

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Cobalt Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: kshedd@usgs.gov

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

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

TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 2015

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials from January through August 2015 was 24% less than that imported during the same period in 2014 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials from January through August 2015 was 38% less than that exported during the same period in 2014 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for August 2015 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. 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—\$298/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$270/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

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TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products			
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production ^{p,4}	Stocks, end of period		
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Industry Producer ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³	
2014:								
August	W	190	W	11,600 ^e	480	723	125 ^e	
September	W	326	W	11,600	501	681	125	
October	W	366	W	11,600 ^e	530	693	125 ^e	
November	W	314	W	11,600 ^e	(6)	709	125 ^e	
December	W	308	W	11,600	(6)	674	125	
January–December	W	4,080	W	11,600	6,310	674	125	
2015:								
January	W	376	W	11,600	W	741	125	
February	W	288	W	11,600	W	705	125	
March	W	376	W	11,600	W	633	125	
April	W	309	W	11,600	W	686	125	
May	W	325	W	11,600	W	638	125	
June	W	337	W	11,600	W	641	125	
July	W	354	W	11,600	W	600 ^r	125	
August	W	219	W	11,600	W	609	125	
January–August	W	2,580	W	11,600	W	609	125	

^eEstimated. ^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 Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁵Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

⁶Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in total.

TABLE 2
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 date
2014	4,080	1,780	454	1,300	946	2,590	11,100	XX
2015:								
June	337	81	58	99	64	110	749	4,620
July	354	123	25	66	65	177	809	5,430
August:								
Australia	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	121
Austria	--	--	--	--	9	4	13	120
Bolivia	40	--	--	--	--	--	40	700
Brazil	16	--	--	--	--	--	16	30
Canada	20	--	--	12	1	--	33	875
China	--	--	--	38	11	42	91	2,000
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	18
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	17
Germany	--	104	--	(3)	(3)	7	112	461
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	10
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Israel	--	--	--	13	--	--	13	108
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Japan	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	112
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	6	3	--	8	153
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Mongolia	37	--	--	--	--	--	37	74
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	71
Portugal	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	225
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	32
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
Spain	62	--	--	--	--	--	62	528
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	10
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	34
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6	6	18
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	118
Other	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	11
Total	219	104	--	69	24	63	479	5,910
January–August	2,580	876	182	801	438	1,030	5,910	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 August 2015 totaled 177 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 1,170 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
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
2014	1,230	653	448	993	1,560	4,880	XX
2015:							
June	5	49	12	63	95	224	1,700
July	1	6	21	72	116	215	1,920
August:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	18
Austria	--	--	4	--	6	10	63
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	3	3	32
Canada	--	--	5	46	33	84	595
China	7	--	1	3	2	12	150
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	8
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Denmark	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	11
France	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	19
Germany	--	--	2	12	9	23	486
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	17
India	--	--	1	5	--	5	87
Ireland	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	19
Israel	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	7
Japan	--	--	9	2	1	12	66
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	16
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Mexico	--	--	2	--	12	13	120
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	11
Peru	--	--	1	--	--	1	7
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	27
Singapore	--	--	1	2	7	10	63
South Africa	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	10
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Switzerland	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	7
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	33
Thailand	--	--	(4)	(4)	4	4	51
Turkey	--	--	(4)	7	--	7	13
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	3	2	5	28
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	15	15	16
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	72
Other	--	--	2	2	1	5	31
Total	7	--	31	84	100	221	2,140
January–August	84	281	215	671	885	2,140	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.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in August 2015 totaled 33 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 481 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.