

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 2021

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 March 2021 was 20% less than that imported during the same period in 2020 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through March 2021 was 62% more than that exported during the same period in 2020 (table 3).

Prices

The March 2021 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, based on weekly price ranges reported by

Fastmarkets MB, was 5% higher than that in February 2021 and 8% higher than that in March 2020. The March 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, based on monthly price ranges reported by Fastmarkets MB, was 6% higher than that in February 2021 and 12% higher than that in March 2020 (fig. 1).

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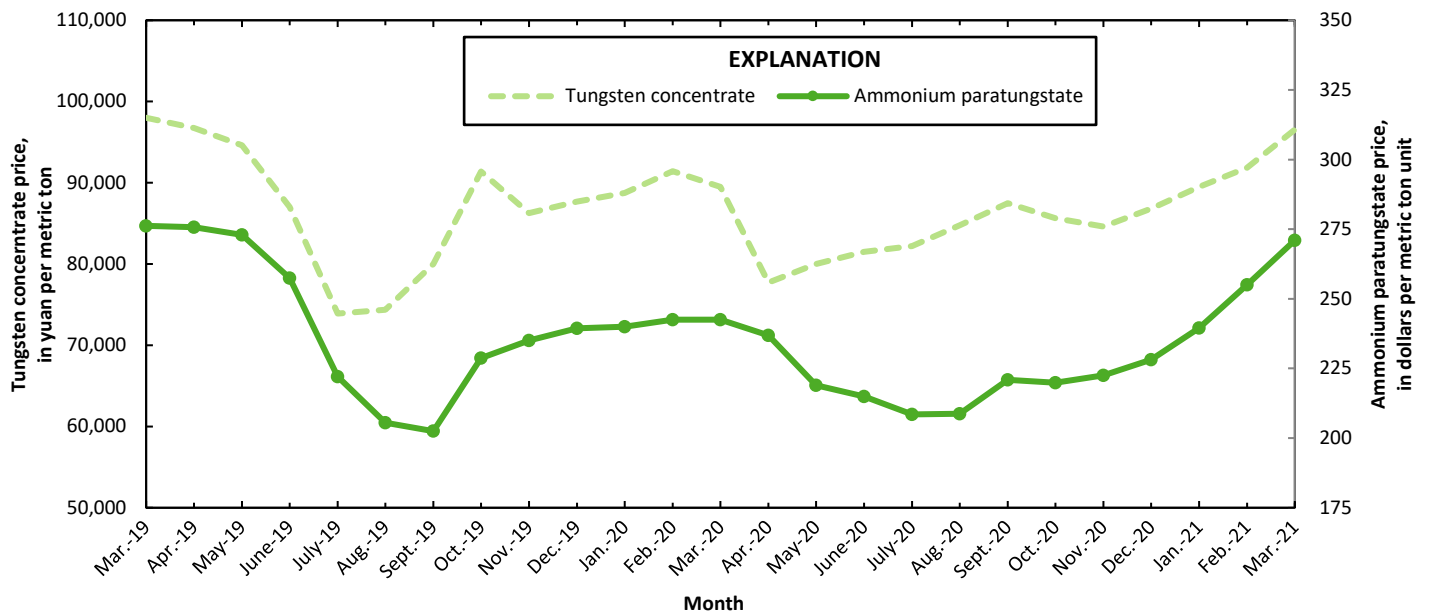


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate, in-warehouse China, and ammonium paratungstate, c.i.f. Rotterdam and Baltimore duty-free, for March 2019 through March 2021. Source: Fastmarkets MB.

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 ⁴	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Producer ⁵	U.S. Government ³
2020:							
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
2021:							
January	W	136	W	7,600	W	W	93
February	W	122	W	7,360	W	W	92
March	W	75	W	7,220	W	W	93
January–March	W	332	W	7,220	W	W	93

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
2020:								
January–March	641	253	18	587	309	558	2,370	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,870	1,120	2,290	8,420	XX
2021:								
January	136	121	(3)	108	111	109	585	585
February	122	54	--	84	130	256	645	1,230
March:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	69
Bolivia	42	--	--	--	--	--	42	150
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	18	39	3	61	169
China	--	36	--	37	43	46	161	371
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
France	--	--	--	3	1	(3)	3	5
Germany	--	6	--	(3)	--	18	24	172
India	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	16
Israel	--	--	--	(3)	22	10	32	109
Japan	(3)	--	--	4	(3)	1	5	24
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	55	--	(3)	55	91
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Portugal	22	--	--	--	--	--	22	98
Russia	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	10
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	10
Spain	12	--	--	--	--	(3)	12	25
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	73	73	193
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(3)	157	157	310
Other	--	--	--	--	2	1	3	4
Total	75	42	2	118	109	323	668	1,900
January–March	332	216	3	310	349	687	1,900	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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 March 2021 totaled 214 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 537 metric tons, tungsten con

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
2020:							
January–March	51	--	42	116	233	442	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
January	6	--	19	80	44	149	149
February	126	56	49	31	62	324	473
March:							
Australia	--	--	--	9	--	9	12
Austria	--	--	--	--	8	8	18
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	4
Canada	--	--	8	28	1	37	108
China	--	--	(4)	1	6	7	29
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	3
Czechia	--	--	2	--	--	2	3
Germany	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	74
India	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	9
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	3	3	11
Japan	--	1	1	(4)	1	3	7
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	6	1	7	13
Mexico	--	--	1	1	10	12	28
Netherlands	--	--	3	--	(4)	3	16
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	3	--	3	4
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
United Kingdom	--	28	(4)	(4)	(4)	28	29
Vietnam	68	--	--	--	35	104	266
Other	--	--	4	4	3	11	19
Total	68	28	22	52	70	241	714
January–March	200	84	90	163	176	714	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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 March 2021 totaled 49 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 143 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.