

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JUNE 2020

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 June 2020 was 12% less than that imported during the same period in 2019 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through June 2020 was 38% less than that exported during the same period in 2019 (table 3).

Prices

Platts' weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate have remained unchanged since mid-April 2020. The June 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 23% lower than that in June 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The following prices for June 2020, 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—\$231/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$210/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$254/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$230/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
2019:							
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	2,760	W	8,330	W	W	126
2020:							
January	W	189	W	8,240	W	W	125
February	W	105	W	8,000	W	W	125
March	W	347	W	7,900	W	W	125
April	W	92	W	7,900	W	W	125
May	W	76	W	7,820	W	W	125
June	W	160	W	7,710	W	W	125
January–June	W	969	W	7,710	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
2019:								
January–June	1,650	653	49	877	994	991	5,210	XX
January–December	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
April	92	151	8	169	198	233	850	3,220
May	76	2	4	164	108	276	630	3,850
June:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	1	2	4	157
Bolivia	84	--	--	--	--	--	84	445
Canada	--	--	--	11	1	3	14	215
China	--	51	--	78	73	55	258	1,720
Congo (Kinshasa)	29	--	--	--	--	--	29	50
Czechia	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	6
France	--	--	--	1	--	2	3	18
Germany	--	35	--	(3)	(3)	40	75	261
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	31	31	47
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Israel	--	--	--	35	11	(3)	46	228
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	16	17	114
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	--	(3)	19	117
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Poland	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	7
Portugal	46	--	--	--	--	--	46	268
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	142
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	56
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	71	71	464
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	21	21	175
Other	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Total	160	86	--	146	86	241	719	4,570
January–June	969	492	30	1,070	700	1,310	4,570	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 June 2020 totaled 187 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 1,500 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
2019:							
January–June	304	18	95	419	604	1,440	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
April	49	23	10	28	26	135	577
May	5	4	18	32	87	146	724
June:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	(4)	5	31
Austria	--	--	--	10	--	10	45
Brazil	--	--	(4)	--	10	10	15
Canada	--	--	7	19	4	30	120
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	25
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	4
Czechia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	17
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	37
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
India	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	1	3	148
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	15
Malaysia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	4	(4)	1	13	18	106
Netherlands	--	--	9	--	(4)	9	51
Russia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	19
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	24
Taiwan	--	--	--	2	69	71	135
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	11
Vietnam	--	(4)	--	--	--	(4)	43
Other	(4)	(4)	1	4	2	8	28
Total	(4)	4	20	48	101	174	898
January–June	105	31	91	224	447	898	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 June 2020 totaled 31 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 457 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.