

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN MAY 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 May 2021 was 13% 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 May 2021 was 54% more than that exported during the same period in 2020 (table 3).

price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was slightly higher than that in April 2021 and 36% higher than that in May 2020. The May 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in April 2021 and 33% higher than that in May 2020 (fig. 1).

Prices

The following tungsten price comparisons are based on Argus Metals International prices. The May 2021 monthly average

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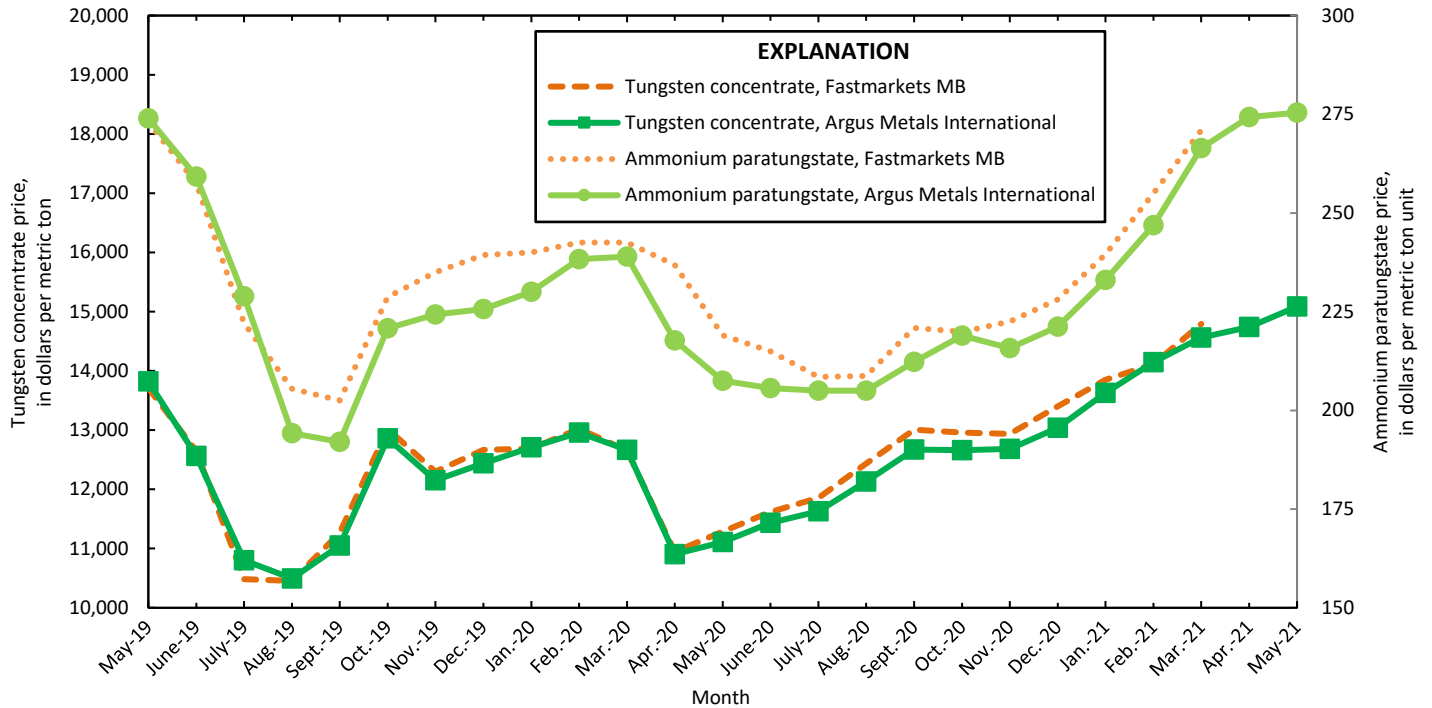


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for May 2019 through May 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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:							
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	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
May	W	73	W	7,020	W	W	93
January–May	W	535	W	7,020	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–May	810	406	30	906 ^r	614	1,100 ^r	3,870 ^r	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,850	1,120	2,320	8,430	XX
2021:								
March	75	42	2	118	109	323	668	1,900
April	130	71	--	150	170	266	788	2,690
May:								
Australia	14	--	--	--	--	--	14	14
Austria	--	--	--	44	57	1	102	276
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	200
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	12	36	(3)	48	288
China	4	29	--	55	41	53	182	776
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Estonia	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
France	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	7
Germany	--	--	--	2	--	1	4	217
India	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	42
Israel	--	--	--	--	25	(3)	25	164
Japan	--	--	--	3	(3)	19	22	69
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	18	--	--	18	137
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	39
Portugal	33	--	--	--	--	--	33	174
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	38
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	25
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	60	60	279
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	140	140	530
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Total	73	29	--	135	159	303	698	3,380
January–May	535	317	3	595	678	1,260	3,380	XX

^rRevised. 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 May 2021 totaled 193 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 924 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
2020:							
January–May	105	27	71	176	346	724	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
March	68	28	22	52	70	241	714
April	--	8	23	34	97	162	875
May:							
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	15
Austria	--	--	--	--	8	8	30
Brazil	(4)	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	6
Canada	(4)	--	9	14	3	27	166
China	--	--	--	1	3	4	51
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Czechia	--	--	2	2	--	4	8
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Germany	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	4	89
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	10
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	6	6	19
Japan	--	--	(4)	5	1	6	16
Korea, Republic of	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	2	15
Mexico	--	--	1	2	6	8	52
Netherlands	43	--	2	--	(4)	46	63
Philippines	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	5
Russia	21	--	--	--	(4)	21	21
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	8
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	6
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	31
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	89	89	405
Other	--	--	3	2	2	8	32
Total	64	1	20	30	124	238	1,110
January–May	264	92	133	227	397	1,110	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 May 2021 totaled 79 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 312 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.