

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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 2018 was essentially unchanged from that imported during 2017 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2018 was 8% less than that exported during 2017 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, decreased in mid-December. The December 2018 monthly average price was 9% lower than that in November 2018 and 5% lower than that in December 2017. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates decreased in mid-December. The December 2018 monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 14% lower than that in November 2018 and 4% lower than that in December 2017. The following

prices for December 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—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$375/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$340/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/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:							
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
November	W	169	W	9,090	W	W	125
December	W	435	W	8,990	W	W	125
January–December	W	4,060	W	8,990	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	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2017	3,930	2,230	209	1,300	1,440	2,340 ³	11,400	XX
2018:								
October	475	132	17	102	115	156	996	9,570
November	169	185	--	110	187	157	808	10,400
December:								
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	30
Austria	--	--	--	7	5	2	14	403
Bolivia	183	--	--	--	--	--	183	1,270
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	76
Canada	--	--	--	27	48	(3)	75	646
China	(3)	90	--	140	117	132	480	4,250
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
France	--	--	--	5	1	(3)	6	34
Germany	--	--	--	--	(3)	10	10	737
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	22
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	29
Israel	--	--	--	3	8	(3)	11	139
Japan	--	--	--	3	(3)	16	19	152
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	7	--	(3)	7	215
Kuwait	--	50	--	--	--	--	50	50
Mongolia	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	152
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Portugal	58	--	--	--	--	--	58	784
Russia	74	--	--	--	--	--	74	227
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
Spain	74	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	74	666
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	21
Thailand	12	--	--	--	--	5	17	98
Uganda	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	84
United Kingdom	2	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3	619
Vietnam	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	652
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	40
Total	435	140	--	193	181	169	1,120	11,500
January–December	4,060	2,200	143	1,460	1,520	2,120	11,500	XX

¹Revised. 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 December 2018 totaled 262 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 2,960 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:							
October	3	34	24	123	73	257	2,390
November	--	--	12	106	120	239	2,630
December:							
Australia	--	--	--	8	(4)	8	46
Austria	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	336
Belgium	--	--	8	(4)	(4)	9	35
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	22
Canada	3	--	3	25	3	34	362
China	--	--	--	1	3	5	91
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	139
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	46
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
France	--	--	1	--	--	1	14
Germany	--	--	3	12	(4)	15	305
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	43
Indonesia	--	--	1	2	(4)	4	8
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Japan	--	--	--	5	87	92	494
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	6	1	7	26
Mexico	--	--	1	--	13	14	214
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Peru	--	5	1	(4)	--	6	13
Philippines	--	--	--	--	3	3	71
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	9
Singapore	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	29
South Africa	--	--	1	1	--	2	34
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Taiwan	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	43
Turkey	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	10
United Kingdom	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	156
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	107
Other	--	5	2	(4)	2	8	70
Total	3	10	23	66	117	218	2,850
January–December	284	106	259	1,180	1,020	2,850	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: Exports of waste and scrap in December 2018 totaled 41 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 645 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.