



Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 April 2018 was 23% 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 April 2018 was 17% 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 April 2018, the monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 73% higher than that in April 2017, and the monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 64% higher than that in April 2017. The

following prices for April 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_3 (\$320/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$386/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$350/short ton unit WO_3)

Concentrates:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$280/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$353/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$320/short ton unit WO_3)

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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:							
April	W	438 ^r	W	11,100	W	446	125
May	W	327 ^r	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	3,930 ^r	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
April	W	310	W	9,630	W	W	125
January–April	W	1,190	W	9,630	W	W	125

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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
2017	3,930 ^r	2,230	209	1,300 ^r	1,440	2,330 ^r	11,400	XX
2018:								
February	256	127	22	149	119	139	812	1,790
March	258	88	26	68	135	172	747	2,540
April:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Austria	--	--	--	--	11	3	14	138
Bolivia	106	--	--	--	--	--	106	319
Burundi	19	--	--	--	--	--	19	31
Canada	--	--	--	25	28	--	54	206
China	--	89	15	21	33	82	242	1,060
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	8
Germany	--	72	--	1	(3)	19	93	253
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	12
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	8
Israel	--	--	--	10	14	(3)	24	53
Japan	--	--	--	4	--	1	5	43
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	39	--	(3)	40	126
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	49
Netherlands	--	--	8	--	--	--	8	8
Portugal	92	--	--	--	--	--	92	267
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	51
Rwanda	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	11
Spain	62	--	--	--	--	--	62	230
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	25
United Kingdom	7	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	8	185
Vietnam	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	202
Other	2	--	--	--	(3)	1	3	11
Total	310	162	23	102	89	110	796	3,340
January–April	1,190	504	78	494	462	608	3,340	XX

^rRevised. 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 April 2018 totaled 191 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 804 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
2017	532	97	367	901 ⁴	1,200	3,100	XX
2018:							
February	2	(4)	26	56	92	176	379
March	56	1	24	150	100	330	710
April:							
Australia	(4)	--	--	8	(4)	8	22
Austria	--	--	--	43	1	44	160
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	4
Canada	--	--	7	15	7	29	119
China	--	--	1	10	3	13	42
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
Czechia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	50
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Germany	--	--	1	17	5	22	110
Hungary	--	15	--	--	--	15	15
India	--	--	1	3	(4)	3	7
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Israel	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	35	38	171
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	7
Luxembourg	--	--	--	5	(4)	5	6
Mexico	--	--	2	1	14	16	59
Netherlands	1	--	--	3	(4)	5	7
Singapore	--	--	--	3	1	4	10
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Spain	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	4
Switzerland	30	--	--	--	(4)	30	30
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	13
Turkey	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
United Kingdom	94	--	(4)	3	(4)	97	135
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Other	--	(4)	1	4	2	6	25
Total	125	15	14	119	70	343	1,050
January–April	183	16	78	456	319	1,050	XX

¹Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

⁴Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in April 2018 totaled 41 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 126 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.