



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 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 November 2020 was 23% 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 November 2020 was 23% less than that exported during the same period in 2019 (table 3).

**Prices**

S&P Global Platts Metals' weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate have remained unchanged since mid-April 2020. The November 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 14% lower than that in November 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The

following prices for November 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>
2019:							
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
September	W	159	W	7,660	W	W	107
October	W	201	W	7,660	W	W	107
November	W	173	W	7,660	W	W	107
January–November	W	1,880	W	7,660	W	W	107

<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–November	2,690 <sup>†</sup>	1,380	84	1,750 <sup>†</sup>	1,810	2,370	10,100	XX
January–December	2,760	1,430	96	1,910	1,940	2,670	10,800	XX
2020:								
September	159	137	2	114	51	134	596	6,380
October	201	98	3	179	92	143	715	7,100
November:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	19	1	20	231
Bolivia	111	--	--	--	--	--	111	1,030
Canada	--	--	--	28	21	--	49	378
China	--	24	--	37	22	41	124	2,610
Congo (Kinshasa)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Finland	--	--	--	6	--	--	6	6
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	23
Germany	1	86	--	2	(3)	2	91	539
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	47
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	18
Israel	--	--	--	46	10	(3)	55	489
Japan	--	--	--	7	--	2	8	149
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	22	--	(3)	22	219
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	54
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Portugal	46	--	--	--	--	(3)	46	494
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	176
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	85
Spain	16	--	--	--	--	--	16	26
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	87	87	824
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	13	1	--	14	249
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	14
Total	173	110	--	160	73	148	664	7,760
January–November	1,880	922	38	1,750	1,060	2,110	7,760	XX

<sup>†</sup>Revised. -- 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 November 2020 totaled 164 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 2,180 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–November	569	32	194	619	957	2,370	XX
January–December	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,540	XX
2020:							
September	82	1	25	27	150	284	1,410
October	156	4	18	31	36	245	1,660
November:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	2	7	52
Austria	--	--	--	--	4	4	62
Brazil	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	19
Canada	--	--	6	19	1	26	244
China	--	--	--	5	5	10	56
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	--	(4)	12	(4)	12	65
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
India	--	--	1	(4)	1	3	15
Israel	--	--	--	1	3	4	19
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	6	8	243
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	27
Malaysia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	6
Mexico	--	--	1	1	9	11	182
Netherlands	--	--	7	--	(4)	7	61
Philippines	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Russia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	28
South Africa	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	28
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	35	35	256
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	17
Vietnam	28	--	--	--	--	28	347
Other	--	--	1	2	1	3	46
Total	28	--	19	47	71	165	1,830
January–November	418	36	196	375	799	1,830	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 November 2020 totaled 114 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 906 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.