

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 2022

U.S. reported consumption of tungsten concentrate, net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, and industry stocks of tungsten materials were withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

On February 28, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was 3% less than that on January 31, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January and February 2022 was 5% more than that imported during the same period in 2021 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January and February 2022 was 34% less than that exported during the same period in 2021 (table 3).

The following tungsten price comparisons are U.S. Geological Survey calculations based on Argus Metals International prices. The February 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was 4% higher than that in January 2022 and 31% higher than that in February 2021. The February 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was 3% higher than that in January 2022 and 37% higher than that in February 2021 (fig. 1).

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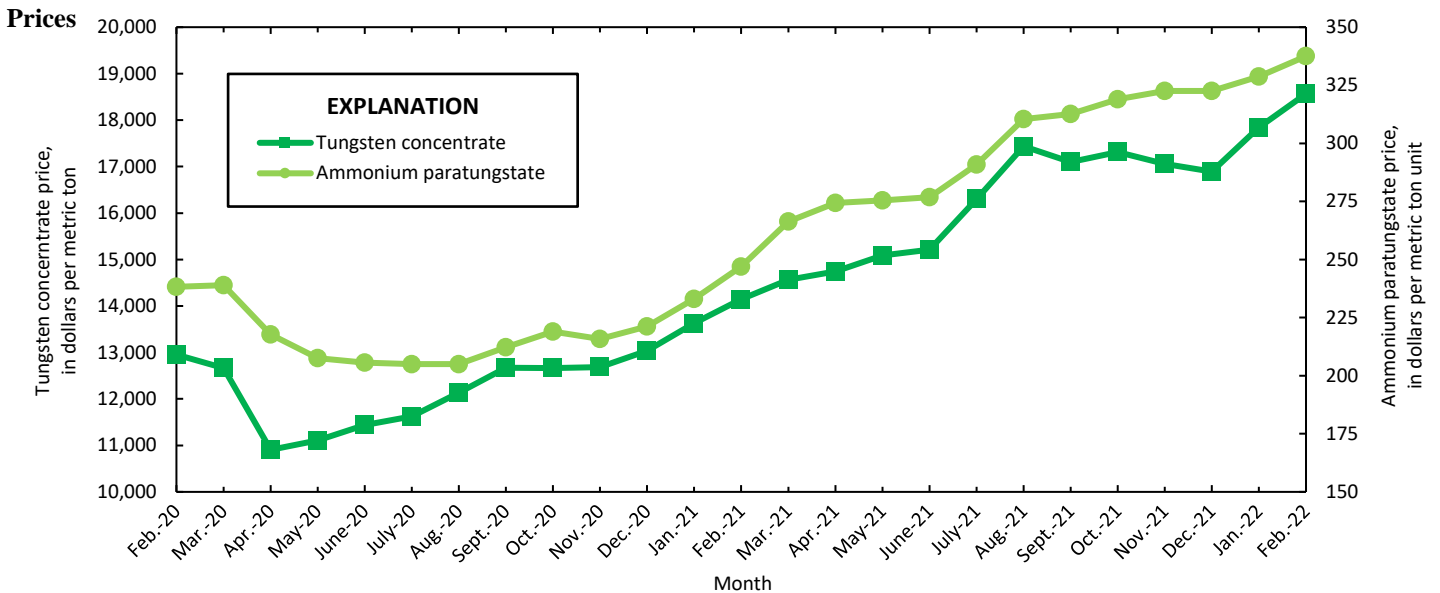


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for February 2020 through February 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

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>		Industry <sup>5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
2021:							
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	--
2022:							
January	W	125	W	6,570	W	W	--
February	W	82	W	6,390	W	W	--
January–February	W	207	W	6,390	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>Consumer stocks.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

<sup>5</sup>Producer stocks of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

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
2021:								
January–February	257	175	(3)	192	241	364	1,230	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
January	125	78	9	159	101	332	804	804
February:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	44	1	45	92
Bolivia	42	--	--	--	--	--	42	84
Canada	--	--	--	42	21	(3)	63	136
China	--	35	--	17	31	56	140	366
France	(3)	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	2	3
Germany	--	18	--	(3)	(3)	21	40	143
India	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	9
Israel	--	--	--	5	4	(3)	9	12
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	1	3	9
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	12	3	(3)	15	38
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Portugal	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	64
Russia	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	37
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	21	21	63
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	24
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	17	17	33
Vietnam	--	--	--	18	--	33	51	156
Other	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	3
Total	82	53	--	99	104	155	492	1,300
January–February	207	131	9	258	205	487	1,300	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

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in February 2022 totaled 247 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 436 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
2021:							
January–February	132	56	68	111	106	473	XX
January–December	441	116	550	476	891	2,470	XX
2022:							
January	30	1	55	37	57	180	180
February:							
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	10
Canada	--	--	48	9	3	60	129
China	--	(4)	(4)	9	11	21	34
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	4
Germany	--	--	(4)	13	1	14	17
India	--	--	1	(4)	3	4	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	1	3	8
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	7	9	18
Vietnam	4	--	--	--	--	4	62
Other	(4)	1	2	4	6	14	26
Total	4	2	54	38	34	132	312
January–February	34	2	110	75	91	312	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 February 2022 totaled 165 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 525 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.