

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 2016

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 2016 was 4% more than that imported during December 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January 2016 was 52% more than that exported during December 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for January 2016 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. 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—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$204/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$185/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$138/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$125/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$143/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$130/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 ² | U.S. Government ³ | | Industry Producer ^{p, 5} | U.S. Government ³ |
| 2015: | | | | | | | |
| January | W | 376 | W | 11,600 | W | 741 | 125 |
| February | W | 288 | W | 11,600 | W | 705 | 125 |
| March | W | 376 | W | 11,600 | W | 635 | 125 |
| April | W | 309 | W | 11,600 | W | 675 | 125 |
| May | W | 325 | W | 11,600 | W | 621 | 125 |
| June | W | 337 | W | 11,600 | W | 616 | 125 |
| July | W | 354 | W | 11,600 | W | 571 | 125 |
| August | W | 219 | W | 11,600 | W | 578 | 125 |
| September | W | 344 | W | 11,600 | W | 567 | 125 |
| October | W | 382 | W | 11,600 | W | 550 | 125 |
| November | W | 352 | W | 11,600 | W | 550 | 125 |
| December | W | 308 | W | 11,600 | W | 495 | 125 |
| January–December | W | 3,970 | W | 11,600 | W | 495 | 125 |
| 2016, January | W | 393 | W | 11,600 | W | 500 | 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 Strategic Materials.

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

⁵Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

TABLE 2
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 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 2015 | 3,970 | 1,270 | 269 | 1,110 | 659 | 1,280 | 8,550 |
| 2016, January: | | | | | | | |
| Australia | 37 | -- | -- | -- | -- | (3) | 37 |
| Bolivia | 171 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 171 |
| Canada | -- | -- | -- | 16 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| China | -- | 13 | 8 | 47 | 18 | 143 | 228 |
| Czech Republic | -- | -- | -- | 4 | -- | (3) | 4 |
| Finland | -- | -- | -- | 11 | -- | -- | 11 |
| Germany | -- | 50 | -- | 1 | 1 | 2 | 53 |
| Israel | -- | -- | -- | 5 | -- | (3) | 5 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | -- | 18 | -- | -- | 18 |
| Mongolia | 26 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 26 |
| Peru | 11 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 11 |
| Portugal | 36 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 36 |
| Spain | 95 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 95 |
| United Kingdom | 18 | -- | -- | -- | -- | (3) | 18 |
| Vietnam | -- | -- | 31 | -- | -- | -- | 31 |
| Other | -- | -- | -- | 3 | (3) | 9 | 12 |
| Total | 393 | 62 | 39 | 105 | 20 | 155 | 775 |

-- 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 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in January 2016 totaled 75 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
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 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 2015 | 398 | 310 | 312 | 902 | 1,190 | 3,110 |
| 2016, January: | | | | | | |
| Austria | -- | -- | 4 | -- | (4) | 4 |
| Canada | -- | -- | 8 | 13 | 26 | 47 |
| Germany | -- | 36 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 53 |
| Japan | -- | 40 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 45 |
| Mexico | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 21 | 22 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | -- | -- | 3 | -- | 3 |
| Singapore | -- | -- | (4) | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Taiwan | -- | -- | (4) | 4 | (4) | 4 |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | -- | 3 | (4) | 4 |
| Other | -- | -- | 3 | 7 | 5 | 15 |
| Total | -- | 76 | 20 | 50 | 60 | 205 |

-- 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 January 2016 totaled 39 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.