



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MAY 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 May 2018 was 21% 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 May 2018 was 8% 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 May 2018, the monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 33% higher than that in May 2017, and the monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 38% higher than that in May 2017. The

following prices for May 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—\$397/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$360/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—\$364/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$330/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:							
May	W	327	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	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
May	W	332	W	9,540	W	W	125
January–May	W	1,520	W	9,540	W	W	125

<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	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2017	3,930	2,230	209	1,300	1,440	2,330	11,400	XX
2018:								
March	258	88	26	68	135	172	747	2,540
April	310	162	23	102	89	110	796	3,340
May:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Austria	--	--	--	1	34	3	38	176
Bolivia	145	--	--	--	--	--	145	464
Burma	7	--	--	--	--	--	7	7
Burundi	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	40
Canada	--	--	--	30	32	--	62	268
China	--	266	--	80	48	49	443	1,500
Finland	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	8
France	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	9
Germany	--	46	--	--	(3)	3	49	302
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	12
India	7	--	--	--	--	4	11	19
Israel	--	--	--	2	6	(3)	8	61
Japan	--	--	--	5	(3)	9	14	57
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	29	--	(3)	29	155
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Poland	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	8
Portugal	54	--	--	--	--	--	54	321
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	51
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Spain	31	--	--	--	--	--	31	261
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	(3)	11	36
Uganda	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	10
United Kingdom	51	--	--	--	--	(3)	52	237
Vietnam	--	36	--	--	--	26	62	264
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	10
Total	332	348	--	146	120	97	1,040	4,380
January–May	1,520	852	78	641	583	705	4,380	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 May 2018 totaled 133 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 936 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	901	1,200	3,100	XX
2018:							
March	56	1	24	150	100	330	710
April	125	15	14	119	70	343	1,050
May:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	23
Austria	--	--	--	27	(4)	27	187
Brazil	1	--	--	1	(4)	2	6
Canada	--	--	7	13	5	25	144
China	--	--	(4)	3	1	4	46
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
Czechia	--	--	--	32	(4)	32	82
France	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	6
Germany	--	--	(4)	9	7	17	127
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	(4)	--	14	2	1	17	25
Ireland	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	10
Israel	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Japan	--	--	(4)	6	8	15	186
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	9
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	8	(4)	15	23	82
Netherlands	14	--	--	(4)	(4)	15	22
Singapore	--	--	--	1	3	5	14
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	10	10	20
Spain	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	5
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	14
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	3	1	4	139
Vietnam	57	--	--	--	--	57	87
Other	(4)	--	1	2	4	7	35
Total	72	--	33	109	58	272	1,320
January–May	255	16	111	565	377	1,320	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 May 2018 totaled 113 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 238 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.