

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

**For information, contact:**

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten 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: ksheddd@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 FEBRUARY 2016

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 January through February 2016 was 14% less than that imported during the same period in 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through February 2016 was 33% less than that exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

### Prices

Prices for February 2016 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. The following prices, 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—\$184/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$167/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$204/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$185/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$138/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$125/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$140/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$127/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

*List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.*

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>
2015:							
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	552 <sup>r</sup>	125
December	W	308	W	11,600	W	493 <sup>r</sup>	125
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	493 <sup>r</sup>	125
2016:							
January	W	393	W	11,600	W	499 <sup>r</sup>	125
February	W	127	W	11,600	W	546	125
January–February	W	520	W	11,600	W	546	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.

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
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,550	XX
2016:								
January	393	62	39	105	20	155	775	775
February:								
Australia	9	--	--	--	--	(3)	9	46
Austria	--	--	--	--	43	2	45	46
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	171
Canada	--	--	--	16	(3)	--	16	34
China	--	32	4	25	12	73	145	373
Czech Republic	--	--	--	5	--	(3)	6	10
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Germany	--	17	--	1	10	2	30	84
Israel	--	--	--	13	--	(3)	13	18
Japan	--	16	--	3	--	8	27	29
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	3	--	22	40
Mongolia	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	47
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	48	--	--	--	--	--	48	83
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	20	45	45
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	95
United Kingdom	25	--	--	1	--	(3)	26	44
Vietnam	--	17	29	--	--	--	46	77
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	4	5	14
Total	127	81	33	84	69	110	503	1,280
January–February	520	143	72	189	89	265	1,280	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 February 2016 totaled 110 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 185 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
2015	398	310	312	902	1,190	3,110	XX
2016:							
January	--	76	20	50	60	205	205
February:							
Austria	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Canada	--	--	6	14	28	48	96
China	--	--	--	1	2	2	5
Germany	--	--	2	7	1	10	63
Japan	--	--	2	2	1	4	49
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	--	2	3
Mexico	--	--	1	--	11	11	33
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	3
Singapore	--	--	--	1	7	8	15
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	4	5	5
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	39	41	45
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	5
Other	(4)	--	6	5	2	14	26
Total	(4)	--	18	32	96	147	352
January–February	(4)	76	37	82	156	352	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 February 2016 totaled 16 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 55 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.