

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 2013

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 6% less during January through October 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 October 2013 was 5% 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.

Prices

Prices for October 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:											
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	512 ^r	542	901 ^r	W	692	125	
May	W	253	W	13,700	463 ^r	433	901 ^r	W	787	125	
June	W	368	W	13,000	417 ^r	617	894 ^r	W	755	125	
July	W	249	W	12,300	468 ^r	494	888 ^r	W	732	125	
August	W	262	W	12,100	453 ^r	453 ^r	898 ^r	W	716 ^r	125	
September	W	273	W	12,100	438 ^r	441	898 ^r	W	707	125	
October	W	222	W	12,100	518 ^r	493	888	W	789	125	
January—October	W	3,230	W	12,100	4,650	5,040	8,980	W	789	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.

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—October ⁴	2012	2013	
		September	October			September	October
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	320	367
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	387	423
Total	6,360	441	493	5,040	653	707	789

^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:								
August	262	342	88	117	83	182	1,070	7,130
September	273	296	79	166	45	146	1,010	8,130
October:								
Australia	31	--	--	--	--	(3)	31	188
Austria	--	--	--	1	2	5	8	165
Belgium	--	--	--	--	4	--	4	18
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	887
Brazil	24	--	--	--	--	(3)	25	61
Canada	33	--	--	14	16	(3)	63	1,250
China	--	178	29	29	48	94	377	3,880
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50
Czech Republic	--	--	--	7	--	(3)	7	19
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	14
Germany	--	36	--	13	20	7	76	551
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	8
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	15
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Israel	--	--	--	10	--	(3)	10	123
Japan	--	--	--	1	--	2	3	25
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	14	--	(3)	14	343
Luxembourg	--	--	15	--	--	--	15	15
Mexico	5	--	--	--	--	--	5	11
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Poland	--	--	--	5	--	--	5	18
Portugal	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	460
Russia	51	--	--	--	--	1	52	144
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	7	--	1	8	65
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Spain	41	--	--	--	--	--	41	383
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	63
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	24
Vietnam	--	--	15	3	3	16	37	119
Other	(3)	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Total	222	214	59	104	93	130	821	8,950
January—October	3,230	1,650	442	1,140	713	1,780	8,950	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 October 2013 totaled 147 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—October total of 1,110 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:							
August	126	53	45	166	148	539	3,630
September	183	82	48	81	96	490	4,120
October:							
Australia	--	--	1	5	(6)	6	37
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	65
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Brazil	(6)	--	(6)	1	6	8	52
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	5
Canada	--	--	7	11	54	72	641
China	74	--	(6)	2	(6)	77	509
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	12
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	75
France	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	(6)	13
Germany	--	85	1	17	31	135	856
Hong Kong	--	--	1	(6)	(6)	1	89
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	73
India	--	3	(6)	2	4	10	101
Indonesia	--	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	22
Israel	--	--	1	9	(6)	11	23
Italy	--	--	--	1	--	1	7
Japan	--	--	--	1	8	9	62
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(6)	(6)	6	6	27
Luxembourg	--	--	--	10	--	10	52
Malaysia ⁵	(6)	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	11
Mexico	--	--	1	3	2	6	84
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	17
Panama	--	--	3	--	--	3	27
Poland	6	--	--	--	--	6	6
Russia	--	--	--	(6)	1	1	11
Saudi Arabia	--	--	8	1	--	8	78
Singapore	--	--	1	2	1	3	179
South Africa	--	--	--	2	--	2	12
Switzerland	--	--	1	(6)	--	1	936
Taiwan	--	--	--	9	--	9	64
Thailand	--	--	(6)	(6)	5	5	22
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	(6)	1	20	21	96
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Vietnam	175	--	--	--	--	175	372
Other	--	--	(6)	(6)	4	4	38
Total ⁵	255	88	27	79	143	593	4,710
January—October ⁵	882	1,470	408	733	1,220	4,710	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 October 2013 totaled 102 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—October total of 2,050 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.