

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 2020

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 February 2020 was 18% less than that imported during the same period in 2019 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through February 2020 was 26% less than that exported during the same period in 2019 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, have remained unchanged since late October 2019. The February 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 11% lower than that in February 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December

2018. The following prices for February 2020, 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 WO₃ (\$250/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$287/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$260/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
2019:							
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
December	W	72	W	8,330	W	W	126
January–December	W	2,770	W	8,330	W	W	126
2020:							
January	W	189	W	8,240	W	W	125
February	W	105	W	8,000	W	W	125
January–February	W	294	W	8,000	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
2019:								
January–February	566	259	27	271	362	242	1,730	XX
January–December	2,770	1,430	96	1,920	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
January	189	14	10	204	79	190	686	686
February:								
Austria	--	--	--	2	15	1	18	23
Bolivia	55	--	--	--	--	--	55	139
Canada	--	--	--	26	16	2	44	90
China	--	103	--	120	53	83	358	591
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Czechia	3	--	--	--	--	(3)	3	4
France	--	--	--	--	3	1	4	8
Germany	--	28	--	14	(3)	11	53	70
Israel	--	--	--	1	12	--	13	49
Japan	(3)	--	--	12	(3)	10	22	37
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	27	3	(3)	30	53
Poland	3	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Portugal	32	--	--	--	--	--	32	75
Russia	2	--	1	--	--	--	3	57
Rwanda	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	68	68	159
Ukraine	--	--	4	--	--	--	4	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	2	--	(3)	2	2
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Other	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	2
Total	105	130	4	203	102	177	722	1,410
January–February	294	144	15	407	181	367	1,410	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 February 2020 totaled 356 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 652 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
2019:							
January–February	18	1	34	137	199	390	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,530	XX
2020:							
January	15	--	17	42	68	143	143
February:							
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	5	5	12
Canada	--	--	6	9	2	17	36
China	--	--	--	4	1	4	12
Czechia	--	--	3	--	(4)	3	12
Germany	--	--	(4)	6	1	8	12
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	8	65	73	77
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	8	(4)	9	11
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	17	19	38
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	37
United Kingdom	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Other	--	--	2	3	2	7	17
Total	--	--	15	39	93	147	290
January–February	15	--	32	81	161	290	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 February 2020 totaled 101 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 158 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.