

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 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 August 2021 was essentially the same as 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 August 2021 was 48% 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 August 2021 monthly average

price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was 7% higher than that in July 2021 and 44% higher than that in August 2020. The August 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was 7% higher than that in July 2021 and 51% higher than that in August 2020 (fig. 1).

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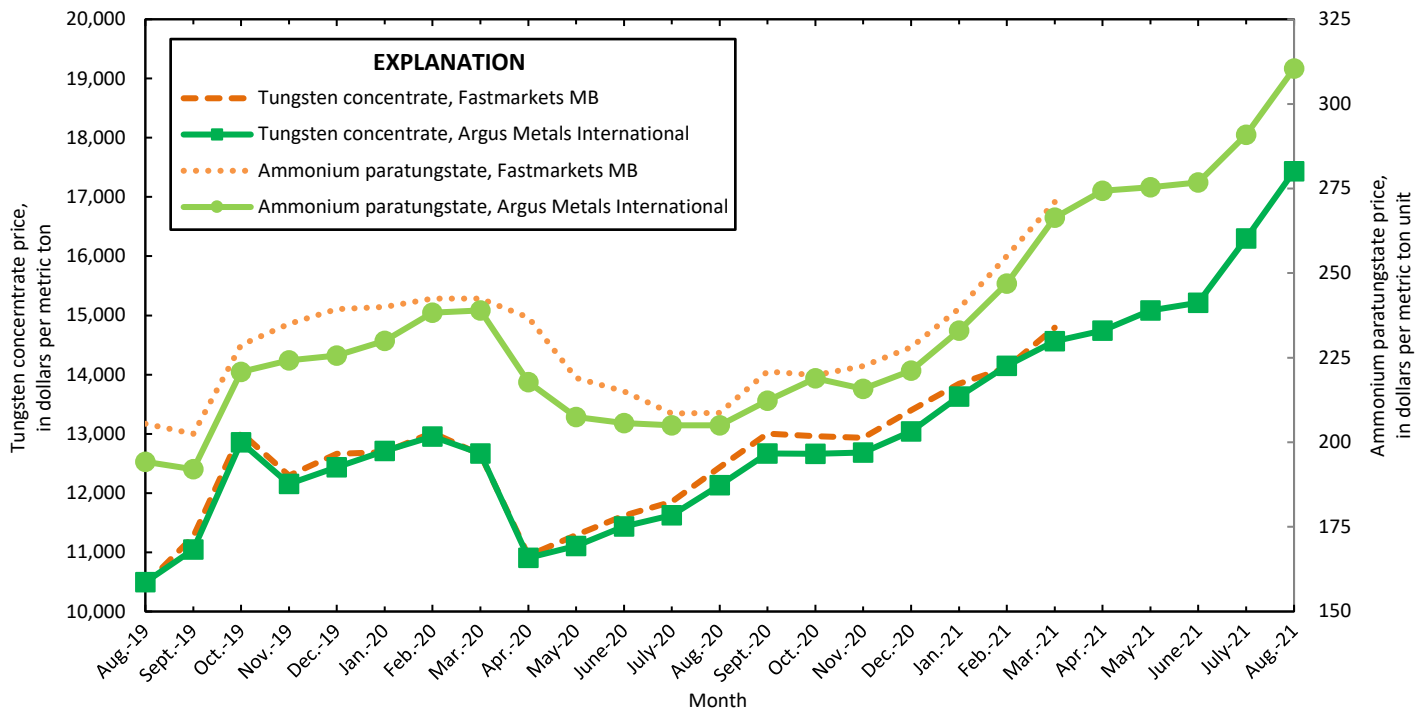


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for August 2019 through August 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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:							
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	--
July	W	108	W	6,900	W	W	--
August	W	180	W	6,850	W	W	--
January–August	W	923	W	6,850	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–August	1,350	577	34	1,290 ^r	843	1,720 ^r	5,810 ^r	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,850	1,120	2,320	8,430	XX
2021:								
June	100	36	--	105	156	286	683	4,070
July	108	60	--	132	169	316	785	4,850
August:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	21
Austria	--	--	16	1	73	2	92	477
Bolivia	113	--	--	--	--	--	113	423
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	11	41	(3)	52	455
China	--	156	--	40	77	72	345	1,510
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	13
Germany	--	22	--	21	(3)	5	48	364
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	69
Israel	--	--	--	--	11	(3)	11	215
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	5	6	106
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	9	--	(3)	9	211
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Portugal	43	--	--	--	--	--	43	275
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	56
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	23	--	--	--	--	--	23	60
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	47	47	391
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	16	--	170	185	1,030
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	12
Total	180	178	16	101	203	301	977	5,830
January–August	923	590	18	933	1,210	2,160	5,830	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 August 2021 totaled 256 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 1,660 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–August	151 ^r	31	135	271	542	1,130	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
June	3	--	47	38	83	172	1,290
July	5	--	46	41	100	192	1,480
August:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	4	21
Austria	--	--	--	10	7	17	59
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	10
Canada	1	--	57	14	6	78	362
China	--	--	(4)	9	8	17	100
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
Czechia	--	--	2	1	(4)	3	11
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Germany	--	--	1	1	1	3	114
India	--	--	2	(4)	(4)	2	13
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	28
Japan	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	22
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	23
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	5	6	9
Mexico	--	--	1	2	8	11	84
Netherlands	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	67
Peru	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	6
Philippines	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	24
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	9
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	6
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	6
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	1	1	34
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	43	43	537
Other	--	1	1	1	1	4	36
Total	1	1	68	43	84	197	1,670
January–August	273	94	294	349	664	1,670	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 August 2021 totaled 23 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 508 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.