

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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 December 31, 2021, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was 14% less than that 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 2021 was 9% more than that imported during 2020. China remained the leading supplier of imported tungsten to the United States, accounting for 27% of all tungsten imports in 2021, compared with 33% in 2020. In 2021, the United States imported nearly five times more tungsten from Vietnam than in 2020. Vietnam became the second-ranked supplier of tungsten imports, accounting for 16% all tungsten imports in 2021 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2021 was 24% more than that exported in 2020 (table 3).

**Prices**

The following tungsten price comparisons are based on Argus Metals International prices. The December 2021 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was essentially unchanged from that in November 2021 and was 30% higher than that in December 2020. The December 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was unchanged from that in November 2021 and was 46% higher than that in December 2020 (fig. 1).

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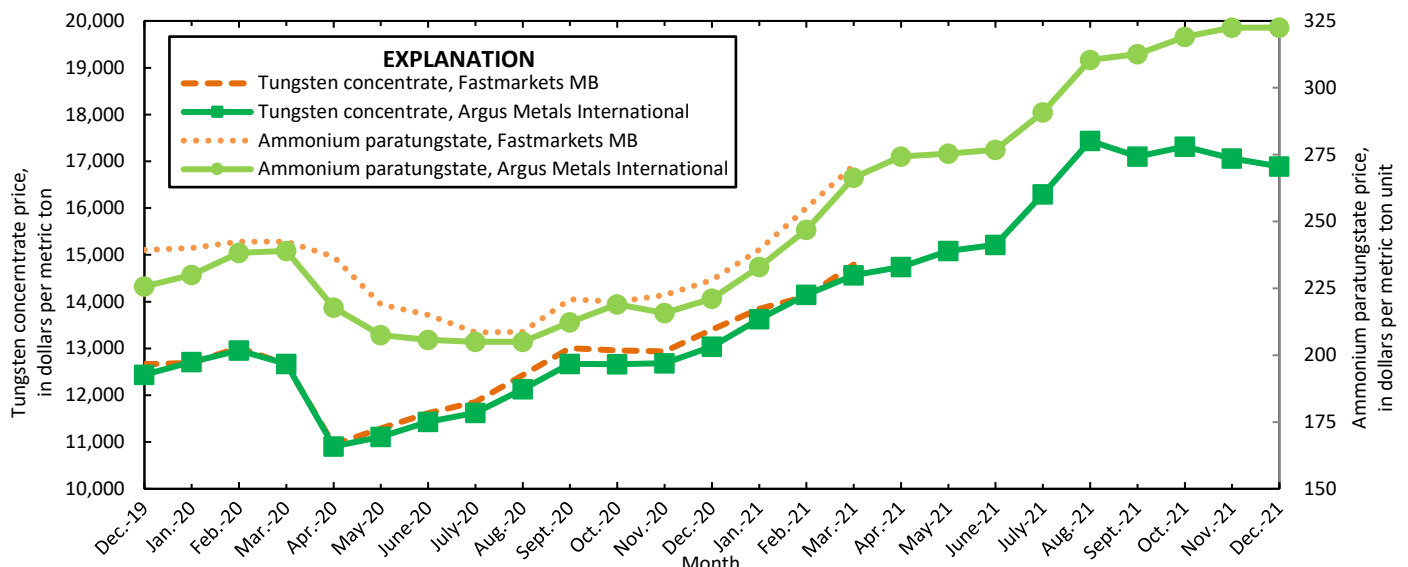


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for December 2019 through December 2021. Sources: Argus Metals International and Fastmarkets MB.

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:							
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	--
December	W	252	W	6,570	W	W	--
January–December	W	1,590	W	6,570	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	2,020	1,080	38	1,850	1,120	2,320	8,430	XX
2021:								
October	107	124	--	58	192	309	789	7,500
November	176	160	--	113	138	271	859	8,360
December:								
Australia	15	--	--	--	--	--	15	44
Austria	--	--	--	1	36	3	40	664
Bolivia	166	--	--	--	--	--	166	811
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	15	51	3	69	744
China	--	22	--	29	68	85	204	2,490
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	21
Germany	30	65	--	6	--	13	114	746
India	--	--	--	--	--	20	20	118
Israel	--	--	--	10	1	(3)	11	252
Japan	--	--	--	3	--	1	4	146
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	10	--	(3)	10	278
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	52
Portugal	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	371
Russia	31	--	--	--	--	--	31	138
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	73	73	571
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	74	74	1,510
Other	--	--	--	(3)	3	1	4	32
Total	252	87	--	73	159	275	846	9,200
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX

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 December 2021 totaled 260 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 2,920 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	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
October	54	6	70	40	69	240	2,090
November	50	--	44	27	27	148	2,240
December:							
Australia	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	35
Austria	--	--	--	--	12	12	83
Brazil	--	14	(4)	1	(4)	16	28
Canada	--	--	65	15	2	81	631
China	(4)	--	--	--	2	3	130
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	16
Czechia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	14
Finland	--	--	--	--	35	35	110
France	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	7
Germany	--	--	3	2	1	7	150
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	16
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	7	7	39
Japan	--	--	(4)	6	(4)	7	36
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	37
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	13
Mexico	--	--	2	1	6	9	126
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	69
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Philippines	--	--	--	--	2	2	11
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	24
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	10
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	9
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	38
Vietnam	43	--	--	--	(4)	44	704
Other	--	(4)	1	2	1	4	54
Total	44	14	72	32	72	234	2,470
January–December	441	116	550	476	891	2,470	XX

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 December 2021 totaled 267 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 986 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.