

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 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 November 2017 was 42% 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 November 2017 was 10% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for November 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—\$325/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$295/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$358/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$325/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$292/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$265/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$303/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$275/short ton unit WO₃)

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REVISED NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey has decided to continue to publish this monthly Mineral Industry Surveys report, owing to sufficient interest from its readers. Additionally, information on this mineral commodity will still be available on an annual basis in the tungsten chapters of the Mineral Commodity Summaries and the Minerals Yearbook, Volume I, Metals and Minerals. Please direct any comments or concerns to Elizabeth Sangine, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section, escottsangine@usgs.gov.

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:							
November	W	182	W	11,600	W	437	125
December	W	289	W	11,600	W	544	125
January–December	W	3,580	W	11,600	W	544	125
2017:							
January	W	404	W	11,600	W	564	125
February	W	313	W	11,600	W	576	125
March	W	305	W	11,300	W	422	125
April	W	412	W	11,100	W	446	125
May	W	307	W	10,800	W	644	125
June	W	252	W	10,700	W	614	125
July	W	353	W	10,600	W	W	125
August	W	292	W	10,400	W	W	125
September	W	256	W	10,400	W	W	125
October	W	336	W	10,400	W	W	125
November	W	287	W	10,300	W	W	125
January–November	W	3,520	W	10,300	W	W	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 COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality 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	1,540	8,200	XX
2017:								
September	256	213	--	124	83	144	821	9,060
October	336	118	23	53	116	157	803	9,870
November:								
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	71	3	74	408
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	1,150
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	73
Canada	--	--	--	12	17	1	30	517
China	(3)	68	--	85	41	44	238	4,100
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
France	--	--	--	(3)	2	2	4	23
Germany	--	37	--	(3)	(3)	1	39	680
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	15
Israel	--	--	--	--	9	(3)	9	104
Japan	--	--	--	4	(3)	8	11	108
Korea, Republic of	--	--	9	2	3	(3)	14	249
Mexico	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	4
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	117
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Portugal	82	--	--	--	--	--	82	513
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	688
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Spain	41	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	41	439
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	14
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	53
United Kingdom	57	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	58	493
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	--	--	(3)	--	12	12	686
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	12
Total	287	105	9	103	144	75	723	10,600
January–November	3,520	2,170	175	1,170	1,360	2,200	10,600	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 November 2017 totaled 266 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 2,033 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality 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:							
September	59	74	39	72	32	276	2,510
October	13	1	32	93	47	185	2,690
November:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	1	5	59
Austria	--	--	--	46	(4)	46	801
Brazil	--	--	2	3	(4)	5	25
Canada	--	--	5	12	8	26	380
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
China	--	--	(4)	3	1	4	44
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	6
Czechia	--	--	--	13	(4)	13	72
Denmark	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	58
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Ecuador	--	1	--	--	--	1	21
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	86
France	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	12
Germany	--	--	(4)	13	7	21	226
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
India	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	24
Japan	--	--	--	1	3	4	94
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	6	(4)	7	41
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	33
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	1	1	8
Mexico	--	--	2	--	16	18	196
Netherlands	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	207
Peru	--	--	1	--	--	1	8
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	99
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	20
South Africa	--	--	1	--	2	3	22
Spain	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	11
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	15	(4)	15	67
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	16
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	2	14
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	27
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	72
Other	--	--	1	2	2	5	55
Total	--	1	15	124	44	183	2,880
January–November	532	81	345	798	1,120	2,880	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 November 2017 totaled 29 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 415 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.