

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 2017

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 2017 was 62% more than that reported during December 2016. January imports of each material shown in table 2 were higher than the average monthly amount of that material imported during 2016.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January 2017 was 50% less than that reported during December 2016. January exports of most materials shown in table 3 were lower than the average monthly amount of that material exported during 2016. The exception was tungsten metal powder, for which January exports were 5% higher than the monthly average in 2016.

Prices

Prices for January 2017 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—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$220/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$200/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$198/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$180/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 ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³		Producer ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³
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	125
May	W	252	W	11,600	W	490	125
June	W	256	W	11,600	W	525 ^r	125
July	W	180	W	11,600	W	516 ^r	125
August	W	432	W	11,600	W	530	125
September	W	303	W	11,600	W	490 ^r	125
October	W	414	W	11,600	W	548 ^r	125
November	W	182	W	11,600	W	456 ^r	125
December	W	289	W	11,600	W	565 ^r	125
January–December	W	3,580	W	11,600	W	565 ^r	125
2017, January	W	404	W	11,600	W	593	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	Ferro- tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total
2016	3,580	1,020	236	1,050	782	1,510	8,180
2017, January:							
Austria	--	--	--	1	45	3	49
Bolivia	132	--	--	--	--	--	132
Burundi	10	--	--	--	--	--	10
Canada	--	--	--	22	37	23	82
China	(3)	156	16	123	44	175	512
Germany	--	66	--	2	(3)	6	75
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	4	4
Israel	--	--	--	5	4	(3)	9
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7	8
Korea, South	--	--	--	19	3	(3)	22
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13
Portugal	39	--	--	--	--	--	39
Russia	134	--	27	--	--	--	162
Spain	21	--	--	--	2	--	23
Thailand	6	--	--	--	--	--	6
United Kingdom	41	--	--	--	--	1	41
Uzbekistan	9	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	--	15	--	--	23	37
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	5	6
Total	404	222	58	173	135	247	1,240

-- 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 January 2017 totaled 160 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
2016	183	108	308	764	1,580	2,950
2017, January:						
Canada	--	--	6	9	37	52
Czech Republic	--	--	--	12	(4)	12
Germany	--	--	14	8	4	25
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	(4)	5	6
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	2	6
Korea, South	--	--	1	2	(4)	3
Mexico	--	--	1	--	10	11
Saudi Arabia	--	--	1	2	(4)	3
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	7	7
Spain	--	--	--	--	5	5
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	4	1	6
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	--	4	4
Other	--	--	3	8	10	21
Total	--	--	27	49	87	162

-- 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 January 2017 totaled 17 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.