

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 April 2021 was 17% 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 April 2021 was 52% more than that exported during the same period in 2020 (table 3).

**Prices**

The January through March 2021 tungsten Mineral Industry Surveys discussed prices from Fastmarkets MB. Beginning with this April 2021 Mineral Industry Surveys, tungsten price comparisons will be based on Argus Metals International prices.

The April 2021 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, reported by Argus was slightly higher than that in March 2021 and 35% higher than that in April 2020. The April 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, reported by Argus was slightly higher than that in March 2021 and 26% higher than that in April 2020 (fig. 1).

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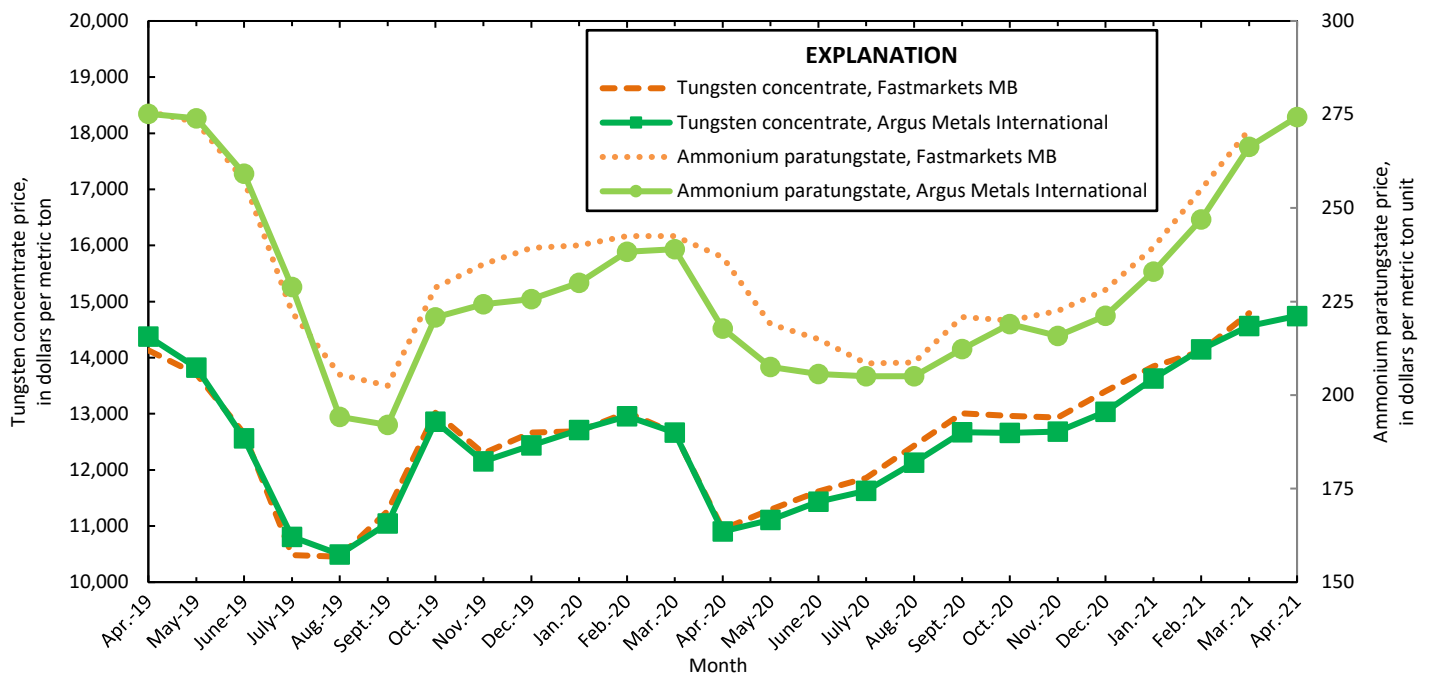


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for April 2019 through April 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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>4</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry <sup>2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Producer <sup>5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
2020:							
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	170 <sup>r</sup>	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
April	W	130	W	7,020	W	W	93
January–April	W	462	W	7,020	W	W	93

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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
2020:								
January–April	733	404	27	742 <sup>r</sup>	504 <sup>r</sup>	820 <sup>r</sup>	3,230 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,850 <sup>r</sup>	1,120	2,320 <sup>r</sup>	8,430 <sup>r</sup>	XX
2021:								
February	122	54	--	84	130	256	645	1,230
March	75	42	2	118	109	323	668	1,900
April:								
Austria	--	--	--	47	57	1	105	174
Bolivia	50	--	--	--	--	--	50	200
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	33	38	(3)	71	240
China	1	54	--	22	52	95	223	594
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
France	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	6
Germany	--	18	--	(3)	(3)	24	42	214
India	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	29
Israel	--	--	--	11	19	(3)	31	140
Japan	--	--	--	13	(3)	10	23	47
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	25	3	(3)	27	119
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	25
Portugal	43	--	--	--	--	--	43	141
Russia	26	--	--	--	--	2	28	38
Rwanda	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	29
Singapore	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	26	26	219
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	1	79	80	390
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Total	130	71	--	150	170	266	788	2,690
January–April	462	288	3	460	520	953	2,690	XX

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

<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 April 2021 totaled 193 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 731 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
2020:							
January–April	100	23	53	144	259 <sup>r</sup>	578 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
February	126	56	49	31	62	324	473
March	68	28	22	52	70	241	714
April:							
Australia	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	15
Austria	--	--	--	--	4	4	22
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	5
Canada	--	--	9	16	6	32	140
China	--	--	1	(4)	17	18	47
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Czechia	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	3
Finland	--	--	--	--	6	6	6
Germany	--	--	8	3	(4)	12	86
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	10
Israel	--	--	--	--	2	2	14
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	9
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	13
Mexico	--	8	1	1	6	15	44
Netherlands	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	17
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	4	--	4	8
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	6
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	30
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	50	50	316
Other	--	--	2	4	3	8	27
Total	--	8	23	34	97	162	875
January–April	200	92	113	197	273	875	XX

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

<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 April 2021 totaled 90 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 233 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.