

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 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 through March 2017 was 51% more than that imported during the same period in 2016 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through March 2017 was 16% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

**Prices**

Prices for March 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—\$198/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$180/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$220/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$200/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$187/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$170/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$198/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$180/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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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>p,2</sup> | U.S. Government <sup>3</sup> |                               | Producer <sup>p,5</sup> | U.S. Government <sup>3</sup> |  |
| 2016:            |                      |                         |                         |                              |                               |                         |                              |  |
| 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                     | 125                          |  |
| July             | W                    | 180                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 516                     | 125                          |  |
| August           | W                    | 432                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 530                     | 125                          |  |
| September        | W                    | 303                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 490                     | 125                          |  |
| October          | W                    | 414                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 548                     | 125                          |  |
| November         | W                    | 182                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 456                     | 125                          |  |
| December         | W                    | 289                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 565                     | 125                          |  |
| January–December | W                    | 3,580                   | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 565                     | 125                          |  |
| 2017:            |                      |                         |                         |                              |                               |                         |                              |  |
| January          | W                    | 404                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 587                     | 125                          |  |
| February         | W                    | 313                     | W                       | 11,600                       | W                             | 601                     | 125                          |  |
| March            | W                    | 305                     | W                       | 11,300                       | W                             | 455                     | 125                          |  |
| January–March    | W                    | 1,020                   | W                       | 11,300                       | W                             | 455                     | 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.

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 | Ferro-tungsten | Metal powder | Tungsten carbide powder | Other <sup>2</sup> | Total | Total, year to date |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 2016                         | 3,580                 | 1,020               | 236            | 1,040        | 782                     | 1,510              | 8,200 | XX                  |
| 2017:                        |                       |                     |                |              |                         |                    |       |                     |
| January                      | 404                   | 222                 | 58             | 173          | 135                     | 247                | 1,240 | 1,240               |
| February                     | 313                   | 93                  | 9              | 74           | 98                      | 126                | 715   | 1,950               |
| March:                       |                       |                     |                |              |                         |                    |       |                     |
| Austria                      | --                    | --                  | --             | 1            | 53                      | 3                  | 57    | 110                 |
| Bolivia                      | 53                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | 53    | 290                 |
| Burundi                      | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | --    | 29                  |
| Canada                       | --                    | --                  | --             | 20           | 9                       | 1                  | 30    | 149                 |
| China                        | --                    | 205                 | 20             | 13           | 49                      | 207                | 494   | 1,270               |
| France                       | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | 1                       | 1                  | 1     | 4                   |
| Germany                      | --                    | 50                  | --             | 2            | (3)                     | 17                 | 69    | 157                 |
| Hong Kong                    | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | (3)                | (3)   | 4                   |
| Hungary                      | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | 1                  | 1     | 3                   |
| India                        | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | (3)                | (3)   | 6                   |
| Israel                       | --                    | --                  | --             | 6            | 8                       | (3)                | 14    | 40                  |
| Japan                        | --                    | --                  | --             | 7            | (3)                     | 8                  | 15    | 29                  |
| Korea, Republic of           | --                    | --                  | 2              | 20           | (3)                     | (3)                | 22    | 62                  |
| Mongolia                     | 9                     | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | 9     | 21                  |
| Portugal                     | 59                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | (3)                | 59    | 134                 |
| Russia                       | 99                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | 5                  | 104   | 347                 |
| Rwanda                       | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | --    | 11                  |
| Seychelles                   | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | --    | 7                   |
| Spain                        | 62                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | 62    | 96                  |
| Thailand                     | 7                     | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | 7     | 13                  |
| United Kingdom               | 14                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | 1                  | 15    | 109                 |
| Uzbekistan                   | --                    | --                  | --             | --           | --                      | --                 | --    | 9                   |
| Vietnam                      | --                    | 14                  | 15             | --           | --                      | 92                 | 122   | 185                 |
| Other                        | 1                     | --                  | --             | 1            | --                      | 2                  | 4     | 8                   |
| Total                        | 305                   | 269                 | 37             | 69           | 121                     | 337                | 1,140 | 3,090               |
| January–March                | 1,020                 | 584                 | 104            | 316          | 355                     | 710                | 3,090 | 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 March 2017 totaled 192 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 479 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 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 2016                              | 183                                | 108                 | 308                       | 763                     | 1,580              | 2,940 | XX                  |
| 2017:                             |                                    |                     |                           |                         |                    |       |                     |
| January                           | --                                 | --                  | 27                        | 49                      | 87                 | 162   | 162                 |
| February                          | 39                                 | --                  | 17                        | 61                      | 123                | 240   | 402                 |
| March:                            |                                    |                     |                           |                         |                    |       |                     |
| Australia                         | --                                 | (4)                 | --                        | 6                       | (4)                | 6     | 18                  |
| Austria                           | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | 8                       | 32                 | 40    | 58                  |
| Brazil                            | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | 1                       | (4)                | 1     | 3                   |
| Canada                            | --                                 | --                  | 8                         | 16                      | 1                  | 25    | 135                 |
| China                             | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | 1                       | (4)                | 2     | 8                   |
| Costa Rica                        | --                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | 1                  | 1     | 3                   |
| Czechia                           | --                                 | --                  | --                        | 1                       | --                 | 1     | 13                  |
| Dominican Republic                | --                                 | --                  | --                        | 5                       | --                 | 5     | 5                   |
| Finland                           | --                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | 17                 | 17    | 37                  |
| Germany                           | --                                 | --                  | 1                         | 14                      | 2                  | 17    | 58                  |
| Hong Kong                         | --                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | --                 | --    | 7                   |
| India                             | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | 1                       | (4)                | 2     | 6                   |
| Ireland                           | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | 3                       | (4)                | 3     | 3                   |
| Japan                             | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | (4)                     | 3                  | 4     | 15                  |
| Korea, Republic of                | --                                 | --                  | 1                         | 1                       | (4)                | 2     | 7                   |
| Malaysia                          | --                                 | --                  | --                        | 1                       | 2                  | 3     | 3                   |
| Mexico                            | --                                 | --                  | 1                         | (4)                     | 15                 | 15    | 42                  |
| Netherlands                       | --                                 | --                  | --                        | 1                       | 25                 | 26    | 27                  |
| Portugal                          | --                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | --                 | --    | 39                  |
| Saudi Arabia                      | --                                 | --                  | 15                        | --                      | (4)                | 15    | 34                  |
| Singapore                         | --                                 | --                  | --                        | 1                       | (4)                | 1     | 9                   |
| South Africa                      | --                                 | --                  | 2                         | --                      | 1                  | 3     | 11                  |
| Spain                             | --                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | (4)                | (4)   | 9                   |
| Taiwan                            | --                                 | --                  | --                        | 5                       | (4)                | 5     | 19                  |
| Thailand                          | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | (4)                     | (4)                | (4)   | 3                   |
| United Arab Emirates              | --                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | 1                  | 1     | 6                   |
| United Kingdom                    | --                                 | --                  | (4)                       | (4)                     | 1                  | 1     | 6                   |
| Vietnam                           | 13                                 | --                  | --                        | --                      | --                 | 13    | 13                  |
| Other                             | (4)                                | --                  | 2                         | 3                       | 2                  | 7     | 22                  |
| Total                             | 13                                 | (4)                 | 31                        | 67                      | 104                | 215   | 617                 |
| January–March                     | 52                                 | (4)                 | 74                        | 177                     | 314                | 617   | 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 March 2017 totaled 37 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 69 metric tons, tungsten content.