

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 DECEMBER 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 2017 was 39% more than that imported in 2016 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2017 was 5% more than that exported in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for December 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)

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/>.

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:							
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
December	W	363	W	10,200	W	W	125
January–December	W	3,880	W	10,200	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	Ferrotungsten	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:								
October	336	118	23	53	116	157	803	9,870
November	287	105	9	103	144	75	723	10,600
December:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	3	3	5	414
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	1,250
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	73
Canada	--	--	--	12	20	(3)	32	549
China	--	24	9	79	37	60	209	4,310
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
France	--	--	--	5	2	1	8	31
Germany	--	37	--	2	8	5	52	732
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	15
Israel	--	--	--	10	--	--	10	114
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3)	8	10	118
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	15	3	--	18	267
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	6
Mongolia	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	130
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Portugal	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	548
Russia	74	--	--	--	--	--	74	762
Rwanda	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	38
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Spain	62	--	--	--	--	--	62	501
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Switzerland	--	--	5	--	(3)	(3)	5	19
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	53
United Kingdom	78	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	79	572
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	--	19	1	--	76	95	781
Other	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	8
Total	363	61	33	125	73	157	813	11,400
January–December	3,880	2,230	209	1,290	1,440	2,350	11,400	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 December 2017 totaled 239 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 2,270 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:							
October	13	1	32	93	47	185	2,690
November	--	1	15	124	44	183	2,880
December:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	62
Austria	--	--	--	47	(4)	47	848
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	25
Canada	--	--	4	16	4	23	403
Chile	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	7
China	--	--	(4)	7	1	8	52
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Czechia	--	--	8	1	(4)	9	81
Denmark	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	58
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	21
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	86
France	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	13
Germany	--	--	2	17	3	22	248
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Hungary	--	16	--	--	--	16	23
India	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	26
Italy	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	6
Japan	--	--	--	5	47	51	145
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	43
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	33
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
Mexico	--	--	1	1	17	19	214
Netherlands	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	208
Peru	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	99
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	22
South Africa	--	--	1	--	1	1	24
Spain	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	12
Taiwan	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	68
Thailand	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	16
United Arab Emirates	--	--	1	(4)	1	3	17
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	28
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	72
Other	--	--	1	1	1	3	53
Total	--	16	22	103	77	218	3,100
January–December	532	97	367	900	1,200	3,100	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 December 2017 totaled 35 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 450 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.