

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 2019

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 2019 was 27% less than that reported during December 2018 and 15% less than the monthly average in 2018 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January 2019 was 26% less than that reported during December 2018 and 32% less than the monthly average in 2018 (table 3).

### Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged in January 2019. The January 2019 monthly average price was 3% lower than that in December 2018 and 10% lower than that in January 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged in January 2019. The January 2019 monthly average

price was 5% lower than that in December 2018 and 13% lower than that in January 2018. The following prices for January 2019, 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 WO<sub>3</sub> (\$280/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$320/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$290/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$240/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$250/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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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>
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
2019, January	W	315	W	8,900	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
2018	4,060	2,200	143	1,460	1,520	2,120	11,500
2019, January:							
Austria	--	--	--	25	62	2	89
Bolivia	168	--	--	--	--	--	168
Burundi	9	--	--	--	--	--	9
Canada	--	--	--	19	35	(3)	54
China	--	52	15	73	85	60	284
Germany	--	7	--	1	(3)	2	10
Hong Kong	--	--	--	7	--	(3)	8
Israel	--	--	--	5	18	(3)	22
Japan	--	--	--	6	--	2	8
Korea, Republic of	--	--	12	--	--	(3)	12
Mongolia	21	--	--	--	--	--	21
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	7	7
Poland	5	--	--	--	--	--	5
Portugal	48	--	--	--	--	--	48
Spain	62	--	--	--	--	(3)	63
Other	1	--	--	(3)	2	5	8
Total	315	60	27	137	201	77	817

-- 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 January 2019 totaled 175 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
2018	284	106	259	1,180	1,020	2,850
2019, January:						
Australia	--	--	(4)	5	--	5
Austria	--	--	2	--	5	7
Canada	(4)	--	3	12	6	21
China	--	--	(4)	1	4	5
Czechia	--	--	2	1	(4)	3
Germany	--	--	2	14	1	16
India	--	--	2	2	(4)	4
Japan	--	--	(4)	5	60	65
Mexico	--	--	2	1	16	19
Other	--	--	4	6	6	16
Total	(4)	--	18	46	98	162

-- 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: Exports of waste and scrap in January 2019 totaled 35 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.