

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: ksheddd@usgs.gov

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

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 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 through February 2019 was 4% less than that imported during the same period in 2018 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through February 2019 was slightly more than that exported during the same period in 2018 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged in February 2019. The February 2019 monthly average price was 12% lower than that in February 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The February 2019 monthly average price was 17% lower than that in February

2018. The following prices for February 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 WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$276/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$250/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
2018:							
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
February	W	251	W	8,760	W	W	125
January–February	W	566	W	8,760	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
2018	4,060	2,200	143	1,460	1,520	2,120	11,500	XX
2019:								
January	315	60	27	137	201	77	817	817
February:								
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	32	5	38	127
Bolivia	56	--	--	--	--	--	56	224
Brazil	3	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Canada	--	--	--	23	12	--	34	89
China	--	181	--	95	108	58	442	726
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	4
Germany	--	17	--	(3)	1	12	31	41
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Israel	--	--	--	--	4	--	4	26
Japan	--	--	--	6	1	23	30	37
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	11	--	(3)	11	23
Mexico	--	--	--	--	3	--	3	4
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Poland	5	--	--	--	--	--	5	10
Portugal	57	--	--	--	--	--	57	105
Russia	78	--	--	--	--	--	78	78
Spain	52	--	--	--	--	--	52	114
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	63	63	63
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	7
Total	251	199	--	135	161	165	910	1,730
January–February	566	259	27	271	362	242	1,730	XX

-- 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 February 2019 totaled 230 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 405 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
2018	284	106	259	1,180	1,020	2,850	XX
2019:							
January	(4)	--	18	46	98	162	162
February:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	5	(4)	5	10
Austria	--	--	--	38	3	40	47
Brazil	--	--	2	(4)	8	10	11
Canada	(4)	--	6	15	13	34	55
China	--	--	(4)	5	2	7	12
Czechia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	3
Germany	--	--	3	15	1	19	35
Hong Kong	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	3
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	5
Japan	--	(4)	(4)	3	51	55	120
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	3
Mexico	--	--	1	--	15	17	36
South Africa	--	--	--	--	6	6	7
Vietnam	18	--	--	--	--	18	18
Other	(4)	1	3	7	3	13	25
Total	18	1	16	91	101	228	390
January–February	18	1	34	137	199	390	XX

-- 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 February 2019 totaled 19 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 54 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.