



Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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 2020 was 22% less than that imported during 2019 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2020 was 21% less than that exported during 2019 (table 3).

Prices

S&P Global Platts Metals' weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate have remained unchanged since mid-April 2020. The November 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 14% lower than that in December 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The following prices for December 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:							
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
November	W	173	W	7,660	W	W	107
December	W	140	W	7,600	W	W	93
January–December	W	2,020	W	7,600	W	W	93

^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	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2019	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
October	201	98	3	179	92	143	715	7,100
November	173	110	--	160	73	148	664	7,760
December:								
Australia	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	7
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	18	2	21	251
Bolivia	65	--	--	--	--	--	65	1,090
Canada	--	--	--	21	17	--	38	416
China	--	52	--	23	24	57	157	2,760
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
France	--	--	--	1	(3)	(3)	1	24
Germany	--	104	--	--	--	7	111	650
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	47
India	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	31
Israel	--	--	--	--	7	--	7	496
Japan	--	--	--	12	--	2	14	164
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	54	--	--	54	273
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Portugal	45	--	--	--	--	--	45	539
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	176
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	85
Spain	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	50
Taiwan	1	--	--	(3)	--	36	37	862
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	60	60	309
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	14
Total	140	156	--	112	66	180	655	8,420
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,870	1,120	2,290	8,420	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 2020 totaled 82 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 2,260 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	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
October	156	4	18	31	36	245	1,660
November	28	--	19	47	71	165	1,830
December:							
Australia	--	--	--	5	--	5	57
Austria	--	--	--	10	7	17	79
Belgium	--	--	(4)	8	(4)	9	10
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	21
Canada	(4)	--	6	5	2	12	257
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	4	4	60
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	8
Czechia	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	23
Estonia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Germany	--	--	1	2	1	3	68
Hong Kong	54	--	--	(4)	--	54	61
India	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	15
Israel	(4)	--	--	(4)	2	2	21
Japan	--	--	(4)	(4)	30	30	273
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	28
Malaysia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
Mexico	--	--	1	1	9	11	193
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	61
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	29
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	28
Taiwan	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	257
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	18
Vietnam	8	--	--	--	--	8	355
Other	--	--	--	4	1	5	49
Total	62	--	9	39	57	167	1,990
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	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 2020 totaled 42 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 948 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.