

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 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 November 2019 was slightly less than 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 November 2019 was 10% 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, decreased in late October 2019. The November monthly average price was 7% lower than that of October 2019 and 22% lower than that in November 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The November 2019 monthly average price was 18% lower than that in November 2018. The following prices

for November 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—\$276/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$250/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$287/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$260/short ton unit WO_3)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$240/short ton unit WO_3)
High—\$276/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$250/short ton unit WO_3)

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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:							
November	W	169	W	9,090	W	W	125
December	W	435	W	8,990	W	W	125
January–December	W	4,050	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
April	W	200	W	8,520	W	W	125
May	W	274	W	8,520	W	W	125
June	W	335	W	8,480	W	W	125
July	W	143	W	8,480	W	W	125
August	W	255	W	8,480	W	W	125
September	W	106	W	8,370	W	W	125
October	W	422	W	8,370	W	W	125
November	W	116	W	8,330	W	W	125
January–November	W	2,700	W	8,330	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	4,050	2,200	143	1,440	1,530	2,120	11,500	XX
2019:								
September	106	155	12	129	177	385	965	8,030
October	422	135	4	175	140	271	1,150	9,180
November:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	17	3	20	481
Bolivia	42	--	--	--	--	--	42	1,190
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
Canada	--	--	--	67	11	1	79	650
China	--	93	--	106	77	98	373	3,680
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	2	21
Germany	--	17	--	2	(3)	31	51	756
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	70
India	--	--	--	(3)	10	(3)	10	59
Israel	--	--	--	13	8	(3)	21	166
Japan	--	--	--	3	--	1	4	173
Korea, Republic of	--	--	7	20	--	(3)	28	149
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	143
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Nigeria	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	181
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	118
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Portugal	33	--	--	--	--	--	33	516
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	207
Rwanda	5	--	--	--	--	--	5	23
Spain	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	288
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	79	79	270
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	6	6	29
Uganda	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	61
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	3	3	11
Vietnam	--	--	4	1	--	107	112	703
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	3	20
Total	116	110	11	215	124	345	920	10,100
January–November	2,700	1,380	84	1,760	1,810	2,370	10,100	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

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 November 2019 totaled 289 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 2,900 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	260	1,180	1,020	2,850	XX
2019:							
September	171	5	16	31	78	299	2,090
October	30	2	18	30	94	175	2,270
November:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	28
Austria	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	123
Belgium	--	--	--	1	--	1	5
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	23
Canada	--	--	12	8	3	23	293
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	74
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	8
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	37
France	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	28
Germany	--	--	(4)	2	1	3	135
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
India	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	39
Indonesia	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	9
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	14
Japan	--	(4)	(4)	3	29	33	599
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	13
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	4	2	(4)	16	23	241
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	204
Peru	--	--	--	1	--	1	5
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	22
Singapore	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	6
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	13
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	2	--	2	13
Thailand	--	--	--	1	1	2	108
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	29
Vietnam	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	225
Other	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	3	27
Total	--	4	20	24	52	101	2,370
January–November	569	32	194	619	957	2,370	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

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 November 2019 totaled 79 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 794 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.