Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-4974
Email: kshedd@usgs.gov

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

Internet: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys

TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 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 March 31, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was essentially unchanged from that on February 28, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through March 2022 was 10% 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 through March 2022 was 33% less than that exported during the same period in 2021 (table 3).

Prices

The following tungsten price comparisons are U.S. Geological Survey calculations based on Argus Metals International prices. The March 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was essentially unchanged from that in February 2022 and 27% higher than that in March 2021. The March 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was 3% higher than that in February 2022 and 30% higher than that in March 2021 (fig. 1).

Industry News

In March, Tungsten West plc made several announcements about progress on its Hemerdon project in Devon, England. The company signed the engineering procurement and construction management contract for the detailed design and construction needed to restart production at the mine and beneficiation plant. Tungsten West aimed to optimize performance at the plant by introducing a new crushing and screening circuit that would feed x-ray transmission (XRT) ore-sorting equipment and began preparatory work for installation of the XRT ore sorters. Delivery of new screens and vibrating pans was expected in the second quarter of 2022. The mine is forecast to produce 2,800

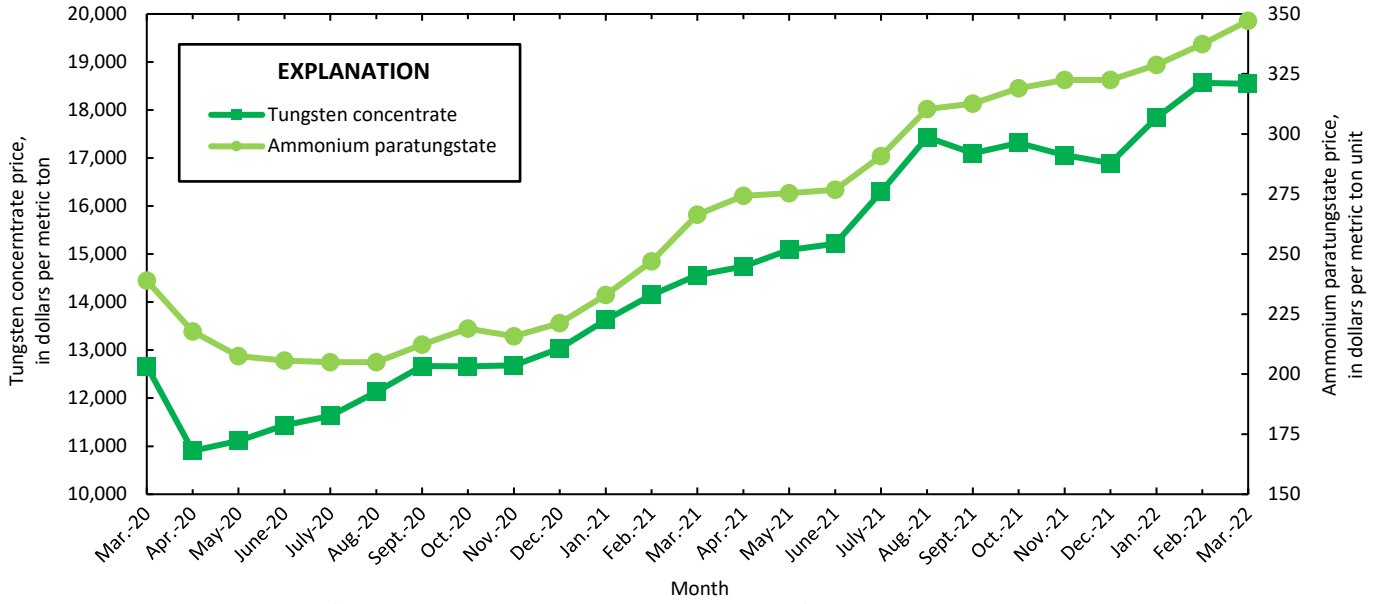

Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for March 2020 through March 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

metric tons per year (t/yr) of tungsten in concentrate and 500 t/yr of tin in concentrate once it reached steady state production (Tungsten West plc, 2022a, b).

References Cited

Tungsten West plc, 2022a, Breaking ground at Hemerdon: London, United Kingdom, Tungsten West plc news release, March 21. (Accessed May 18, 2022, at https://www.investegate.co.uk/article.aspx?id=20220321070952415 9F.)

Tungsten West plc, 2022b, Hemerdon project update EPCM contract signed: London, United Kingdom, Tungsten West plc news release, March 3. (Accessed May 18, 2022, at https://www.investegate.co.uk/article.aspx?id=20220303070008512 0D.)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consump-tion	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production[4]	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry[2]	U.S. Government[3]		Industry[5]	U.S. Government[3]
2021:							
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	--
March	W	96	W	6,300	W	W	--
January–March	W	303	W	6,300	W	W	--

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

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

[2]Consumer stocks.

[3]Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

[4]Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

[5]Producer stocks of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY[1]

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concen-trates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other[2]	Total	Total, year to date
2021:								
January–March	332	216	3	310	349	687	1,900	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	82	53	--	99	104	155	492	1,300
March:								
Australia	7	--	--	--	--	(3)	7	7
Austria	--	--	--	19	11	1	31	124
Bolivia	42	--	--	--	--	--	42	127
Canada	--	--	--	12	15	3	31	167
China	(3)	32	--	29	65	124	250	617
France	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	2	5
Germany	14	61	--	7	--	35	118	260
India	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	20
Israel	--	--	--	5	5	(3)	10	22
Japan	--	--	--	15	--	20	35	44
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	14	--	(3)	14	53
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Portugal	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	85
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	37
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	52	52	115
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	34
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	33
Vietnam	--	--	5	18	--	131	155	312
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	6
Total	96	94	5	122	96	381	793	2,090
January–March	303	225	14	380	300	868	2,090	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

[2]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 content estimated in part.

[3]Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in March 2022 totaled 234 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 670 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY[1]

(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
2021:							
January–March	200	84	90	163	176	714	XX
January–December	441	116	550	476	891	2,470	XX
2022:							
January	30	1	55	37	57	180	180
February	4	2	54	38	34	132	312
March:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	2	1	2	13
Austria	--	--	--	--	9	9	11
Belgium	--	--	--	6	(4)	6	7
Canada	--	--	48	12	2	63	191
Chile	--	--	1	--	--	1	3
China	--	--	(4)	2	3	5	40
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Czechia	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	3
France	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	3
Germany	--	--	2	12	1	14	31
India	--	--	(4)	6	(4)	6	11
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	3
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	2	4	12
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	3
Mexico	--	--	3	2	9	13	31
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	3
Vietnam	27	--	--	--	--	27	89
Other	--	--	1	3	3	7	20
Total	27	--	57	48	33	165	477
January–March	61	2	166	124	124	477	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

[2]Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

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

[4]Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in March 2022 totaled 416 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 941 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.