

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JULY 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 July 31, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was unchanged from that on June 30, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through July 2022 was 20% 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 July 2022 was slightly more 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 July 2022 monthly average price for

tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was unchanged from that in June 2022 and unchanged from that in July 2021. The July 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in June 2022 and 19% higher than that in July 2021 (fig. 1).

Industry News

Group 6 Metals Ltd. (Australia) announced that it was on track to begin production of tungsten concentrate from the Dolphin Mine in the quarter ending March 31, 2023. The mine, which is near the town of Grassy on the southeast coast of King Island, Tasmania, Australia, was to begin as an open pit operation that would produce approximately 1,700 metric tons per year of tungsten in concentrate for 8 years and then shift to an underground operation that would produce a similar amount of tungsten in concentrate for 6 years. Group 6 Metals had offtake agreements for up to 65% of its production during the first 4 years of operation (Group 6 Metals Ltd., 2022, p. 2, 4, 8).

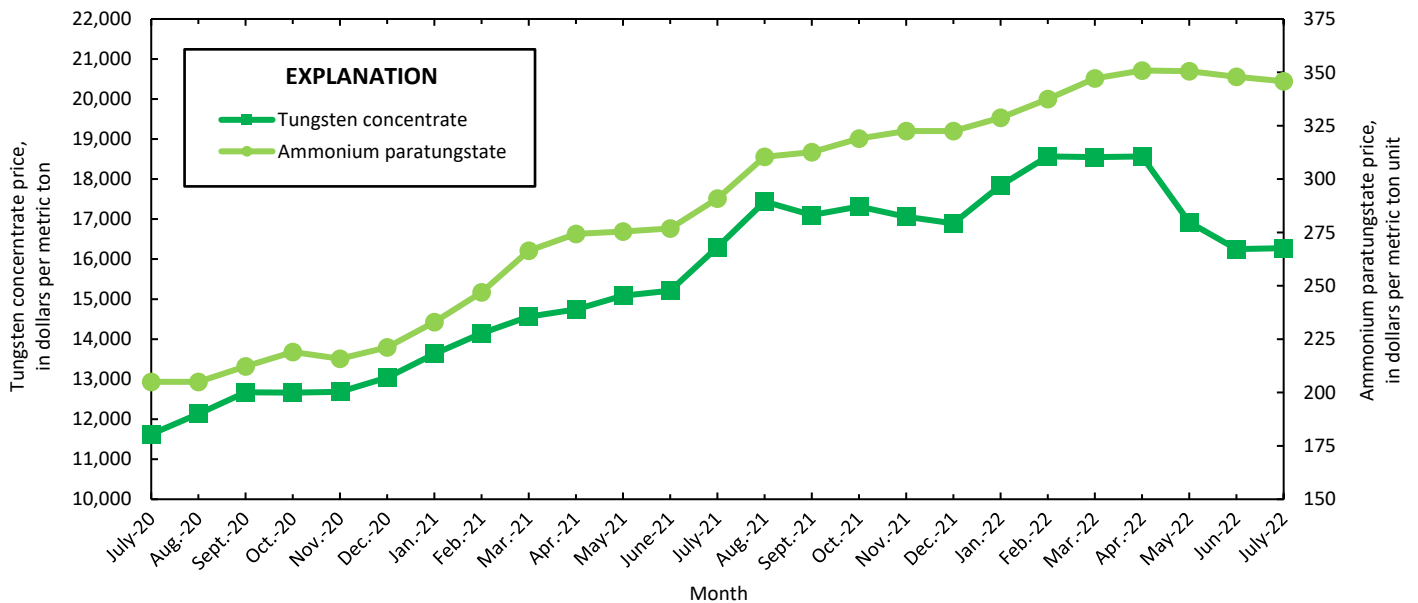


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for July 2020 through July 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

Reference Cited

Group 6 Metals Ltd., 2022, NWR webinar—Dolphin operations update: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Group 6 Metals Ltd. presentation, July 18, 13 p. (Accessed December 12, 2022, at <https://wcsecure.weblink.com.au/pdf/G6M/02543328.pdf>.)

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TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production ³	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ⁴	U.S. Government ²		Industry ⁵	U.S. Government ²
2021:							
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	--
June	W	156	W	6,080	W	W	--
July	W	224	W	6,080	W	W	--
January–July	W	1,120	W	6,080	W	W	--

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

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

²Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

³Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁴Consumer stocks.

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

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2021:								
January–July	740 ^r	412	3	831 ^r	1,010 ^r	1,860	4,850	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
May	256	142	(3)	145	276	193	1,010	3,900
June	156	125	--	178	184	297	941	4,840
July:								
Australia	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	23
Austria	--	--	--	37	85	2	124	572
Bolivia	184	--	--	--	--	--	184	691
Canada	2	--	--	37	29	(3)	68	456
China	--	18	--	40	95	62	215	1,680
Czechia	--	--	--	1	--	(3)	2	15
France	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	17
Germany	--	48	--	(3)	1	18	67	506
India	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	70
Israel	--	--	--	21	7	--	28	60
Japan	(3)	--	--	7	(3)	15	23	125
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	36	--	(3)	36	170
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	41
Portugal	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	181
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	113
Spain	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	12
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	42	42	272
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	84
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	34
Vietnam	--	--	--	14	--	122	136	692
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	10
Total	224	66	--	195	217	294	995	5,830
January–July	1,120	601	14	1,040	1,160	1,890	5,830	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Includes 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

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in July 2022 totaled 245 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 1,840 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(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–July	273	92	226	252 ^r	582 ^r	1,430 ^r	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422	892	2,420	XX
2022:							
May	89	1	74	39	55	257	874
June	151	--	88	58	62	359	1,230
July:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	10	(4)	10	31
Austria	--	--	--	--	2	2	29
Belgium	(4)	--	--	1	--	1	10
Brazil	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	8
Canada	--	--	62	3	1	66	500
China	--	--	--	(4)	4	4	102
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	2	3	17
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	10
Germany	--	--	3	2	6	10	103
India	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	16
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	15
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	23
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	13
Malaysia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
Mexico	--	(4)	2	1	11	14	79
Netherlands	24	--	(4)	--	(4)	24	88
Peru	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	4
Philippines	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
United Kingdom	--	--	1	(4)	1	1	12
Vietnam	68	--	--	--	--	68	334
Other	--	3	1	2	2	8	41
Total	91	3	71	22	35	222	1,450
January–July	394	7	444	299	309	1,450	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in July 2022 totaled 138 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 1,740 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.