Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 April 30, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was slightly less than that on March 31, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through April 2022 was 8% 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 April 2022 was 25% 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 April 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was essentially unchanged from that in March 2022 and 26% higher than that in April 2021. The April 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in March 2022 and 28% higher than that in April 2021 (fig. 1).

Industry News

Almonty Industries Inc. (of Canada) announced that it is investigating the construction of a vertically integrated downstream tungsten processing plant at its Sangdong Mine project in Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea. The plant would produce tungsten oxide nanopowder for battery anode manufacturing in country. The plant would have the capacity to produce 3,000 to 4,000 metric tons per year of tungsten oxide from the following feed materials: tungsten concentrate from the Sangdong Mine, which was forecast to begin commissioning in the second half of 2023, concentrates from other Almonty mines

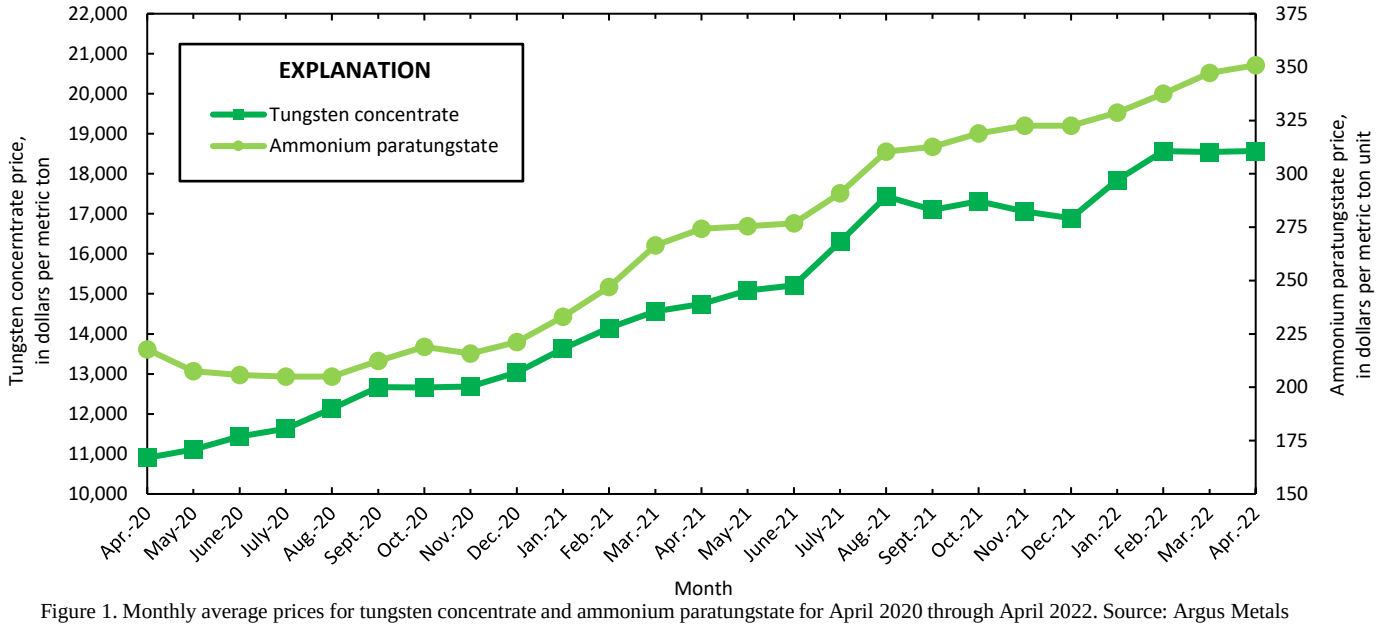

Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for April 2020 through April 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

if needed, and locally produced tungsten scrap (Almonty Industries Inc., 2022a, b).

References Cited

Almonty Industries Inc., 2022a, Almonty investigating the construction of a vertically integrated nano tungsten oxide downstream processing plant to supply South Korean battery anode and cathode manufacturing industry; LOI with KfW IPEX-Bank for a further US$50 million for downstream funding: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Almonty Industries Inc. news release, March 30, 5 p. (Accessed December 8, 2022, at https://almonty.com/2022/03/30/nano-tungsten-oxide-downstream-processing-plant/.)

Almonty Industries Inc., 2022b, Third Sangdong loan facility drawdown & project update: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Almonty Industries Inc. news release, November 15, 3 p. (Accessed December 8, 2022, via https://almonty.com/2022/11/15/sangdong-mine-project-update-and-third-kfw-drawdown/.)

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:							
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	105	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	--
April	W	181	W	6,170	W	W	--
January–April	W	483	W	6,170	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–April	462	288	3	453 r	520	953	2,680 r	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
February	82	53	--	99	104	155	492	1,300
March	96	94	5	122	96	381	793	2,090
April:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Austria	--	--	--	49	61	5	114	238
Bolivia	113	--	--	--	--	--	113	240
Canada	--	--	--	23	30	--	54	221
China	--	19	--	44	84	46	193	810
Czechia	--	--	--	--	7	(3)	7	8
France	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Germany	1	24	--	(3)	1	1	26	287
India	--	--	--	--	--	12	12	32
Israel	--	--	--	2	4	--	6	28
Japan	--	--	--	6	1	1	8	52
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	20	--	1	21	74
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Portugal	32	--	--	--	--	--	32	117
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	(3)	25	62
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	32	32	146
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	44
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	33
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	142	142	453
Other	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Total	181	43	--	145	187	240	796	2,890
January–April	483	268	14	525	488	1,110	2,890	XX

rRevised. 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 April 2022 totaled 367 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 1,040 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–April	200	92	113	143 r	274 r	823 r	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422 r	892 r	2,420 r	XX
2022:							
February	4	2	54	38	34	132	312
March	27	--	57	48	33	165	477
April:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	2	1	4	16
Austria	--	--	--	--	5	5	16
Belgium	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	8
Canada	--	--	34	31	3	68	260
Chile	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	3
China	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	6	6	46
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	2	2	6
Czechia	--	--	--	1	--	1	4
France	--	--	2	2	(4)	5	7
Germany	2	--	4	14	1	20	51
India	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	12
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	1	2	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	1	2	15
Korea, Republic of	--	1	(4)	--	1	2	5
Mexico	--	--	(4)	(4)	9	10	41
Philippines	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	3
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(4)	2	2	5
Vietnam	1	--	--	--	--	1	89
Other	(4)	--	3	2	1	6	24
Total	2	1	45	56	35	139	616
January–April	63	3	212	180	158	616	XX

rRevised. 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 April 2022 totaled 389 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 1,330 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.