

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 AUGUST 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 August 31, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was essentially unchanged from that on July 31, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through August 2022 was 16% 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 August 2022 was 6% 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 August 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, increased by 5% from that in July 2022 and was slightly lower than that in August 2021. The August 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in July 2022 and was 10% higher than that in August 2021 (fig. 1).

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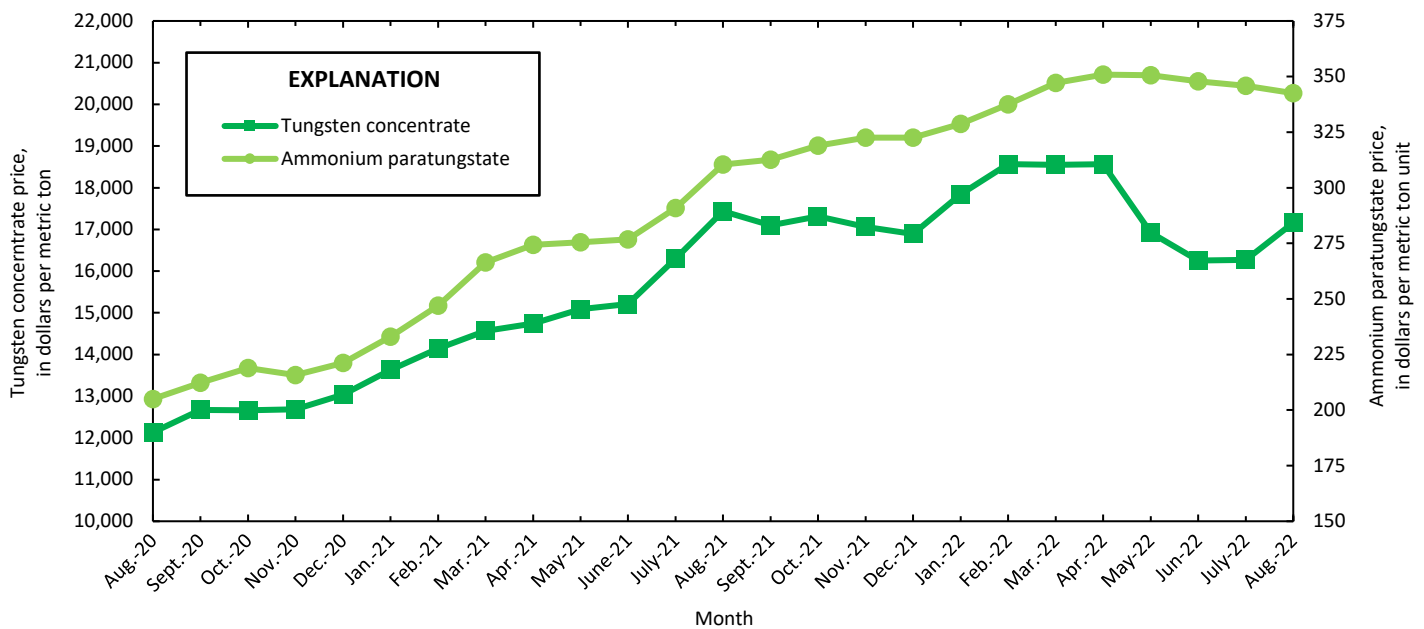


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for August 2020 through August 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

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 ⁴	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Industry ⁵	U.S. Government ³
2021:							
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	--
August	W	134	W	6,000	W	W	--
January–August	W	1,250	W	6,000	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.

²Consumer stocks.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

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

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	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2021:								
January–August	920 ^r	590	18	931 ^r	1,210	2,160	5,830	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
June	156	125	--	178	184	297	941	4,840
July	224	66	--	195	217	294	995	5,830
August:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	23
Austria	--	--	--	48	102	2	152	724
Bolivia	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	719
Canada	--	--	--	23	19	(3)	42	499
China	2	57	--	40	100	130	329	2,010
Czechia	--	--	--	14	--	(3)	14	29
Estonia	--	--	7	--	--	--	7	7
France	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	19
Germany	(3)	--	--	--	(3)	5	6	511
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	71
Israel	--	--	--	4	7	(3)	11	71
Japan	(3)	--	--	1	--	11	12	138
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	15	--	(3)	15	185
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41
Portugal	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	202
Russia	50	--	--	--	--	--	50	163
Spain	22	--	--	1	--	--	22	34
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	62	62	334
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	1	11	94
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	34
Vietnam	--	--	8	--	--	123	131	823
Other	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	13
Total	134	57	15	146	228	341	921	6,760
January–August	1,250	658	29	1,190	1,390	2,230	6,760	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 estimated in part.

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in August 2022 totaled 365 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 2,200 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–August	273	94	294	294 ^r	666 ^r	1,620 ^r	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422	892	2,420	XX
2022:							
June	151	--	88	58	62	359	1,230
July	91	3	71	22	35	222	1,450
August:							
Australia	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	34
Austria	--	--	4	--	5	9	38
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	8
Canada	--	--	76	5	6	87	587
Chile	--	--	2	--	--	2	5
China	--	--	2	(4)	3	5	107
Costa Rica	--	--	(4)	--	3	3	20
Czechia	--	--	--	2	--	2	8
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	10
Germany	--	--	(4)	14	1	15	119
India	--	--	3	(4)	(4)	4	20
Indonesia	--	--	2	1	--	3	6
Israel	(4)	--	--	3	(4)	4	19
Japan	--	--	(4)	6	(4)	6	30
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	15
Malaysia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	8
Mexico	--	--	2	1	9	12	91
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	89
Peru	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4
Philippines	--	--	(4)	--	1	2	7
Spain	--	--	--	5	--	5	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	12	1	13	25
Vietnam	81	--	--	--	(4)	81	415
Other	--	--	3	(4)	1	5	39
Total	81	--	95	54	32	263	1,720
January–August	475	7	539	354	342	1,720	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 August 2022 totaled 15 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 1,750 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.