

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 2012

The following comparisons are based on preliminary data. U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 16% less during January through April 2012 than net production during the same period in 2011.

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in January through April 2012 was 6% less than that consumed during the same period in 2011. These materials were used to make alloys, cemented carbides, mill products, and other products, such as catalysts and pigments. The tables of U.S. consumption by end use and U.S. consumption and stocks by material have been discontinued owing to a lack of publishable data. U.S. consumer stocks are now included in Table 1.

Data for U.S. imports and exports of tungsten for April 2012 are published in this issue.

Prices

Selected prices from Metal Bulletin for April 2012 are listed below. U.S. ammonium paratungstate prices in dollars per metric ton unit were converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar. Prices for tungsten ore concentrates represent combined prices for wolframite and scheelite concentrates with a minimum tungsten trioxide (WO₃) content of 65%. Concentrate prices in dollars per short ton unit were converted from metric-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$408/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$370/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$435/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$395/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$140/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$127/short ton unit WO₃)
High—\$160/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$145/short ton unit WO₃)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products					
	Reported consumption ^p	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Reported scrap consumption ^p	Net production ^{p,4}	Reported consumption ^{p,5}	Stocks, end of period		U.S. Government ³
			Industry ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³				Consumer ^{p,5}	Producer ^{p,6}	
2011:										
April	W	283	W	17,000	(7)	736	1,080	554	612	171
May	W	469	W	15,900	685	717	1,050	554	605	171
June	W	259	W	15,900	1,140	745	1,280	558	653	171
July	W	432	W	15,900	630	578	968	553	686	171
August	W	277	W	15,800	577	469	951	547	686	160
September	W	181	W	15,800	(7)	602	947	544	653	160
October	W	283	W	15,800	(7)	636	946	537	762	125
November	W	304	W	15,800	(7)	543	942	535	676	125
December	W	158	W	15,800	(7)	559	930	542	682	125
January–December	W	3,640	W	15,800	9,520	7,790	12,100	542	682	125
2012:										
January	W	340	W	15,800	609	498	945	541	659	125
February	W	224	W	15,800	636	612	946	541	639	125
March	W	402	W	15,800	896	723	953	W	767	125
April	W	318	W	15,800	642	647	994	W	734	125
January–April	W	1,280	W	15,800	2,780	2,480	3,840	W	734	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.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA Strategic Materials. Data are uncommitted material only.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁵Data for ferrotungsten, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten chemicals, tungsten metal powder, and tungsten scrap reported by consumers. Includes estimates.

⁶Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

⁷Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "January–December."

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS^{P, 1}

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product ³	Net production ²				Stocks at end of period		
	2011	2012			2011	2012	
		March	April	January–April ⁴		March	April
Metal powder	3,330	254	308	969	273	311	321
Tungsten carbide powder	4,460	469	339	1,510	410	456	413
Total	7,790	723	647	2,480	682	767	734

^PPreliminary.

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

²Receipts plus gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

³Data for cast and crystalline tungsten carbide powder and tungsten chemicals are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in "Total."

⁴May include revisions to previously published data.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2011	3,640	2,020	206	1,370	1,690	2,950	11,900	XX
2012:								
February	224	89	42	116	135	128	735	1,720
March	402	65	36	101	71	214	889	2,610
April:								
Australia	6	--	--	--	--	(3)	6	6
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	39
Belgium	--	--	--	--	4	--	4	8
Bolivia	81	--	--	--	--	--	81	420
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	44
Canada	--	--	--	12	12	(3)	24	130
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
China	--	121	8	22	66	181	398	1,530
Colombia	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	32
Germany	7	--	--	23	11	3	44	195
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Israel	--	--	--	39	--	--	39	99
Japan	--	--	--	2	6	2	10	21
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	34	2	(3)	36	129
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Mexico	2	--	--	--	--	(3)	2	5
Mongolia	22	--	--	--	--	--	22	22
Peru	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	102
Portugal	82	--	--	--	--	--	82	305
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	14
Spain	74	--	--	--	--	--	74	189
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	32
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Vietnam	14	--	--	--	--	--	14	116
Other	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	9
Total	318	121	8	132	102	195	875	3,490
January–April	1,280	514	90	461	415	723	3,490	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 April 2012 totaled 146 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April 2012 total of 563 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Ores and concentrates ²	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder ²	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ³	Total	Total, year to date
2011	169	977	686	1,250	1,390	4,470	XX
2012:							
February	1	39	75	109	155	380	676
March	15	30	47	96	100	288	964
April:							
Argentina	--	--	5	--	(4)	5	9
Australia	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	4
Austria	--	--	7	--	(4)	8	66
Brazil	--	--	2	3	(4)	6	33
Canada	--	--	13	6	44	64	309
China	(4)	--	2	2	1	5	38
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	1	1	8
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	22
Germany	--	69	12	9	4	94	240
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	13
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
India	--	2	3	--	6	11	28
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	8	8	34
Ireland	--	--	--	7	--	7	20
Israel	--	--	--	1	--	1	11
Italy	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	5
Japan	--	--	1	1	12	13	35
Korea, Republic of	--	--	2	(4)	(4)	2	6
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	--	1	2	11	14	32
Peru	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	6
Saudi Arabia	--	--	30	(4)	--	30	76
Singapore	--	--	1	(4)	5	7	22
South Africa	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	4	8
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Taiwan	--	--	4	(4)	--	4	32
Thailand	--	--	(4)	(4)	2	2	10
Turkey	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	6
United Kingdom	--	1	(4)	9	(4)	10	98
Venezuela	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	14
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	16
Other	--	--	2	(4)	1	3	17
Total	(4)	72	86	53	97	308	1,270
January–April	17	179	259	344	473	1,270	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: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in April 2012 totaled 178 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April 2012 total of 772 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.