

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 2013

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in January through November 2013 was 4% 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.

Kennametal Inc. (Latrobe, PA) acquired the Tungsten Materials Business of Allegheny Technologies Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA). The tungsten materials business produces ammonium paratungstate, tungsten and tungsten carbide powders, tungsten heavy alloy components, and cemented carbide products. Following the acquisition, Kennametal suspended its earlier plan to construct a new U.S. tungsten recycling facility (Kennametal Inc., 2013).

Prices

Prices for November 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)

Reference Cited

Kennametal Inc., 2013, Kennametal increases integration synergies following completion of ATI Tungsten Materials acquisition: Latrobe, PA, Kennametal Inc. press release, November 6. (Accessed December 5, 2013, at <http://www.kennametal.com/en/about-us/news/kennametal-completes-ati-tungsten-acquisition.html>.)

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:										
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	542	901	W	692	125
May	W	253	W	13,700	463	433	901	W	787	125
June	W	368	W	13,000	417	617	894	W	755	125
July	W	249	W	12,300	468	494	888	W	732	125
August	W	262	W	12,100	453	453	898	W	716	125
September	W	273	W	12,100	438	441	898	W	707	125
October	W	222	W	12,100	518	493	888	W	789	125
November	W	176	W	12,000	W	W	896	W	801	125
January—November	W	3,400	W	12,000	W	W	9,880	W	801	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			2012	2013	
		October	November	January—November		October	November
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	367	W
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	423	W
Total	6,360	493	W	W	653	789	801

^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."

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:								
September	273	296	79	166	45	146	1,010	8,130
October	222	214	59	104	93	130	821	8,950
November:								
Australia	18	--	--	--	--	--	18	205
Austria	--	--	--	2	20	3	24	189
Belgium	--	--	--	--	4	--	4	21
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	887
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	61
Canada	50	--	--	19	7	(3)	76	1,330
China	--	200	--	47	22	116	385	4,260
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	19
France	--	--	--	2	1	(3)	3	17
Germany	9	36	--	11	8	2	66	617
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	17
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	7
Israel	--	--	--	4	6	--	10	133
Japan	--	--	--	1	1	1	3	28
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	31	--	(3)	31	373
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	16
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Netherlands	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	7
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Portugal	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	496
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	145
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	66
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Spain	52	--	--	1	--	--	52	435
Thailand	13	--	--	--	--	(3)	13	76
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	26
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	46	46	164
Other	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Total	176	236	--	117	69	177	775	9,730
January—November	3,400	1,880	442	1,260	781	1,960	9,730	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 November 2013 totaled 85 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—November total of 1,190 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:							
September	183	82	48	81	96	490	4,120
October	255	88	27	79	143	593	4,710
November:							
Australia	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	37
Austria	--	--	(6)	--	2	2	67
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Brazil	(6)	--	1	5	(6)	7	59
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Canada	1	--	3	12	54	70	711
China	--	--	--	(6)	1	1	511
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	12
Czech Republic	--	--	--	18	(6)	18	93
France	--	--	4	1	(6)	5	18
Germany	--	94	4	11	18	128	984
Hong Kong	7	--	--	(6)	(6)	8	96
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	73
India	--	3	(6)	5	2	10	111
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	22
Israel	--	--	(6)	--	--	(6)	23
Italy	--	--	(6)	(6)	--	(6)	8
Japan	--	--	1	(6)	9	10	72
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(6)	1	(6)	1	28
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	52
Malaysia ⁵	(6)	--	--	--	--	(6)	11
Mexico	--	--	(6)	2	6	9	93
Netherlands	53	--	--	--	(6)	53	71
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Russia	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	11
Saudi Arabia	--	--	6	(6)	--	6	84
Singapore	--	--	2	(6)	25	27	206
South Africa	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	(6)	12
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	11	11	947
Taiwan	--	--	(6)	8	3	12	76
Thailand	--	--	(6)	(6)	--	(6)	22
Turkey	--	--	2	--	(6)	2	6
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(6)	(6)	--	(6)	7
United Kingdom	(6)	--	(6)	1	4	5	101
Venezuela	--	--	--	4	--	4	18
Vietnam	5	--	--	--	(6)	5	377
Other	1	--	2	(6)	1	3	37
Total ⁵	67	97	26	70	138	399	5,110
January—November ⁵	949	1,560	434	803	1,360	5,110	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 November 2013 totaled 123 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—November total of 2,170 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.