

Mineral Industry Surveys

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

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through October 2022 was 18% 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 October 2022 was 3% 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 October 2022 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, decreased by 7% from that in September 2022 and was 11% lower than that in October 2021. The October 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in September 2022 and was 6% higher than that in October 2021 (fig. 1).

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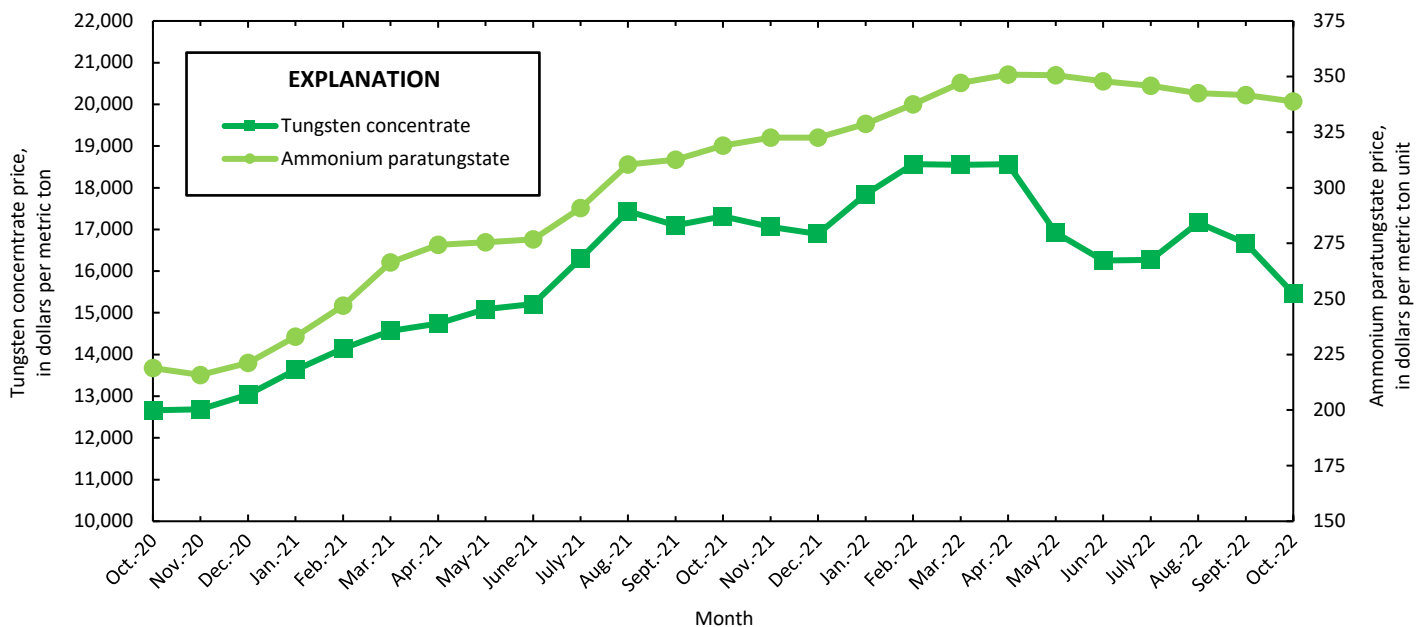


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for October 2020 through October 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

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:							
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	--
October	W	202	W	6,000	W	W	--
January–October	W	1,700	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–October	1,160	791	26	1,100	1,600	2,810	7,490 ^r	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
August	134	57	15	146	228	341	921	6,760
September	245	38	15	237	134	286	956	7,710
October:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Austria	--	--	--	36	67	2	105	863
Bolivia	133	--	--	--	--	--	133	1,000
Canada	--	--	--	49	28	(3)	77	646
China	--	127	--	33	32	72	265	2,550
Czechia	--	--	--	40	--	(3)	40	102
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	21
Germany	1	79	--	1	(3)	36	119	658
India	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	96
Israel	--	--	--	10	7	--	17	92
Japan	--	--	--	17	--	2	19	158
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	8	(3)	(3)	8	255
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	15	15	56
Portugal	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	245
Russia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	239
Spain	22	--	--	--	--	--	22	67
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	68	68	447
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	104
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	35
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	163	163	1,120
Other	--	--	--	1	1	2	3	18
Total	202	207	--	195	136	373	1,110	8,830
January–October	1,700	902	45	1,620	1,660	2,890	8,830	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 estimated in part.

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in October 2022 totaled 318 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 2,950 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–October	347	101	434	363 ^r	793 ^r	2,040 ^r	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422	892	2,420	XX
2022:							
August	81	--	95	54	32	263	1,720
September	--	--	54	37	29	120	1,840
October:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	36
Austria	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	44
Belgium	--	--	--	1	--	1	12
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	1	10
Canada	--	--	51	14	2	67	707
Chile	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	3	3	113
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	4	4	27
Czechia	--	--	--	2	--	2	10
Denmark	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	5
France	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	12
Germany	--	--	(4)	2	2	4	147
India	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	22
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Israel	--	--	--	2	1	3	23
Japan	--	--	(4)	9	2	10	43
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	16
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
Mexico	--	--	3	1	9	13	115
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	89
Philippines	--	--	--	--	2	2	10
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	3	3	7
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	6
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	(4)	2	28
Vietnam	25	--	--	--	(4)	25	440
Other	--	1	1	(4)	2	4	45
Total	25	1	57	35	30	148	1,980
January–October	500	8	651	426	400	1,980	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 October 2022 totaled 78 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 1,860 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.