

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MAY 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 May 31, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was essentially unchanged from that on April 30, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through May 2022 was 15% 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 May 2022 was 18% 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 May 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was 9% lower than that in April 2022 and 12% higher than that in May 2021. The May 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in April 2022 and 27% higher than that in May 2021 (fig. 1).

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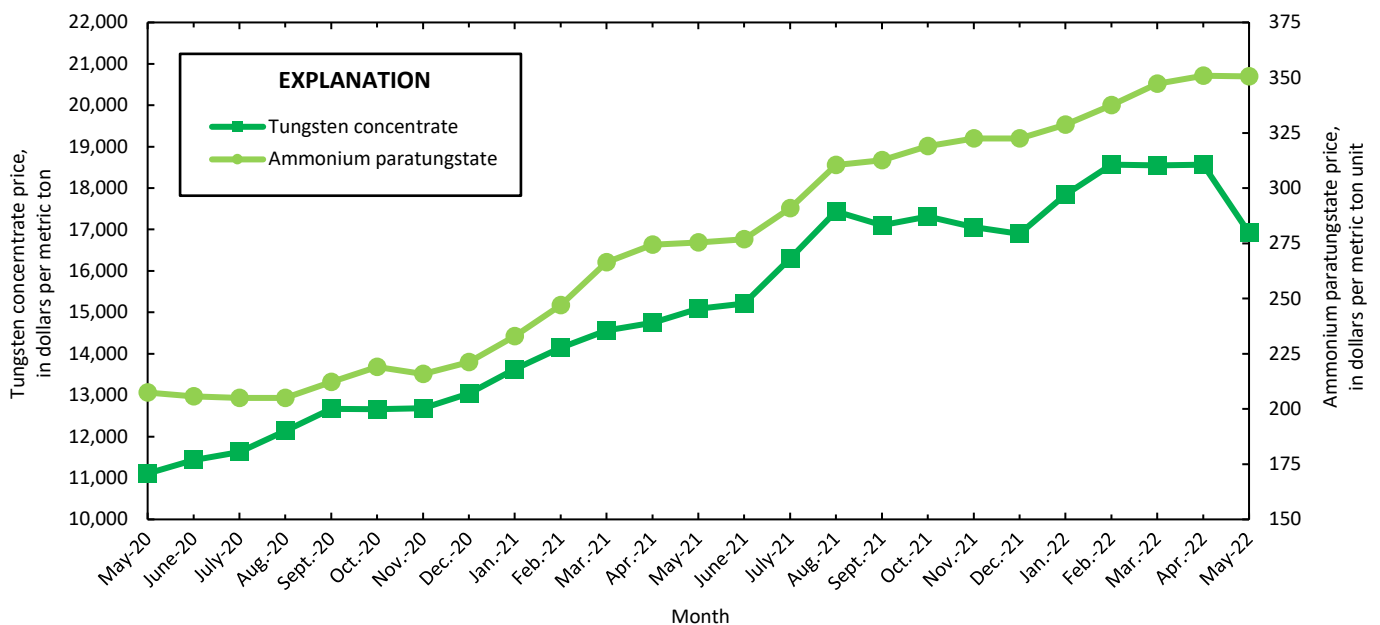


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for May 2020 through May 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

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:							
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	--
May	W	256	W	6,080	W	W	--
January–May	W	739	W	6,080	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–May	535	317	3	588 <sup>r</sup>	680 <sup>r</sup>	1,260	3,380	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
March	96	94	5	122	96	381	793	2,090
April	181	43	--	145	187	240	796	2,890
May:								
Australia	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	14
Austria	--	--	--	30	85	2	117	356
Bolivia	169	--	--	--	--	--	169	409
Canada	--	--	--	51	33	8	92	313
China	2	57	--	17	145	72	293	1,100
Czechia	--	--	--	--	5	(3)	5	13
France	--	--	--	5	1	3	10	15
Germany	--	85	--	(3)	2	21	108	395
India	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	43
Israel	--	--	--	--	5	(3)	5	32
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	18	18	70
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	41	--	(3)	41	115
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Portugal	32	--	--	--	--	--	32	149
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	(3)	26	87
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	42	42	188
Thailand	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	64
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	33
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	15	15	468
Other	1	--	(3)	--	--	1	2	7
Total	256	142	(3)	145	276	193	1,010	3,900
January–May	739	410	14	670	763	1,300	3,900	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 content estimated in part.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in May 2022 totaled 254 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 1,290 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–May	264	92	133	173 <sup>r</sup>	398 <sup>r</sup>	1,060 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422	892	2,420	XX
2022:							
March	27	--	57	48	33	165	477
April	2	1	45	56	35	139	616
May:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	(4)	5	21
Austria	--	--	--	--	5	5	20
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	8
Brazil	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	5
Canada	--	--	59	13	3	75	335
Chile	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	3
China	--	1	(4)	(4)	24	25	71
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3	3	9
Czechia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	8
Germany	--	--	1	12	3	16	67
India	--	--	2	1	(4)	3	15
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	6
Japan	--	--	1	3	1	5	19
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	5
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
Mexico	--	--	3	1	9	12	53
Netherlands	62	--	(4)	--	(4)	62	64
Peru	--	--	2	(4)	--	2	3
Philippines	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	3
United Kingdom	--	--	3	(4)	1	4	9
Vietnam	26	--	--	--	--	26	116
Other	--	--	2	3	2	7	23
Total	89	1	74	39	55	257	874
January–May	152	4	286	219	213	874	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 May 2022 totaled 184 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 1,510 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.