

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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 2019 was 6% less than that imported during 2018 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2019 was 11% less than that exported during 2018 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate and tungsten concentrates, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged. The December 2019 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 14% lower than that in December 2018. The December 2019 monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 5% lower than that in December 2018. The following prices for December 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—\$287/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$260/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:							
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
November	W	116	W	8,330	W	W	125
December	W	72	W	8,330	W	W	126
January–December	W	2,770	W	8,330	W	W	126

^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:								
October	422	135	4	175	140	271	1,150	9,180
November	116	110	11	215	124	345	920	10,100
December:								
Austria	--	--	--	10	21	3	34	515
Bolivia	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	1,210
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
Canada	--	--	--	12	11	(3)	22	672
China	--	20	--	100	77	54	251	3,930
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	1	23
Germany	--	29	--	3	--	15	47	803
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	70
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	60
Israel	--	--	--	30	16	(3)	46	211
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	11	12	185
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	9	(3)	(3)	9	158
Mongolia	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	152
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	20
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	181
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	131
Poland	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	30
Portugal	23	--	--	--	--	--	23	539
Russia	10	--	5	--	--	(3)	15	222
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	288
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	156	156	426
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	61
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	5	(3)	5	16
Vietnam	--	--	8	--	2	45	55	758
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	19
Total	72	49	12	164	131	304	732	10,800
January–December	2,770	1,430	96	1,920	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

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 2019 totaled 194 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 3,090 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:							
October	30	2	18	30	94	175	2,270
November	--	4	20	24	52	101	2,370
December:							
Argentina	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	4
Australia	--	--	--	3	--	3	31
Austria	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	123
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	6
Brazil	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	24
Canada	--	--	6	6	2	15	308
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	75
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	9
Czechia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	38
France	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	29
Germany	--	--	(4)	3	1	4	138
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
India	--	--	(4)	1	1	1	40
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	14
Japan	--	(4)	(4)	4	62	66	665
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	4	1	6	19
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	4
Mexico	(4)	2	1	(4)	17	20	261
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	205
Peru	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	6
Philippines	5	--	--	--	1	6	22
Russia	10	--	--	--	(4)	10	12
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	23
Singapore	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	7
South Africa	--	--	1	--	--	1	13
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	21
Taiwan	--	--	--	3	18	20	33
Thailand	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	108
United Kingdom	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	34
Vietnam	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	225
Other	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	26
Total	15	2	11	31	104	164	2,530
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,530	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

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 2019 totaled 38 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 832 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.