

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 2021

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 and February 2021 was 13% less than that imported during the same period in 2020 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January and February 2021 was 63% more than that exported during the same period in 2020 (table 3).

Prices

The February 2021 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, based on weekly price ranges reported by

Fastmarkets MB, was slightly higher than that in January 2021 and essentially unchanged from that in February 2020. The February 2021 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, based on monthly price ranges reported by Fastmarkets MB, was 6% higher than that in January 2021 and 5% higher than that in February 2020 (fig. 1).

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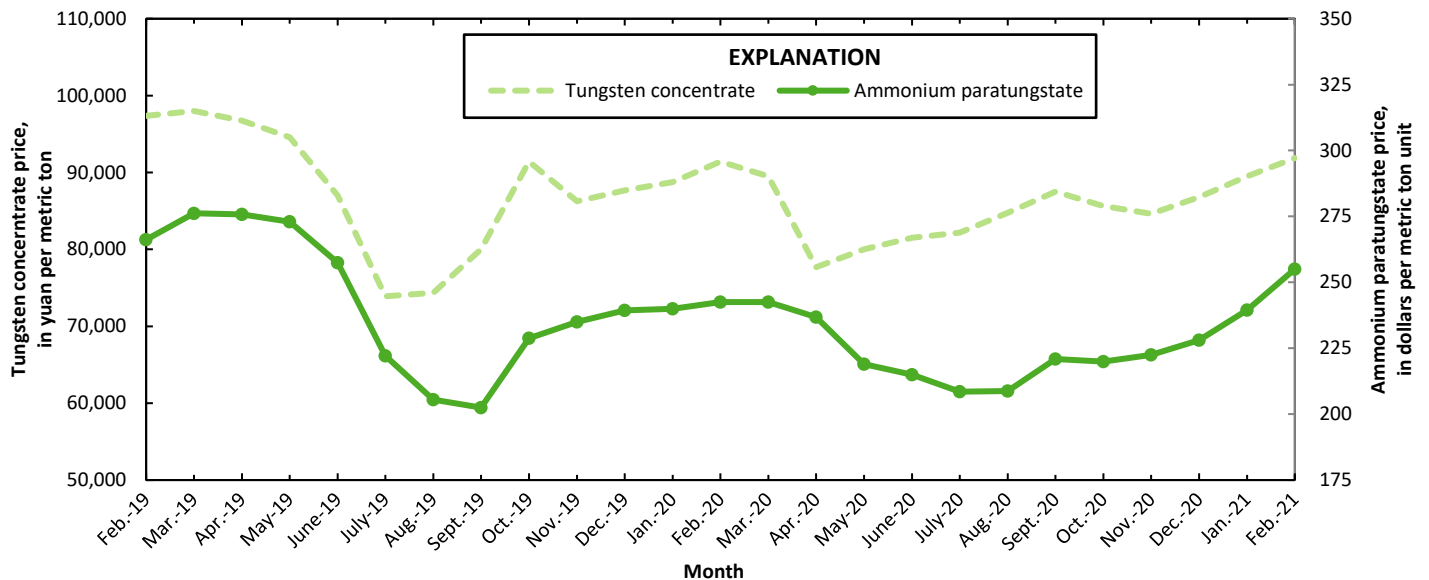


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate, in-warehouse China, and ammonium paratungstate, c.i.f. Rotterdam and Baltimore duty-free, for February 2019 through February 2021. Source: Fastmarkets MB.

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 ⁴	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Producer ⁵	U.S. Government ³
2020:							
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
December	W	140	W	7,600	W	W	93
January–December	W	2,020	W	7,600	W	W	93
2021:							
January	W	136	W	7,600	W	W	93
February	W	122	W	7,360	W	W	92
January–February	W	257	W	7,360	W	W	92

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
2020:								
January–February	294	144	15	407	181	367	1,410	XX
January–December	2,020	1,080	38	1,870	1,120	2,290	8,420	XX
2021:								
January	136	121	(3)	108	111	109	585	585
February:								
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	45	2	47	67
Bolivia	52	--	--	--	--	--	52	108
Burundi	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	12
Canada	--	--	--	19	18	1	39	108
China	--	12	--	(3)	50	24	86	209
Cote D'Ivoire	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Germany	1	42	--	--	--	12	54	148
India	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	3
Israel	--	--	--	--	16	(3)	16	77
Japan	(3)	--	--	8	(3)	1	9	18
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	36	--	(3)	36	36
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Portugal	32	--	--	--	--	--	32	76
Russia	7	--	--	--	--	--	7	7
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Singapore	10	--	--	--	--	(3)	10	10
Spain	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	13
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	101	101	120
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	--	20	--	113	133	153
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	3
Total	122	54	--	84	130	256	645	1,230
January–February	257	175	(3)	192	241	364	1,230	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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 2021 totaled 183 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 324 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
2020:							
January–February	15	--	32	81	161	290	XX
January–December	480	36	205	415	856	1,990	XX
2021:							
January	6	--	19	80	44	149	149
February:							
Australia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	3
Austria	--	--	--	--	6	6	10
Brazil	(4)	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	3
Canada	--	--	43	11	2	56	70
China	--	--	(4)	9	6	15	22
Germany	--	55	1	3	2	62	72
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	8
Israel	--	--	--	1	3	4	9
Japan	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	4
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	4	(4)	5	6
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	6	8	17
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	13
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
Vietnam	126	--	--	--	33	160	163
Other	(4)	--	1	2	3	6	14
Total	126	56	49	31	62	324	473
January–February	132	56	68	111	106	473	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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 2021 totaled 69 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 94 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.