

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 2013

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in 2013 was 9% less than that consumed in 2012. These materials were used to make alloys, cemented carbides, mill products, and other products, such as catalysts and pigments.

Prices

Prices for December 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 WO₃ (\$325/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$364/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$330/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$353/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$320/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$364/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$330/short ton unit WO₃)

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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:										
December	W	421	W	14,000	501 ^r	494	912 ^r	W	653	125
January—December	W	3,650	W	14,000	8,130 ^r	6,360	11,200 ^r	W	653	125
2013:										
January	W	487	W	13,900	425 ^r	544	860 ^r	W	615	125
February	W	439	W	13,900	486 ^r	530	869 ^r	W	660	125
March	W	265	W	13,800	478 ^r	494	858 ^r	W	651	125
April	W	410	W	13,800	513 ^r	542	858 ^r	W	692	125
May	W	253	W	13,700	464 ^r	433	858 ^r	W	787	125
June	W	368	W	13,000	418 ^r	617	850 ^r	W	755	125
July	W	249	W	12,300	469 ^r	494	845 ^r	W	732	125
August	W	262	W	12,100	W	454 ^r	855 ^r	W	737 ^r	125
September	W	273	W	12,100	439 ^r	449 ^r	854 ^r	W	714 ^r	125
October	W	222	W	12,100	519 ^r	500 ^r	845 ^r	W	801 ^r	125
November	W	176	W	12,000	W	W	853 ^r	W	801	125
December	W	286	W	11,900	W	W	850	W	769	125
January—December	W	3,690	W	11,900	5,490	W	10,300	W	769	125

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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	
		November	December	January—December ⁴		November	December
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	W	W
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	W	W
Total	6,360	W	W	W	653	801	769

^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:								
October	222	214	59	104	93	130	821	8,950
November	176	236	--	117	69	177	775	9,730
December:								
Australia	57	--	--	--	--	(3)	57	262
Austria	--	--	--	3	2	5	10	199
Belgium	--	--	--	--	2	--	2	23
Bolivia	89	--	--	--	--	--	89	976
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	62
Canada	60	--	--	25	2	--	88	1,420
China	--	332	11	41	37	183	604	4,870
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50
Czech Republic	--	--	--	1	--	(3)	1	19
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	18
Germany	(3)	--	--	11	1	2	15	632
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	19
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Israel	--	--	--	5	1	--	6	139
Japan	--	5	--	1	--	1	6	35
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	56	(3)	1	57	431
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	16
Mexico	3	--	--	(3)	--	--	3	14
Netherlands	--	--	12	--	--	--	12	19
Poland	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	19
Portugal	48	--	--	--	--	--	48	543
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	146
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	67
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Spain	31	--	--	--	--	--	31	466
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	76
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	27
Vietnam	--	--	6	--	--	107	113	277
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	6
Total	286	337	28	145	46	305	1,150	10,900
January—December	3,690	2,220	470	1,410	827	2,260	10,900	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 December 2013 totaled 108 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—December total of 1,300 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:							
October	255	88	27	79	143	593	4,710
November	67	97	26	70	138	399	5,110
December:							
Australia	--	--	1	1	--	2	39
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	67
Belgium	--	--	(6)	(6)	--	(6)	16
Brazil	(6)	--	--	(6)	1	2	60
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Canada	--	--	3	14	72	89	800
China	42	--	2	4	1	50	561
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	12
Czech Republic	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	93
France	--	--	(6)	(6)	1	1	19
Germany	--	5	2	30	9	46	1,030
Hong Kong	--	--	(6)	(6)	--	(6)	97
Hungary	--	31	--	--	1	32	105
India	--	3	1	20	(6)	24	135
Indonesia	--	--	(6)	--	--	(6)	22
Israel	--	--	(6)	--	--	(6)	23
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Japan	--	--	7	12	1	21	93
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(6)	1	(6)	1	30
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	52
Malaysia ⁵	--	--	--	(6)	2	2	13
Mexico	--	--	(6)	(6)	2	2	95
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	71
Panama	--	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	27
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Russia	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	11
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	2	--	2	87
Singapore	--	--	1	1	5	7	213
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Switzerland	--	--	--	(6)	--	(6)	947
Taiwan	--	--	--	9	(6)	9	85
Thailand	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	23
Turkey	--	--	2	--	(6)	2	8
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	(6)	(6)	(6)	1	101
Venezuela	--	--	2	(6)	--	2	19
Vietnam	68	--	--	--	(6)	68	445
Other	--	--	(6)	1	(6)	1	39
Total ⁵	110	38	21	98	96	364	5,470
January—December ⁵	1,060	1,600	455	901	1,460	5,470	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 December 2013 totaled 79 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January—December total of 2,250 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.