

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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 in 2015 was 23% less than that imported during 2014 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2015 was 36% less than that exported during 2014 (table 3).

### Prices

Prices for December 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. In the third week of December, prices for ammonium paratungstate (APT) and tungsten ore concentrates decreased sharply. For APT, the average of low and high prices

decreased by 19% and for concentrates the average of low and high prices decreased by 33%.

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$187/metric ton unit  $WO_3$  (\$170/short ton unit  $WO_3$ )

High—\$254/metric ton unit  $WO_3$  (\$230/short ton unit  $WO_3$ )

Concentrates:

Low—\$138/metric ton unit  $WO_3$  (\$125/short ton unit  $WO_3$ )

High—\$220/metric ton unit  $WO_3$  (\$200/short ton unit  $WO_3$ )

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TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production <sup>p, 4</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry <sup>2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Industry Producer <sup>p, 5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
2014:							
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	635	125
April	W	309	W	11,600	W	675	125
May	W	325	W	11,600	W	621	125
June	W	337	W	11,600	W	616	125
July	W	354	W	11,600	W	571	125
August	W	219	W	11,600	W	578	125
September	W	344	W	11,600	W	567	125
October	W	382	W	11,600	W	550	125
November	W	352	W	11,600	W	550	125
December	W	308	W	11,600	W	495	125
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	495	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Reported by consumers.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

<sup>5</sup>Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

<sup>6</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in total.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2014	4,080	1,780	454	1,300	946	2,590	11,100	XX
2015:								
October	382	94	8	69	60	58	671	7,190
November	352	48	31	75	41	71	617	7,810
December:								
Australia	66	--	--	--	--	(3)	66	279
Austria	--	--	--	--	17	2	19	147
Bolivia	80	--	--	--	--	--	80	1,010
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Canada	--	--	--	2	(3)	(3)	3	1,150
China	--	112	--	55	49	30	247	2,700
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	23
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
France	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	21
Germany	--	65	--	3	29	3	99	744
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	21
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	10
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Israel	--	--	--	9	--	(3)	9	130
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Japan	--	--	--	4	(3)	7	12	145
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	6	1	(3)	7	193
Mexico	1	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	6
Mongolia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	189
Peru	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	111
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	356
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	52
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Spain	52	--	--	--	--	--	52	819
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	12
Thailand	8	--	--	--	--	(3)	8	42
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
United Kingdom	18	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	19	62
Vietnam	--	--	41	--	--	--	41	215
Other	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	7
Total	308	177	41	80	96	45	747	8,550
January–December	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,550	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in December 2015 totaled 100 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 1,660 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder <sup>2</sup>	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2014	1,230	653	448	993	1,560	4,880	XX
2015:							
October	26	--	40	69	82	216	2,650
November	138	--	20	68	102	329	2,980
December:							
Australia	(4)	--	--	1	--	1	23
Austria	--	--	(4)	--	3	4	109
Brazil	(4)	--	--	(4)	3	4	46
Canada	--	--	8	14	21	43	780
Chile	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	7
China	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	158
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	11
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
Czech Republic	--	--	1	1	--	1	23
Denmark	--	--	--	1	--	1	12
France	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	27
Germany	--	18	1	9	1	29	563
Hong Kong	--	--	2	--	--	2	20
India	--	11	--	1	(4)	12	124
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	23
Israel	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	12
Italy	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	33
Japan	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	82
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	25
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	1	1	11
Mexico	--	--	1	1	6	7	160
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	12
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	284
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	54
Singapore	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	98
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	13
Spain	--	--	--	--	4	4	29
Switzerland	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	15
Taiwan	--	--	--	3	2	6	51
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	82
Turkey	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	16
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	37
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	16
Vietnam	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	72
Other	--	--	(4)	(4)	5	5	31
Total	(4)	29	19	37	49	135	3,110
January–December	398	310	312	902	1,190	3,110	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in December 2015 totaled 37 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 638 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.