

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN MAY 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 May 2016 was 11% 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 May 2016 was 34% less than that exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for May 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—\$193/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$175/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$204/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$185/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$141/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$128/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$143/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$130/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
2015:							
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	125
December	W	308	W	11,600	W	490	125
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	490	125
2016:							
January	W	393	W	11,600	W	496	125
February	W	127	W	11,600	W	538	125
March	W	384	W	11,600	W	615	125
April	W	372	W	11,600	W	592 ^r	125
May	W	252	W	11,600	W	496	125
January–May	W	1,530	W	11,600	W	496	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 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.

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
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,550	XX
2016:								
March	384	91	45	89	56	96	760	2,040
April	372	75	32	93	57	113	743	2,780
May:								
Australia	19	--	--	--	--	1	19	111
Austria	--	--	--	--	66	2	69	167
Bolivia	39	--	--	--	--	--	39	486
Canada	--	--	--	9	2	--	10	71
China	--	80	8	30	52	91	262	1,010
Czech Republic	--	--	--	12	--	(3)	12	23
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	5
Germany	--	--	--	2	1	5	8	237
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Israel	--	--	--	2	--	2	4	36
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	8	9	52
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	24	4	(3)	28	114
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Mongolia	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	109
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	48	--	--	--	--	--	48	214
Russia	26	--	--	--	--	1	26	116
Spain	73	--	--	--	--	--	73	348
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
United Kingdom	23	--	--	(3)	--	1	24	132
Vietnam	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	151
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Total	252	80	8	80	125	113	658	3,440
January–May	1,530	389	157	451	327	587	3,440	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 May 2016 totaled 130 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 540 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
2015	398	310	312	902	1,190	3,110	XX
2016:							
March	(4)	--	15	36	127	179	531
April	9	4	48	103	99	263	794
May:							
Australia	(4)	--	--	4	(4)	4	13
Austria	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	18
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	2	2	7
Canada	--	--	5	12	24	41	233
Chile	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	3
China	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	22
Costa Rica	--	--	(4)	--	1	1	4
Czech Republic	--	--	7	10	--	17	37
France	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4
Germany	--	--	2	29	6	37	193
India	--	--	14	1	(4)	15	49
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Ireland	--	10	(4)	1	(4)	11	14
Italy	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	4
Japan	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	4	66
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	3	11
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	4
Mexico	--	--	1	--	11	12	74
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	4
Peru	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	1	5
Philippines	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	4
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	4
Singapore	--	--	--	1	8	9	41
Spain	--	2	--	--	3	5	22
Taiwan	--	--	--	2	6	8	82
Thailand	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
United Arab Emirates	(4)	--	--	(4)	1	1	4
United Kingdom	--	2	--	(4)	2	5	18
Other	(4)	--	1	1	1	3	17
Total	(4)	14	32	72	68	186	981
January–May	10	94	132	294	450	981	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 May 2016 totaled 67 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 161 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.