

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 JANUARY 2018

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 2018 was 21% more than that reported during December 2017 and 3% more than the monthly average in 2017 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January 2018 was 7% less than that reported during December 2017 and 21% less than the monthly average in 2017 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for tungsten concentrates and ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, have trended upward since late April 2016. In January 2018, the monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 66% higher than that in January 2017, and the monthly average price for tungsten

concentrates was 61% higher than that in January 2017. The following prices for January 2018, 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—\$375/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$340/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

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

High—\$342/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$310/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
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
2018, January	W	366	W	9,960	W	W	126

^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
2017	3,880	2,230	209	1,290	1,440	2,350	11,400
2018, January:							
Australia	28	--	--	--	--	(3)	28
Austria	--	--	--	--	23	2	25
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93
Burundi	12	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	8	30	(3)	39
China	--	20	6	85	62	67	240
Germany	--	83	--	2	3	7	95
Japan	--	--	--	6	(3)	7	13
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	63	--	(3)	63
Mongolia	10	--	--	--	--	--	10
Portugal	56	--	--	--	--	(3)	56
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	--	25
Rwanda	3	--	--	--	--	--	3
Spain	52	--	--	--	--	(3)	52
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	75	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	75
Vietnam	--	25	--	10	--	101	136
Other	--	--	--	1	1	3	5
Total	366	127	6	175	119	188	981

-- 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 2018 totaled 206 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
2017	532	97	367	900	1,200	3,100
2018, January:						
Australia	--	--	--	6	(4)	6
Austria	--	--	--	46	(4)	46
Canada	--	--	6	17	5	28
China	--	--	1	5	(4)	6
Germany	--	--	(4)	40	2	42
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	31	34
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	13	16
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	4
Other	(4)	--	5	11	5	21
Total	(4)	--	15	131	57	204

-- 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 1/2 unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in January 2018 totaled 13 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.