

Mineral Industry Surveys

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

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through September 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 September 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 September 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was slightly less than that in August 2022 and slightly less than that in September 2021. The September 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was unchanged from that in August 2022 and 9% higher than that in September 2021 (fig. 1).

Industry News

In September, the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) announced that it would be suspending new Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP) assessments in Russia. The RMI provides independent third-party RMAP assessments that determine which smelters and refiners can be verified to have systems in place to responsibly source minerals consistent with current global standards. The decision to suspend new assessments in Russia was made following a review of evolving legal compliance requirements and broader risks associated with facilitating assessments in Russia after Russian troops took

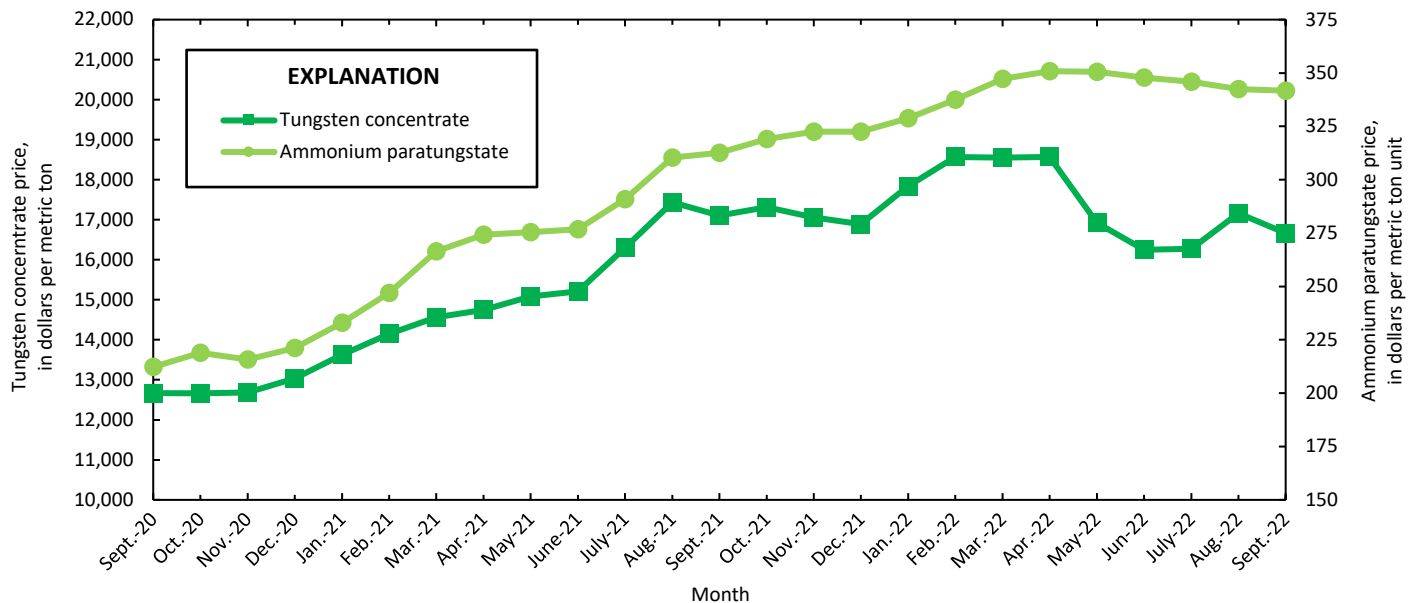


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for September 2020 through September 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

control of parts of Ukraine in February 2022. Without new assessments, Russian facilities will be removed from the conformant and active smelter and refiner lists. Conformant facilities are those that have successfully completed an RMAP assessment and active facilities are those that have agreed to undergo an RMAP assessment. A facility's conformant status or lapse does not confer approval or ban of minerals or related products from those facilities (Responsible Minerals Initiative, 2022).

Reference Cited

Responsible Minerals Initiative, 2022, Notice regarding RMAP Russia-based auditees: Alexandria, VA, Responsible Minerals Initiative news release, September 19. (Accessed December 27, 2022, at [https://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/news/notice-regarding-rmap-russia-based-auditees/.](https://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/news/notice-regarding-rmap-russia-based-auditees/))

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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 ⁴	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Industry ⁵	U.S. Government ³
2021:							
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	--
September	W	245	W	6,000	W	W	--
January–September	W	1,500	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	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2021:								
January–September	1,060	667	26	1,050	1,410	2,500	6,710	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
July	224	66	--	195	217	294	995	5,830
August	134	57	15	146	228	341	921	6,760
September:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Austria	--	--	--	6	27	1	34	758
Bolivia	152	--	--	--	--	--	152	871
Canada	--	--	--	42	24	4	70	569
China	--	20	--	88	82	89	279	2,290
Czechia	--	--	--	33	--	(3)	33	62
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	20
Germany	--	18	--	6	(3)	5	28	540
India	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	84
Israel	--	--	--	4	--	(3)	4	75
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	139
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	31	--	32	63	248
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41
Portugal	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	223
Russia	51	--	--	--	--	--	51	214
Spain	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	45
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	45	45	379
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	104
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	34
Vietnam	--	--	15	29	--	94	138	961
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	2	15
Total	245	38	15	237	134	286	956	7,710
January–September	1,500	696	45	1,430	1,530	2,520	7,710	XX

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 September 2022 totaled 424 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 2,630 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–September	293	96	363	322 ^r	724 ^r	1,800 ^r	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422	892	2,420	XX
2022:							
July	91	3	71	22	35	222	1,450
August	81	--	95	54	32	263	1,720
September:							
Australia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	34
Austria	--	--	1	--	5	6	44
Belgium	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	11
Brazil	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	9
Canada	--	--	47	4	2	53	641
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	2	3	109
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3	3	23
Czechia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	9
France	--	--	1	(4)	1	1	11
Germany	--	--	(4)	23	1	24	143
India	--	--	1	(4)	1	1	21
Indonesia	--	--	--	1	--	1	7
Israel	--	--	--	1	--	1	20
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	1	2	32
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	16
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	10	11	101
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	89
Philippines	--	--	--	--	2	2	8
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	6
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	26
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	415
Other	--	--	2	3	2	6	49
Total	--	--	54	37	29	120	1,840
January–September	475	7	593	390	371	1,840	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 September 2022 totaled 24 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 1,780 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.