

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MAY 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 May 2020 was 9% 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 May 2020 was 42% less than that exported during the same period in 2019 (table 3).

### Prices

The May 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 6% lower than that in April 2020 and 23% lower than that in May 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The following prices for May 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 WO<sub>3</sub> (\$210/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$254/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$230/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$240/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$250/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production <sup>p,4</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry <sup>p,2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Producer <sup>p,5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
<b>2019:</b>							
May	W	269	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	W	8,330	W	W	126
<b>2020:</b>							
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
May	W	76	W	7,820	W	W	125
January–May	W	810	W	7,820	W	W	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

<sup>2</sup>Reported by consumers; includes estimates.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

<sup>5</sup>Data 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 LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2019:								
January–May	1,310	551	40	750	773	810	4,240	XX
January–December	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
March	347	109	4	179	128	192	959	2,370
April	92	151	8	169	198	233	850	3,220
May:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	36	2	39	153
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	360
Canada	--	--	--	20	7	(3)	27	201
China	(3)	--	--	83	63	77	225	1,460
Congo (Kinshasa)	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	21
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
France	--	--	--	3	--	1	4	15
Germany	--	2	--	3	(3)	3	8	186
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	16	16	16
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Israel	--	--	--	25	--	(3)	25	181
Japan	--	--	--	4	--	9	13	98
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	10	1	(3)	11	98
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	40
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Portugal	56	--	--	--	--	--	56	223
Russia	--	--	4	--	--	--	4	142
Rwanda	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	56
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	76	76	394
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	15	--	77	92	154
Other	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	6
Total	76	2	4	164	108	276	630	3,850
January–May	810	406	30	919	614	1,070	3,850	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in May 2020 totaled 127 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 1,320 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of destination	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Ammonium Tungstates	Metal powder <sup>2</sup>	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2019:							
January–May	276	18	81	374	508	1,260	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
March	36	--	10	34	71	152	442
April	49	23	10	28	26	135	577
May:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	3	2	5	26
Austria	--	--	--	--	5	5	35
Brazil	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	1	4
Canada	--	--	8	10	2	20	90
China	--	--	(4)	7	2	8	24
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	4
Czechia	--	--	3	--	--	3	16
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	--	1	6	1	8	33
Hong Kong	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	1	6
India	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	46	48	145
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	14
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
Mexico	--	4	2	1	11	17	88
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	42
Russia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	19
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	9	9	64
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	1	1	10
Vietnam	5	--	--	--	4	9	43
Other	--	--	2	1	1	4	20
Total	5	4	18	32	87	146	724
January–May	105	27	71	176	346	724	XX

-- Zero. XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in May 2020 totaled 71 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 426 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.