

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: ksheddd@usgs.gov

Annie Hwang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: ahwang@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 April 2020 was 3% 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 April 2020 was 37% less than that exported during the same period in 2019 (table 3).

Prices

In mid-April, the weekly average price for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, decreased by 14%. This was the first time the price changed since late October 2019. The April 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 8% lower than that in March 2020 and 18% lower than that in April 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since

mid-December 2018. The following prices for April 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—\$231/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$210/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:							
April	W	200	W	8,520	W	W	125
May	W	269 ^r	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	2,760 ^r	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
March	W	347	W	7,900	W	W	125
April	W	92	W	7,900	W	W	125
January–April	W	733	W	7,900	W	W	125

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2019:								
January–April	1,050	475	33	564 ^r	652 ^r	550 ^r	3,320 ^r	XX
January–December	2,760 ^r	1,430	96	1,910 ^r	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
February	105	130	4	203	102	177	722	1,410
March	347	109	4	179	128	192	959	2,370
April:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	44	2	47	113
Bolivia	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	360
Canada	--	--	--	19	18	(3)	37	174
China	--	121	--	101	99	54	375	1,240
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
France	--	--	--	(3)	2	(3)	2	11
Germany	--	30	--	3	(3)	31	64	179
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Israel	--	--	--	31	34	--	65	156
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9	10	85
Korea, Republic of	--	--	8	13	--	--	21	87
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	27
Poland	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	6
Portugal	45	--	--	--	--	--	45	166
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	138
Rwanda	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	48
Spain	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	9
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	93	93	317
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	--	(3)	1	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	29	29	62
Other	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	5
Total	92	151	8	169	198	233	850	3,220
January–April	733	404	27	755	507	791	3,220	XX

^rRevised. -- 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 April 2020 totaled 239 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 1,190 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–April	150	17	68	298	382	916	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540 ^r	XX
2020:							
February	--	--	15	39	93	147	290
March	36	--	10	34	71	152	442
April:							
Australia	--	--	--	6	2	8	21
Austria	--	--	--	9	5	14	30
Brazil	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4
Canada	--	--	5	5	5	15	70
China	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	15
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	3
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	13
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	--	1	2	(4)	3	24
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	96
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	14
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Mexico	--	(4)	2	(4)	8	10	71
Netherlands	40	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	40	41
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	19
South Africa	--	22	--	--	--	22	23
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	54
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	8
Vietnam	9	--	--	--	--	9	34
Other	--	--	1	1	2	3	19
Total	49	23	10	28	26	135	577
January–April	100	23	53	144	258	577	XX

^rRevised. -- 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 April 2020 totaled 75 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 356 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.