

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: ksheddd@usgs.gov

Annie Hwang (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7952
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: ahwang@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 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 October 2021 was 5% more 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 October 2021 was 26% 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 October 2021 monthly average

price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, increased slightly from that in September 2021 and was 37% higher than that in October 2020. The October 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, increased slightly from that in September 2021 and was 46% higher than that in October 2020 (fig. 1).

List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

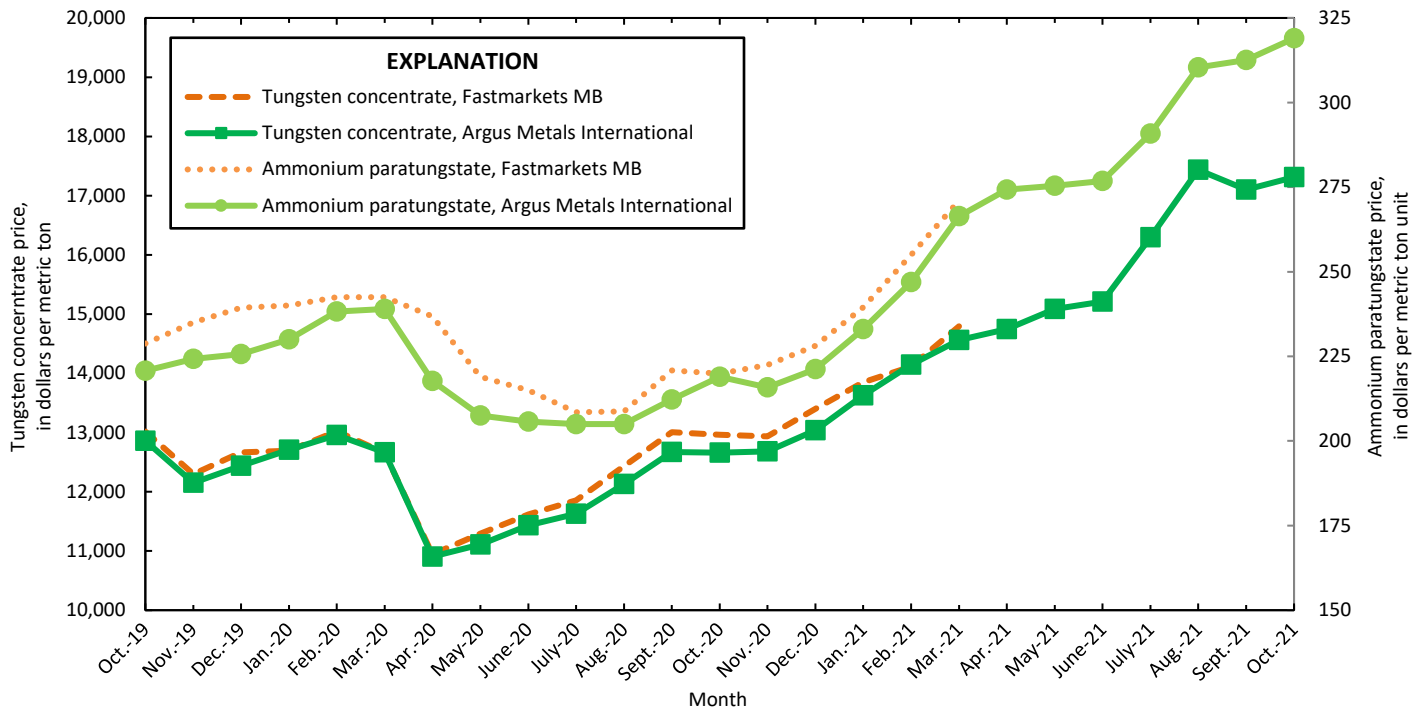


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for October 2019 through October 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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:							
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	--
September	W	135	W	6,850	W	W	--
October	W	107	W	6,850	W	W	--
January–October	W	1,160	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–October	1,710	812	38	1,580 ^r	985	2,000 ^r	7,120 ^r	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,850	1,120	2,320	8,430	XX
2021:								
August:	180	178	16	101	203	301	977	5,830
September	135	77	8	115	200	344	879	6,710
October:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	29
Austria	--	--	--	--	19	2	22	559
Bolivia	56	--	--	--	--	--	56	521
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	21	58	1	80	623
China	--	37	--	27	82	63	208	2,040
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
France	--	--	--	(3)	3	2	5	19
Germany	2	87	--	(3)	13	35	138	543
India	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	95
Israel	--	--	--	6	6	(3)	12	242
Japan	--	--	--	4	(3)	3	7	134
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	238
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	52
Portugal	32	--	--	--	--	--	32	318
Russia	7	--	--	--	--	--	7	107
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	83	83	485
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	31
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	10	93	103	1,280
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	29
Total	107	124	--	58	192	309	789	7,500
January–October	1,160	791	26	1,110	1,600	2,810	7,500	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

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in October 2021 totaled 232 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 2,310 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–October	390	36	178 ⁴	329	728	1,660	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
August	1	1	68	43	84	197	1,670
September	20	2	69	28	59	177	1,850
October:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	26
Austria	--	--	--	--	2	2	70
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	11
Canada	--	--	49	16	6	71	505
China	--	--	1	(4)	4	5	120
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	13
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Finland	--	--	--	--	35	35	75
Germany	--	--	16	3	1	19	138
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	15
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	1	2	31
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	29
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	7	(4)	8	32
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	3	3	13
Mexico	--	--	1	2	10	12	108
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	68
Peru	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	7
Philippines	--	--	--	--	2	2	8
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	24
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	7
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Sweden	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	54
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	36
Vietnam	54	--	--	--	--	54	611
Other	(4)	6	3	4	1	13	50
Total	54	6	70	40	69	240	2,090
January–October	347	101	434	417	792	2,090	XX

¹Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

⁴Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in October 2021 totaled 48 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 612 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.