

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JUNE 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 June 2021 was 11% 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 June 2021 was 43% more than that exported during the same period in 2020 (table 3).

Prices

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

price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was essentially unchanged from that in May 2021 and 33% higher than that in June 2020. The June 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in May 2021 and 35% higher than that in June 2020 (fig. 1).

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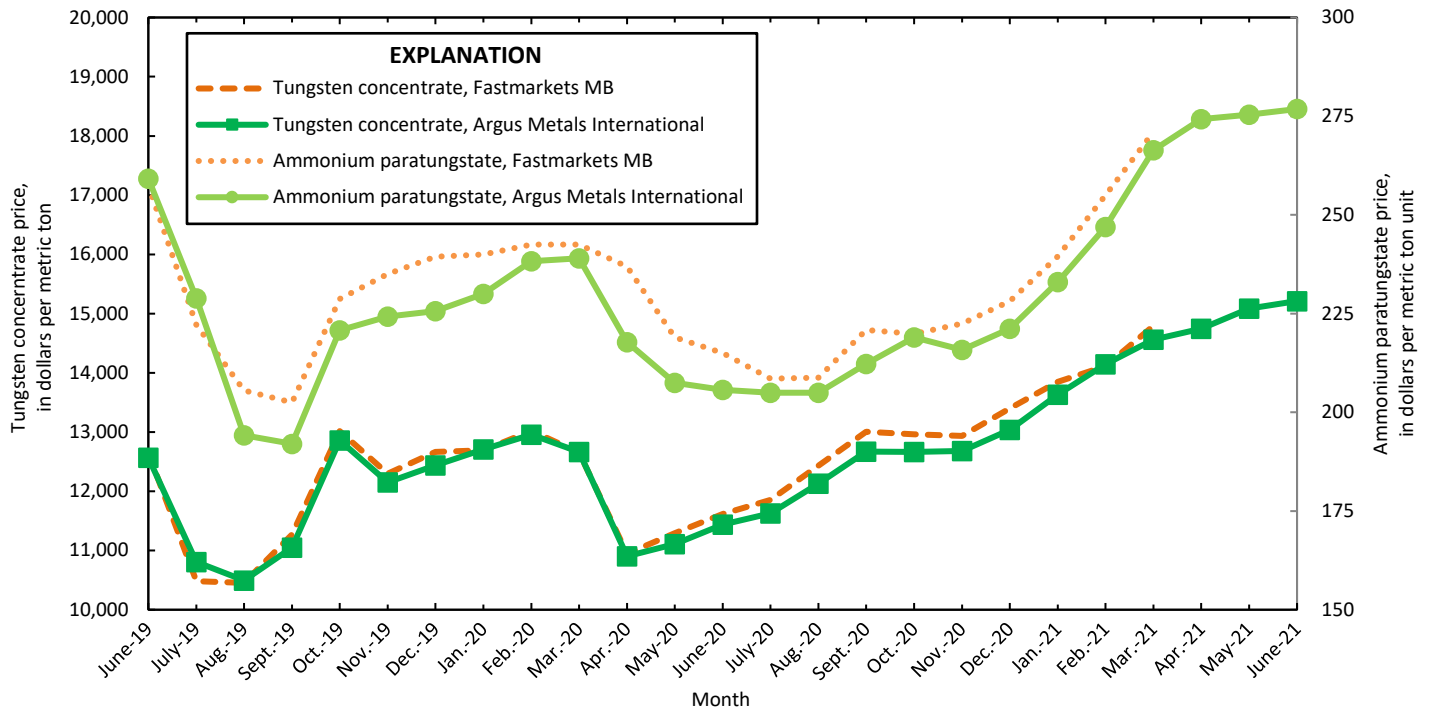


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for June 2019 through June 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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:							
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
June	W	100	W	6,900	W	W	--
January–June	W	635	W	6,900	W	W	--

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. --Zero.

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–June	969	492	30	1,050 ^r	700	1,340 ^r	4,590 ^r	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,850	1,120	2,320	8,430	XX
2021:								
April	130	71	--	150	170	266	788	2,690
May	73	29	--	135	159	303	698	3,380
June:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	14
Austria	--	--	--	15	26	1	42	318
Bolivia	42	--	--	--	--	14	56	256
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	12	32	1	45	333
China	--	--	--	22	73	124	219	995
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	7
Germany	--	36	--	1	2	(3)	39	256
India	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	55
Israel	--	--	--	--	20	(3)	20	185
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	4	5	74
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	43	--	(3)	43	180
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Portugal	22	--	--	--	--	--	22	196
Russia	18	--	--	--	--	--	18	56
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	24	24	303
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	18	--	--	10	--	103	131	662
Other	--	--	--	1	3	1	5	10
Total	100	36	--	105	156	286	683	4,070
January–June	635	353	3	700	835	1,540	4,070	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 June 2021 totaled 266 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 1,190 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–June	105	31	91	225 ^r	447	899 ^r	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
April	--	8	23	34	97	162	875
May	64	1	20	30	124	238	1,110
June:							
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Austria	--	--	--	1	8	9	39
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	8
Canada	1	--	40	14	3	57	224
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	2	53
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	7
Czechia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Germany	--	--	1	17	(4)	19	108
India	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	10
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	22
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	19
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	15
Mexico	--	--	2	1	10	13	65
Netherlands	--	--	2	--	--	2	65
Philippines	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	9
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	54
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	32
Vietnam	2	--	--	--	51	53	458
Other	--	--	(4)	1	4	6	38
Total	3	--	47	38	83	172	1,290
January–June	267	92	180	265	480	1,290	XX

^rRevised. 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 June 2021 totaled 54 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 366 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.