

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 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 August 2018 was 8% 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 August 2018 was 14% 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 August. The August 2018 monthly average price was 28% higher than that in August 2017. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged from mid-to late June through the end of August. The August 2018

monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 31% higher than that in August 2017. The following prices for August 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:							
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
August	W	385	W	9,250	W	W	125
January–August	W	2,560	W	9,250	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:								
June	455	217	24	81	134	114	1,020	5,400
July	196	131	12	92	98	255	783	6,190
August:								
Argentina	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	35
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Austria	--	--	--	1	24	2	27	293
Bolivia	115	--	--	--	--	--	115	755
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Burundi	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	49
Canada	--	--	--	21	30	1	52	415
China	--	267	1	80	56	323	727	2,900
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
France	--	--	--	(3)	2	(3)	2	20
Germany	--	73	--	2	2	18	96	507
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	21
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	26
Israel	--	--	--	4	4	(3)	8	93
Japan	--	--	--	4	(3)	8	12	95
Korea, Republic of	--	--	8	10	--	(3)	18	190
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	82
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Poland	(3)	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Portugal	58	--	--	--	--	(3)	58	543
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	75
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Spain	63	--	--	--	--	--	63	397
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	2	13	61
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	37
United Kingdom	81	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	81	469
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	67	67	423
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	2	17
Total	385	341	9	121	119	426	1,400	7,590
January–August	2,560	1,540	123	935	933	1,500	7,590	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 August 2018 totaled 324 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 1,780 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:							
June	--	--	33	96	104	232	1,560
July	3	41	11	60	55	169	1,730
August:							
Australia	--	--	--	6	(4)	6	34
Austria	--	--	--	12	4	16	221
Belgium	--	--	16	--	--	16	25
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	10
Canada	--	--	3	15	3	22	221
China	--	--	(4)	2	2	4	65
Czechia	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	117
Denmark	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	46
France	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	9
Germany	--	--	(4)	14	5	19	183
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	--	11	11	13
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	1	1	(4)	(4)	2	29
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Italy	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	5
Japan	--	--	1	(4)	34	35	296
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	13
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Malaysia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	5
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	13	15	150
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	22
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2	--	--	2	7
Singapore	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	23
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	21
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	6	(4)	6	30
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	9
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	146
Vietnam	19	--	--	--	--	19	107
Other	--	--	1	1	1	4	42
Total	19	1	29	61	78	188	1,910
January–August	277	58	183	782	614	1,910	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 August 2018 totaled 34 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 481 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.