

Mineral Industry Surveys

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

Prices

Platts' weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate have remained unchanged since mid-April 2020. The August 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 23% lower than that in August 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The following prices for August 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—\$254/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$230/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:							
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
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
May	W	76	W	7,820	W	W	125
June	W	160	W	7,710	W	W	125
July	W	80	W	7,710	W	W	125
August	W	296	W	7,680	W	W	125
January–August	W	1,350	W	7,680	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–August	2,050 ^r	978	56	1,230 ^r	1,370	1,370	7,050 ^r	XX
January–December	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
June	160	86	--	146	86	241	719	4,570
July	80	14	2	135	79	233	542	5,110
August:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	17	1	19	188
Bolivia	252	--	--	--	--	--	252	696
Canada	--	--	--	18	2	5	26	246
China	--	54	--	21	33	31	139	2,090
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
France	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	20
Germany	--	18	--	(3)	1	20	39	329
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	47
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	9
Israel	--	--	--	30	10	--	40	317
Japan	--	--	--	8	--	1	9	137
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	21	--	(3)	21	140
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Portugal	34	--	--	--	--	(3)	34	348
Russia	--	--	2	--	--	--	2	171
Rwanda	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	65
Spain	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	10
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	82	82	637
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	195
Other	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	3	10
Total	296	72	2	101	64	144	678	5,790
January–August	1,350	577	34	1,300	843	1,690	5,790	XX

¹Revised. -- 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 August 2020 totaled 90 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 1,720 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–August	368	20	140	535	733	1,800	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
June	(4)	4	20	48	101	174	898
July	35	--	19	15	25	93	991
August:							
Australia	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	36
Austria	--	--	--	--	4	4	51
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	16
Canada	--	--	15	15	7	36	169
China	--	--	--	(4)	3	3	31
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	21
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	3	44
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	7
India	--	--	2	(4)	(4)	2	9
Indonesia	--	--	1	--	--	1	4
Israel	--	--	--	--	3	3	7
Japan	--	(4)	1	3	(4)	5	154
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	5	(4)	6	21
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	16	18	139
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	54
Russia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	20
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	24
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	--	35	35	170
United Kingdom	--	--	1	2	(4)	3	15
Vietnam	12	--	1	--	--	13	91
Other	--	--	1	1	1	3	33
Total	12	(4)	26	31	70	140	1,130
January–August	152	31	135	271	542	1,130	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 August 2020 totaled 33 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 542 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.