--	--	4	(5)	3	7	32
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	1	17
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Malaysia ⁵	--	--	(5)	--	(5)	(5)	3,530
Mexico	--	--	(5)	--	6	7	67
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	17
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	24
Saudi Arabia	--	--	16	2	--	18	62
Singapore	--	--	5	(5)	3	8	138
South Africa	--	--	1	3	(5)	4	9
Switzerland	--	--	1	--	(5)	1	906
Taiwan	--	--	1	8	(5)	9	43
Thailand	--	--	--	(5)	7	7	14
Turkey	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
United Kingdom	--	--	(5)	2	(5)	3	67
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Vietnam	27	--	--	--	(5)	27	75
Other	--	--	1	2	(5)	3	27
Total ⁶	85	3	50	78	79	294	6,610
January–July ⁶	318	1,240	287	406	834	6,610	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.

⁶Adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in July 2013 totaled 276 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 1,460 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.