

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: kshedd@usgs.gov

Annie Hwang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: ahwang@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 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 September 2018 was 6% 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 September 2018 was 15% 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 September. The September 2018 monthly average price was 11% higher than that in September 2017. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged from mid- to late June through the end of September. The September 2018 monthly average price for tungsten

concentrates was 12% higher than that in September 2017. The following prices for September 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:							
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
September	W	425	W	9,170	W	W	125
January–September	W	2,980	W	9,170	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:								
July	196	131	12	92	98	255	783	6,190
August	385	341	9	121	119	426	1,400	7,590
September:								
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	29
Austria	--	--	--	1	22	4	27	321
Bolivia	126	--	--	--	--	--	126	881
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49
Canada	--	--	--	12	33	--	45	460
China	--	156	--	102	25	67	349	3,250
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
France	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	21
Germany	--	46	--	1	(3)	3	50	557
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	22
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	26
Israel	--	--	--	--	21	(3)	21	114
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	8	9	105
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	190
Mongolia	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	118
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Poland	4	--	--	--	--	--	4	15
Portugal	65	--	--	--	--	--	65	608
Russia	45	--	3	--	--	--	48	123
Rwanda	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	27
Spain	73	--	--	--	--	--	73	469
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	8
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	63
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	37
United Kingdom	67	--	--	1	--	(3)	68	537
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	51	51	475
Other	1	--	--	(3)	(3)	2	3	20
Total	425	202	3	117	104	139	990	8,580
January–September	2,980	1,740	126	1,050	1,040	1,640	8,580	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 September 2018 totaled 415 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 2,190 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:							
July	3	41	11	60	55	169	1,730
August	19	1	29	61	78	188	1,910
September:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	37
Austria	--	--	--	34	5	39	260
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	26
Brazil	--	--	1	2	(4)	3	13
Canada	--	--	5	23	4	33	254
Chile	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	5
China	--	--	1	4	3	8	72
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	5
Czechia	--	--	--	18	--	18	135
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	46
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	9	9	10
France	--	2	(4)	--	--	3	12
Germany	--	--	1	13	6	20	203
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	17	17	30
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	30
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Italy	--	--	--	1	--	1	5
Japan	--	--	--	(4)	34	34	331
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	14
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mexico	(4)	(4)	3	(4)	13	16	166
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Philippines	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	5
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	7
Singapore	--	--	--	1	1	2	25
South Africa	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	23
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	6
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	31
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
United Kingdom	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	148
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	107
Other	--	1	1	2	1	4	34
Total	(4)	4	17	104	93	219	2,130
January–September	277	62	200	886	707	2,130	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 September 2018 totaled 20 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 500 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.