

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 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 through March 2018 was 18% less than that imported during the same period in 2017 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through March 2018 was 15% more than that exported during the same period 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 March 2018, the monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 76% higher than that in March 2017, and the monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 71% higher than that in March 2017. The

following prices for March 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—\$353/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$320/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)  
High—\$386/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$350/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$280/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)  
High—\$353/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$320/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>
2017:							
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
February	W	256	W	9,930	W	W	126
March	W	258	W	9,740	W	W	126
January–March	W	880	W	9,740	W	W	126

<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 OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2017	3,880	2,230	209	1,290	1,440	2,350	11,400	XX
2018:								
January	366	127	6	175	119	188	981	981
February	256	127	22	149	119	139	812	1,790
March:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	29
Austria	--	--	--	--	41	5	47	123
Bolivia	66	--	--	--	--	--	66	212
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	25	41	1	68	152
China	(3)	88	22	24	30	137	301	815
Finland	--	--	--	--	7	--	7	7
France	--	--	--	--	3	(3)	3	6
Germany	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3	4	160
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Israel	--	--	--	(3)	12	(3)	13	29
Japan	--	--	--	5	1	8	13	38
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	11	(3)	(3)	11	87
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	37
Portugal	62	--	--	--	--	--	62	174
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	51
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Spain	73	--	--	1	--	--	74	168
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	25
United Kingdom	44	--	--	2	--	(3)	46	177
Vietnam	--	--	4	--	--	12	16	202
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	8
Total	258	88	26	68	135	172	747	2,540
January–March	880	342	54	392	374	498	2,540	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 2018 totaled 207 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 613 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality 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
2017	532	97	367	900	1,200	3,100	XX
2018:							
January	(4)	--	15	131	57	204	204
February	2	(4)	26	56	92	176	379
March:							
Australia	--	--	--	7	(4)	7	13
Austria	--	--	--	65	4	69	116
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	3
Canada	--	--	9	17	5	31	89
China	--	--	(4)	2	17	19	29
Czechia	--	--	--	33	--	33	49
France	--	--	2	(4)	(4)	2	5
Germany	--	--	7	12	6	24	88
India	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	4
Ireland	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	3	3	4
Japan	--	1	(4)	1	47	49	132
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	3	5
Mexico	--	--	1	--	11	11	43
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	2	6
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Spain	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	3
Taiwan	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	12
United Kingdom	33	--	(4)	2	(4)	35	38
Vietnam	23	--	--	--	--	23	30
Other	(4)	(4)	3	5	3	12	27
Total	56	1	24	150	100	330	710
January–March	58	1	64	337	249	710	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: Imports of waste and scrap in March 2018 totaled 38 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 85 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.