

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 2013

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was 14% less during January through March 2013 than net production during the same period in 2012.

Total U.S. reported consumption of ferrotungsten, tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, tungsten scrap, and other tungsten materials in January through March 2013 was 8% less than that consumed during the same period in 2012. These materials were used to make alloys, cemented carbides, mill products, and other products, such as catalysts and pigments.

Data for U.S. imports and exports of tungsten for March 2013 are published in this issue.

### Prices

Prices for March 2013 were sourced from Platts Metals Daily. The prices listed below 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—\$358/metric ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$  (\$325/short ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$ )  
High—\$364/metric ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$  (\$330/short ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$ )

Concentrates:

Low—\$353/metric ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$  (\$320/short ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$ )  
High—\$364/metric ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$  (\$330/short ton unit  $\text{WO}_3$ )

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Reported scrap consumption <sup>p</sup>	Intermediate products				
	Reported consumption <sup>p</sup>	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period			Net production <sup>p,4</sup>	Reported consumption <sup>p,5</sup>	Stocks, end of period		U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
			Industry <sup>p,2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>				Consumer <sup>p,5</sup>	Producer <sup>p,6</sup>	
2012:										
March	W	402	W	15,800	893 <sup>r</sup>	723	1,000 <sup>r</sup>	W	767	125
April	W	318	W	15,800	650 <sup>r</sup>	647	1,080 <sup>r</sup>	W	734	125
May	W	276	W	15,800	(7)	596	1,040 <sup>r</sup>	W	683	125
June	W	269	W	15,800	(7)	501	848 <sup>r</sup>	W	742	125
July	W	301	W	15,800	(7)	490	909 <sup>r</sup>	W	723	125
August	W	266	W	14,200	(7)	387	813 <sup>r</sup>	W	681	125
September	W	239	W	14,200	(7)	585	1,010 <sup>r</sup>	W	723	121
October	W	260	W	14,200	679 <sup>r</sup>	343	794 <sup>r</sup>	W	663	125
November	W	327	W	14,100	469 <sup>r</sup>	485	911 <sup>r</sup>	W	679	125
December	W	421	W	14,000	502	494	915 <sup>r</sup>	W	653	125
January–December	W	3,650	W	14,000	8,140 <sup>r</sup>	6,360	11,300 <sup>r</sup>	W	653	125
2013:										
January	W	487	W	13,900	424 <sup>r</sup>	544	903 <sup>r</sup>	W	615	125
February	W	439	W	13,900	485	530	913 <sup>r</sup>	W	660	125
March	W	265	W	13,800	477	494	901	W	651	125
January–March	W	1,190	W	13,800	1,390	1,570	2,720	W	651	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup>Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

<sup>7</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "January–December 2012."

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS<sup>p, 1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product <sup>3</sup>	Net production <sup>2</sup>				Stocks at end of period		
	2012	2013		January–March <sup>4</sup>	2012	2013	
		February	March			February	March
Metal powder	W	W	W	W	300	335	331
Tungsten carbide powder	W	W	W	W	353	325	319
Total	6,360	530	494	1,570	653	660	651

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

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

<sup>4</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to data
2012	3,650	1,500	316	1,230	1,240	2,280	10,200	XX
2013:								
January	487	75	17	175	50	225	1,030	1,030
February	439	60	26	130	69	123	848	1,880
March:								
Australia	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	44
Austria	--	--	--	--	14	4	18	41
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Bolivia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	292
Canada	116	--	--	14	10	(3)	140	515
China	--	97	--	(3)	17	86	200	862
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
France	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	4
Germany	1	--	--	12	1	2	15	79
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Israel	--	--	--	5	--	--	5	39
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	7
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	13	(3)	(3)	14	105
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Portugal	71	--	--	--	--	--	71	165
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	6	(3)	2	7	19
Spain	21	--	--	--	--	(3)	22	146
Thailand	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	25
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	16	16	31
Other	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	3
Total	265	97	--	50	45	114	571	2,450
January—March	1,190	231	43	356	164	461	2,450	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<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 March 2013 totaled 131 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 378 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country 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 <sup>4</sup>
2012	203	833	637	878	1,550	4,100	XX
2013:							
January	13	123	61	35	147	378	378
February	76	191	46	37	90	440	818
March:							
Australia	--	--	(5)	4	(5)	4	16
Austria	--	--	--	12	3	15	28
Brazil	(5)	--	(5)	--	(5)	1	12
Bulgaria	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Canada	--	--	5	16	38	59	215
China	--	--	1	2	11	14	57
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	3
Czech Republic	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	(5)	26
France	--	--	3	1	(5)	3	5
Germany	--	49	10	27	27	113	254
Hong Kong	20	--	--	(5)	--	20	30
India	--	5	2	--	4	11	18
Israel	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Japan	--	--	(5)	2	2	4	13
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(5)	(5)	11	12	15
Malaysia	--	--	(5)	1	--	1	3
Mexico	--	1	(5)	(5)	12	14	27
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	9
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	1	(5)	1	30
Singapore	(5)	--	2	1	21	24	60
Switzerland	--	192	(5)	--	(5)	192	421
Taiwan	--	--	5	2	(5)	6	14
United Kingdom	19	--	(5)	25	(5)	45	55
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	(5)	(5)	7
Other	(5)	--	3	5	1	9	27
Total	40	246	33	99	133	549	1,370
January–March	129	559	140	171	369	1,370	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<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>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in March 2013 totaled 327 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 807 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.