

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 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 October 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 October 2019 was 5% less than that exported during the same period in 2018 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, decreased in late October 2019. The October monthly average price was 4% lower than that of September 2019 and 18% lower than that in October 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The October 2019 monthly average price was 18%

lower than that in October 2018. The following prices for October 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—\$276/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$250/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:							
October	W	462	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	4,050	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
March	W	282	W	8,640	W	W	125
April	W	200	W	8,520	W	W	125
May	W	274	W	8,520	W	W	125
June	W	335	W	8,480	W	W	125
July	W	143	W	8,480	W	W	125
August	W	255	W	8,480	W	W	125
September	W	106	W	8,370	W	W	125
October	W	422	W	8,370	W	W	125
January–October	W	2,580	W	8,370	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
2018	4,050	2,200	143	1,440	1,530	2,120	11,500	XX
2019:								
August	255	186	5	179	181	161	966	7,060
September	106	155	12	129	177	385	965	8,030
October:								
Austria	--	--	--	17	11	3	31	461
Bolivia	306	--	--	--	--	--	306	1,140
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
Canada	--	--	--	19	27	3	48	571
China	--	25	--	84	76	78	264	3,300
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	1	20
Germany	--	110	--	2	1	16	129	706
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	70
India	--	--	--	7	--	4	10	49
Israel	--	--	--	1	25	(3)	25	145
Japan	--	--	--	16	(3)	9	24	170
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	--	(3)	19	122
Mongolia	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	143
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	171
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	12	12	105
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Portugal	45	--	--	--	--	--	45	482
Russia	51	--	4	--	--	--	55	207
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Spain	9	--	--	--	--	(3)	9	286
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	69	69	190
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Vietnam	--	--	--	11	--	72	84	591
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	3	3	17
Total	422	135	4	175	140	271	1,150	9,180
January–October	2,580	1,270	73	1,540	1,690	2,020	9,180	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 October 2019 totaled 303 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 2,610 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	260	1,180	1,020	2,850	XX
2019:							
August	18	2	24	51	75	170	1,800
September	171	5	16	31	78	299	2,090
October:							
Argentina	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	4
Australia	--	--	1	2	--	3	27
Austria	--	--	--	--	1	1	122
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	23
Canada	--	--	6	15	3	24	271
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	2	72
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	8
Czechia	--	--	3	--	(4)	3	36
France	--	--	3	(4)	(4)	3	27
Germany	--	--	1	1	1	3	132
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
India	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	39
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	14
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	61	63	567
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	13
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	2	2	1	22	27	218
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	204
Peru	--	--	1	--	--	1	5
Philippines	--	--	1	--	1	2	16
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	22
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	6
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	12
Switzerland	20	--	--	--	--	20	21
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	10
Thailand	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	106
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	27
Vietnam	10	--	--	--	--	10	225
Other	--	--	1	1	1	2	25
Total	30	2	18	30	94	175	2,270
January–October	569	27	174	595	905	2,270	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 October 2019 totaled 89 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 715 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.