

# 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 OCTOBER 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 October 2018 was 3% 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 October 2018 was 11% less than that exported during the same period in 2017 (table 3).

### Prices

The weekly average price for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, trended downward in October 2018. The October 2018 monthly average price was 8% higher than that in October 2017. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged from mid- to late June through the end of October. The October 2018 monthly average

price for tungsten concentrates was 12% higher than that in October 2017. The following prices for October 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—\$342/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$310/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—\$353/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$320/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

*List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.*

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:							
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
October	W	475	W	9,170	W	W	125
January–October	W	3,460	W	9,170	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; includes estimates.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

<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:								
August	385	341	9	121	119	426	1,400	7,590
September	425	202	3	117	104	139	990	8,580
October:								
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	30
Austria	--	--	--	5	35	5	44	365
Bolivia	210	--	--	--	--	--	210	1,090
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Burundi	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	66
Canada	--	--	--	16	36	--	52	513
China	--	52	--	58	27	48	185	3,430
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
France	--	--	--	--	3	1	4	25
Germany	--	78	--	1	--	11	89	647
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	22
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	26
Israel	--	--	--	--	14	(3)	14	128
Japan	--	--	--	5	(3)	9	14	119
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	16	--	(3)	16	205
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	118
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Portugal	84	--	--	--	--	--	84	692
Russia	--	--	5	--	--	(3)	5	128
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
Spain	90	--	--	--	--	--	90	560
Switzerland	--	--	13	--	--	(3)	13	21
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	4	15	78
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	37
United Kingdom	62	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	62	599
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	75	75	550
Other	(3)	2	--	1	(3)	1	5	25
Total	475	132	17	102	115	156	996	9,570
January–October	3,460	1,870	143	1,150	1,150	1,790	9,570	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 October 2018 totaled 243 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 2,440 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:							
August	19	1	29	61	78	188	1,910
September	(4)	4	17	104	93	219	2,130
October:							
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	37
Austria	--	--	--	58	(4)	58	318
Belgium	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	26
Brazil	--	--	1	1	--	2	15
Canada	--	--	3	25	9	37	290
China	--	--	(4)	8	1	9	82
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	136
Denmark	--	--	--	--	1	1	46
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
France	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	13
Germany	--	34	6	17	8	65	269
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	--	6	(4)	(4)	6	36
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Japan	--	1	1	3	33	37	368
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	16
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	17	19	185
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Peru	--	--	2	--	--	2	6
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	7
Singapore	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	27
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
Taiwan	--	--	--	6	(4)	6	37
Turkey	3	--	(4)	(4)	1	5	8
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	9
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	150
Vietnam	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	107
Other	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	53
Total	3	34	24	123	73	257	2,390
January–October	281	97	224	1,010	780	2,390	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 October 2018 totaled 17 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 518 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.