

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 2019

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through March 2019 was essentially unchanged from that imported during the same period in 2018 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through March 2019 was 5% less than that exported during the same period in 2018 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged in March 2019. The March 2019 monthly average price was 15% lower than that in March 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The March 2019 monthly average price was 18% lower than that in March 2018. The

following prices for March 2019, in dollars per metric ton unit, were converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar:

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$250/short ton unit WO₃)

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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 ^{p,4}	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³		Producer ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³
2018:							
March	W	258	W	9,740	W	W	126
April	W	310	W	9,630	W	W	125
May	W	332	W	9,540	W	W	125
June	W	455	W	9,450	W	W	125
July	W	196	W	9,390	W	W	125
August	W	385	W	9,250	W	W	125
September	W	425	W	9,170	W	W	125
October	W	475	W	9,170	W	W	125
November	W	169	W	9,090	W	W	125
December	W	435	W	8,990	W	W	125
January–December	W	4,060	W	8,990	W	W	125
2019:							
January	W	315	W	8,900	W	W	125
February	W	251	W	8,760	W	W	125
March	W	282	W	8,640	W	W	125
January–March	W	848	W	8,640	W	W	125

^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

²Reported by consumers; includes estimates.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

⁵Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers; includes estimates.

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
2018	4,060	2,200	143	1,460	1,520	2,120	11,500	XX
2019:								
January	315	60	27	137	201	77	817	817
February	251	199	--	135	161	165	910	1,730
March:								
Austria	--	--	--	11	15	4	30	156
Bolivia	112	--	--	--	--	--	112	336
Brazil	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	11
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Canada	--	--	--	21	32	--	53	141
China	--	76	--	76	65	91	308	1,030
France	--	--	--	(3)	2	1	3	6
Germany	--	57	--	3	1	26	86	127
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	3
Israel	--	--	--	--	11	(3)	11	38
Japan	--	--	--	4	--	2	6	43
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	8	--	(3)	8	31
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Mongolia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	47
Nigeria	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	15	15	22
Poland	5	--	--	--	--	--	5	15
Portugal	57	--	--	--	--	--	57	163
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	78
Spain	62	--	--	--	--	--	62	177
Switzerland	--	--	6	--	--	(3)	6	7
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	20	20	83
Other	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	2	8
Total	282	134	6	123	125	162	833	2,560
January–March	848	392	33	395	487	404	2,560	XX

-- 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 March 2019 totaled 288 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 693 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
2018	284	106	259	1,180	1,020	2,850	XX
2019:							
January	(4)	--	18	46	98	162	162
February	18	1	16	91	101	228	390
March:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	12
Austria	--	--	2	--	8	10	57
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	12
Canada	1	--	5	23	5	34	89
China	--	--	--	3	1	4	16
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	3
Czechia	--	--	1	13	1	14	17
France	1	--	(4)	1	1	3	5
Germany	--	--	1	18	1	20	55
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
India	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	7
Ireland	--	--	--	7	(4)	7	9
Japan	--	--	1	2	61	63	184
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	5
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	14	16	52
Netherlands	64	--	--	--	20	84	86
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2	2	--	4	6
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	3
South Africa	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	3	2	3	8	10
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Other	--	--	2	4	2	8	19
Total	66	--	20	79	119	283	673
January–March	84	1	53	217	318	673	XX

-- 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 March 2019 totaled 119 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 172 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.