

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JULY 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 July 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 July 2018 was 13% 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 July. The July 2018 monthly average price was 33% higher than that in July 2017. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged from mid- to late June through the end of July. The July 2018 monthly average

price for tungsten concentrates was 36% higher than that in July 2017. The following prices for July 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—\$353/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$320/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:							
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
July	W	196	W	9,390	W	W	125
January–July	W	2,170	W	9,390	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:								
May	332	348	--	146	120	97	1,040	4,380
June	455	217	24	81	134	114	1,020	5,400
July:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Austria	--	--	--	1	40	4	45	267
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	640
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Canada	--	--	--	17	28	--	44	363
China	--	103	8	62	20	179	372	2,170
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
France	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	18
Germany	--	28	--	1	(3)	6	34	411
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	3	1	4	20
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	24
Israel	--	--	--	1	4	(3)	5	85
Japan	--	--	--	6	--	8	14	83
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	5	(3)	(3)	5	172
Mongolia	3	--	--	--	--	--	3	69
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Poland	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	11
Portugal	78	--	--	--	--	(3)	78	484
Russia	--	--	4	--	--	--	4	75
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Spain	31	--	--	--	--	--	31	333
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	1	12	49
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	37
United Kingdom	70	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	71	388
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	52	52	357
Other	(3)	--	--	1	(3)	1	2	15
Total	196	131	12	92	98	255	783	6,190
January–July	2,170	1,200	114	814	814	1,070	6,190	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 July 2018 totaled 305 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 1,460 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:							
May	72	--	33	109	58	272	1,320
June	--	--	33	96	104	232	1,560
July:							
Australia	--	--	--	5	(4)	5	28
Austria	--	--	--	--	6	6	206
Belgium	--	--	--	7	--	7	9
Brazil	--	--	1	1	(4)	1	9
Canada	1	--	6	16	2	25	199
China	--	--	(4)	5	7	12	61
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	115
Denmark	--	41	--	--	1	42	46
France	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	8
Germany	--	--	(4)	10	1	12	164
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	27
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Japan	--	--	(4)	1	12	13	261
Korea, Republic of	1	--	(4)	(4)	1	3	13
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	17	19	136
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	22
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Singapore	--	--	--	4	1	5	21
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	21
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Taiwan	--	--	--	4	1	5	24
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	1	1	3	8
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	144
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	87
Other	(4)	--	2	4	3	9	48
Total	3	41	11	60	55	169	1,730
January–July	258	57	154	721	536	1,730	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 July 2018 totaled 36 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 446 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.