

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: kshedd@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 MAY 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 May 2017 was 60% 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 May 2017 was 26% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for May 2017 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. In the first week of May, the average of high and low prices for ammonium paratungstate increased by 31%* compared with that of the last week of April and the average of high and low prices for concentrates increased by 19%*. The following prices, in

* Correction posted on December 11, 2017.

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—\$254/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$230/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

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

High—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/short ton unit WO₃)

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 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:								
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	
April	W	412	W	11,100	W	487	125	
May	W	307	W	10,800	W	673	125	
January–May	W	1,740	W	10,800	W	673	125	

^pPreliminary. 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	Total, year to date
2016	3,580	1,020	236	1,040	782	1,510	8,200	XX
2017:								
March	305	269	37	69	121	337	1,140	3,090
April	412	301	8	59	60	376	1,210	4,310
May:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	31	3	35	164
Bolivia	53	--	--	--	--	--	53	510
Brazil	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	6
Burundi	23	--	--	--	--	--	23	63
Canada	--	--	--	8	31	(3)	39	237
China	--	284	9	84	81	103	562	2,300
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	6
Germany	--	66	--	1	(3)	7	75	307
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	9
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	8
Israel	--	--	--	8	2	(3)	10	50
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	1	2	42
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	52	--	--	52	123
Mongolia	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	54
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	9	9	9
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	204
Russia	59	--	--	--	--	--	59	551
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Spain	41	--	--	1	--	(3)	42	180
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	3
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Uganda	12	--	--	--	--	14	25	25
United Kingdom	43	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	44	176
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	36	--	--	--	33	68	411
Other	--	--	--	1	--	1	1	6
Total	307	386	9	157	146	177	1,180	5,490
January–May	1,740	1,270	121	532	561	1,260	5,490	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 2017 totaled 149 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 814 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
2016	183	108	308	763	1,580	2,940	XX
2017:							
March	13	(4)	31	67	104	215	617
April	66	4	40	82	94	287	904
May:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	1	20	21	41
Austria	59	--	--	15	52	126	319
Belgium	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	3
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	6
Canada	--	--	8	9	3	21	185
Chile	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	3
China	--	--	(4)	4	1	5	21
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Czechia	--	--	--	14	(4)	14	28
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Finland	--	--	--	--	18	18	55
Germany	--	--	--	9	3	11	92
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	8
Hungary	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
India	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	8
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Japan	--	--	--	4	8	12	39
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	11
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
Mexico	--	(4)	1	(4)	17	18	75
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	35	35	80
Peru	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	3
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	13	1	--	14	67
Singapore	--	--	(4)	1	1	1	12
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	15
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	20
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	3
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	--	1	1	8
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	1	1	16
Vietnam	10	--	--	--	--	10	23
Other	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4	5	23
Total	69	(4)	29	61	167	327	1,230
January–May	188	4	144	320	575	1,230	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 2017 totaled 21 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 134 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.