

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 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 October 2020 was 23% 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 October 2020 was 27% 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 October 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 19% lower than that in October 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The following prices for October 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 WO<sub>3</sub> (\$210/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$254/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$230/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$240/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$250/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production <sup>p, 4</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry <sup>p, 2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Producer <sup>p, 5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
2019:							
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
October	W	201	W	7,660	W	W	107
January–October	W	1,710	W	7,660	W	W	107

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Reported by consumers; includes estimates.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

<sup>5</sup>Data 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 LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2019:								
January–October	2,580	1,270	73	1,540	1,690	2,020	9,160 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
August	296	72	2	101	64	144	678	5,790
September	159	137	2	114	51	134	596	6,380
October:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	19	1	20	210
Bolivia	111	--	--	--	--	--	111	919
Canada	--	--	--	38	23	--	62	329
China	--	42	--	55	30	42	169	2,480
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
France	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	23
Germany	--	56	--	(3)	--	5	62	448
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	47
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	18
Israel	--	--	--	49	18	(3)	67	434
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	141
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	36	--	(3)	36	197
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Portugal	56	--	--	--	--	--	56	449
Russia	--	--	3	--	--	--	3	176
Rwanda	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	85
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	10
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	47	47	737
Uganda	14	--	--	--	--	--	14	17
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	1	40	41	236
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	3	3	13
Total	201	98	3	179	92	143	715	7,100
January–October	1,710	812	38	1,590	985	1,960	7,100	XX

<sup>1</sup>Revised. -- Zero. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in October 2020 totaled 106 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 2,020 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of destination	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Ammonium Tungstates	Metal powder <sup>2</sup>	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2019:							
January–October	569	27	174	595	905	2,270	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
August	12	(4)	26	31	70	140	1,130
September	82	1	25	27	150	284	1,410
October:							
Australia	--	--	--	2	2	5	46
Austria	--	--	--	--	5	5	57
Brazil	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	19
Canada	--	--	11	10	4	25	218
China	--	--	(4)	9	3	12	46
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	7
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	22
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	--	(4)	5	(4)	5	52
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
India	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	12
Israel	--	--	--	--	6	6	15
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	1	3	235
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	25
Malaysia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	5
Mexico	--	4	1	1	11	17	171
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	54
Philippines	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	28
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	2	28
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	222
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	16
Vietnam	156	--	--	--	--	156	319
Other	--	--	1	1	1	3	43
Total	156	4	18	31	36	245	1,660
January–October	390	36	177	329	728	1,660	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in October 2020 totaled 62 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 792 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.