

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 2021

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

On November 30, 2021, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was 12% less than that at on December 31, 2020. The inventory of tungsten metal powder was depleted in June 2021 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through November 2021 was 7% 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 November 2021 was 23% 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 November 2021 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, decreased slightly from that in October 2021 and was 35% higher than that in November 2020. The November 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, increased slightly from that in October 2021 and was 49% higher than that in November 2020 (fig. 1).

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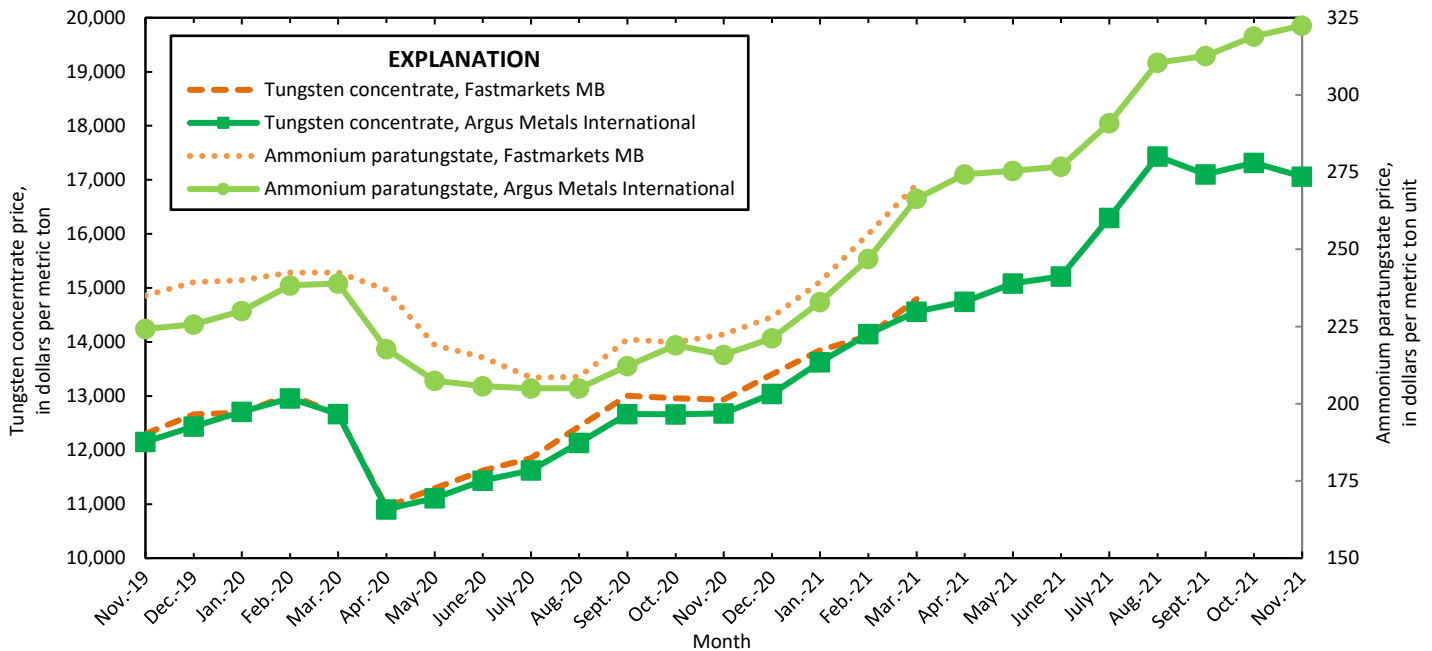


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for November 2019 through November 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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:							
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	--
November	W	176	W	6,660	W	W	--
January–November	W	1,340	W	6,660	W	W	--

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

<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–November	1,880	922	38	1,740 <sup>r</sup>	1,060	2,140 <sup>r</sup>	7,780 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,850	1,120	2,320	8,430	XX
2021:								
September	135	77	8	115	200	344	879	6,710
October	107	124	--	58	192	309	789	7,500
November:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	29
Austria	--	--	--	29	34	2	65	624
Bolivia	124	--	--	--	--	--	124	645
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	11	41	(3)	52	675
China	--	86	--	25	51	91	253	2,290
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
France	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	19
Germany	--	73	--	(3)	1	15	89	632
India	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	98
Israel	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	242
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	8	8	143
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	30	1	(3)	31	269
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	11	--	11	13
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	52
Portugal	42	--	--	--	--	--	42	361
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	107
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	--	--	--	1	--	(3)	1	60
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	498
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	41
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	17	(3)	138	155	1,440
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	28
Total	176	160	--	113	138	271	859	8,360
January–November	1,340	950	26	1,220	1,740	3,080	8,360	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

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in November 2021 totaled 355 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 2,660 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–November	418	36	196	376 <sup>r</sup>	799	1,820 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
September	20	2	69	28	59	177	1,850
October	54	6	70	40	69	240	2,090
November:							
Australia	(4)	--	1	5	(4)	6	32
Austria	--	--	--	--	2	2	71
Brazil	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	12
Canada	--	--	37	5	3	45	550
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	6	7	127
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	15
Czechia	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	14
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	75
Germany	--	--	(4)	4	1	5	143
India	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	15
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	31
Japan	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	29
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	36
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Mexico	--	--	1	1	7	9	117
Netherlands	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	69
Peru	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
Philippines	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	24
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	9
South Africa	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	9
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	7
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	2	38
Vietnam	49	--	--	--	--	49	660
Other	(4)	--	(4)	4	2	6	56
Total	50	--	44	27	27	148	2,240
January–November	397	101	478	444	818	2,240	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 November 2021 totaled 107 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 719 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.