

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 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 September 2020 was 20% 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 September 2020 was 32% 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 September 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 23% lower than that in September 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The following prices for September 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:							
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
July	W	80	W	7,710	W	W	125
August	W	296	W	7,680	W	W	125
September	W	159	W	7,660	W	W	107
January–September	W	1,500	W	7,660	W	W	107

^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–September	2,150 ^r	1,130	69	1,360 ^r	1,550	1,750	8,020 ^r	XX
January–December	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
July	80	14	2	135	79	233	542	5,110
August	296	72	2	101	64	144	678	5,790
September:								
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	190
Bolivia	111	--	--	--	--	--	111	808
Canada	--	--	--	15	6	(3)	21	267
China	--	107	--	36	30	45	219	2,310
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	2	2	22
Germany	--	30	--	(3)	--	28	58	387
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	47
India	--	--	--	6	--	(3)	6	15
Israel	--	--	--	35	14	(3)	49	366
Japan	--	--	--	--	(3)	3	3	140
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	21	--	(3)	21	161
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Portugal	45	--	--	--	--	--	45	393
Russia	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	173
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	65
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	53	53	690
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	195
Other	4	--	--	--	--	1	4	14
Total	159	137	2	114	51	134	596	6,380
January–September	1,500	714	36	1,420	894	1,820	6,380	XX

^rRevised. -- 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 September 2020 totaled 188 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 1,910 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–September	539	25	155	565	810	2,100 ^r	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
July	35	--	19	15	25	93	991
August	12	(4)	26	31	70	140	1,130
September:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	5	--	5	41
Austria	--	--	2	--	--	2	53
Brazil	--	--	2	--	1	2	18
Canada	--	--	10	12	3	25	194
China	--	--	--	--	3	3	34
Costa Rica	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	6
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	2	--	(4)	1	(4)	3	47
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
India	--	--	2	(4)	(4)	3	12
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Israel	--	--	--	--	2	2	9
Japan	--	--	--	3	75	78	232
Korea, Republic of	--	--	4	--	(4)	4	25
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	--	2	2	12	15	154
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	54
Russia	8	--	--	--	(4)	9	28
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	26
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	52	52	222
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	15
Vietnam	72	--	--	--	--	72	163
Other	--	1	1	4	1	6	39
Total	82	1	25	27	150	284	1,410
January–September	234	32	160	297	692	1,410	XX

¹Revised. -- Zero. XX Not applicable.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

⁴Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in September 2020 totaled 188 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 730 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.