

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: ksheddd@usgs.gov

Annie Hwang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: ahwang@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2013

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 10% less during January through September 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 September 2013 was 7% 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 September 2013 are published in this issue.

Prices

Prices for September 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 consump- tion ^p	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period			Net production ^{p, 4}	Reported consump- tion ^{p, 5}	Stocks, end of period		U.S. Gov- ernment ³
			Industry ^{p, 2}	U.S. Gov- ernment ³				Consumer ^{p, 5}	Producer ^{p, 6}	
2012:										
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	494	887	W	732	125
August	W	262	W	12,100	448	452	893	W	715	125
September	W	273	W	12,100	428	441	888	W	707	125
January—September	W	3,010	W	12,100	4,110	4,550	8,070	W	707	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			2012	2013	
		August	September	January—September ⁴		August	September
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	286	320
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	429	387
Total	6,360	452	441	4,550	653	715	707

^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:								
July	249	99	60	84	90	199	782	6,050
August	262	342	88	117	83	182	1,070	7,130
September:								
Australia	29	--	--	--	--	(3)	29	156
Austria	--	--	--	--	2	6	7	156
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	14
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	887
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	37
Canada	83	--	--	24	13	--	120	1,190
China	(3)	206	78	70	16	107	477	3,500
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
France	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	13
Germany	--	90	--	3	9	6	107	476
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	13
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Israel	--	--	--	10	3	--	13	113
Japan	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	23
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	48	--	(3)	48	328
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Portugal	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	425
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	24	24	92
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	8	--	(3)	9	57
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Spain	45	--	--	--	--	--	45	342
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	63
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	24
Vietnam	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	81
Other	--	--	1	--	--	2	3	6
Total	273	296	79	166	45	146	1,010	8,130
January—September	3,010	1,430	382	1,040	620	1,650	8,130	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 September 2013 totaled 52 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—September total of 960 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 ^{4,5}
2012	203	833	637	878	1,550	4,100	XX
2013:							
July	85	3	50	78	79	294	3,090
August	126	53	45	166	148	539	3,630
September:							
Australia	--	--	(6)	1	(6)	1	31
Austria	--	--	--	3	--	3	65
Belgium	--	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	15
Brazil	(6)	--	2	4	5	11	44
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Canada	--	--	6	5	51	62	569
China	110	--	13	1	(6)	124	432
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	11
Czech Republic	--	--	--	12	(6)	12	75
France	--	--	1	--	(6)	1	13
Germany	--	82	2	5	(6)	89	721
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	87
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	73
India	--	--	16	9	2	27	91
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	7	7	22
Israel	--	--	(6)	--	--	(6)	12
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Japan	--	--	2	12	2	17	53
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(6)	2	3	21
Luxembourg	--	--	--	18	--	18	42
Malaysia ⁵	(6)	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	11
Mexico	--	--	(6)	1	5	6	78
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	17
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	24
Russia	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	10
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(6)	1	(6)	1	70
Singapore	--	--	3	1	9	13	176
South Africa	--	--	(6)	1	(6)	1	10
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	6	6	935
Taiwan	--	--	1	2	--	3	56
Thailand	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	17
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(6)	1	--	1	6
United Kingdom	--	--	(6)	1	2	4	75
Venezuela	--	--	2	1	--	3	14
Vietnam	72	--	--	--	(6)	72	197
Other	(6)	--	1	3	1	4	34
Total ⁵	183	82	48	81	96	490	4,120
January—September ⁵	627	1,380	381	654	1,080	4,120	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.

⁵Adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

⁶Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in September 2013 totaled 248 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—September total of 1,950 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.