

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JUNE 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 June 2018 was 16% 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 June 2018 was 7% less than that exported during the same period in 2017 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged from mid-May 2018 through the end of June. The June 2018 monthly average price was 33% higher than that in June 2017. In mid- to late June, the average of Platt's low and high weekly prices for tungsten concentrates decreased slightly. The June 2018 monthly average

price for tungsten concentrates was 38% higher than that in June 2017. The following prices for June 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 WO₃ (\$320/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$397/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$360/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$364/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$330/short ton unit WO₃)

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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:							
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
June	W	455	W	9,450	W	W	125
January–June	W	1,980	W	9,450	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; includes estimates.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

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
2017	3,930	2,230	209	1,300	1,440	2,330	11,400	XX
2018:								
April	310	162	23	102	89	110	796	3,340
May	332	348	--	146	120	97	1,040	4,380
June:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Austria	--	--	--	1	36	9	46	222
Bolivia	176	--	--	--	--	--	176	640
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Canada	--	--	--	19	31	1	51	319
China	--	144	24	36	43	51	298	1,800
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
France	--	--	--	3	2	1	6	15
Germany	--	73	--	(3)	--	1	75	377
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	3	(3)	3	16
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	22
Israel	--	--	--	5	15	--	20	81
Japan	--	--	--	5	(3)	8	13	70
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12	--	(3)	12	167
Mongolia	16	--	--	--	--	--	16	66
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Poland	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	9
Portugal	85	--	--	--	--	--	85	406
Russia	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	70
Rwanda	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	19
Spain	41	--	--	--	--	--	41	302
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	37
Uganda	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	37
United Kingdom	80	--	--	--	--	(3)	80	317
Vietnam	--	--	--	(3)	1	39	40	304
Other	--	--	--	--	1	2	3	13
Total	455	217	24	81	134	114	1,020	5,400
January–June	1,980	1,070	101	722	716	819	5,400	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 June 2018 totaled 215 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 1,150 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	1,200	3,100	XX
2018:							
April	125	15	14	119	70	343	1,050
May	72	--	33	109	58	272	1,320
June:							
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	23
Austria	--	--	--	10	3	13	200
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	8
Canada	--	--	6	20	4	30	174
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	2	3	49
Czechia	--	--	--	33	(4)	33	115
France	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	7
Germany	--	--	1	19	5	26	152
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	26
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Japan	--	--	(4)	1	62	62	248
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	10
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	17	(4)	18	35	117
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	22
Saudi Arabia	--	--	5	--	--	5	5
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	2	16
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	20
Spain	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Switzerland	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	30
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	5	(4)	5	19
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	5
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	3	5	143
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	87
Other	--	--	1	2	2	6	45
Total	--	--	33	96	104	232	1,560
January–June	255	16	144	661	481	1,560	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: Imports of waste and scrap in June 2018 totaled 172 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 410 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.