

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 through April 2016 was 10% less than that imported during the same period in 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through April 2016 was 37% less than that exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for April 2016 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. The following prices, 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—\$184/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$167/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:								
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	552	125	
December	W	308	W	11,600	W	490	125	
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	490	125	
2016:								
January	W	393	W	11,600	W	496	125	
February	W	127	W	11,600	W	538	125	
March	W	384	W	11,600	W	615	125	
April	W	372	W	11,600	W	602	125	
January–April	W	1,280	W	11,600	W	602	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	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,550	XX
2016:								
February	127	81	33	84	69	110	503	1280
March	384	91	45	89	56	96	760	2,040
April:								
Australia	18	--	--	--	--	--	18	92
Austria	--	--	--	--	19	4	23	98
Bolivia	183	--	--	--	--	--	183	447
Canada	--	--	--	12	1	--	14	61
China	--	26	31	41	32	93	223	749
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	5
Germany	--	50	--	2	1	7	59	229
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Israel	--	--	--	6	1	(3)	7	32
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	5	5	43
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	30	3	--	32	86
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	4
Mongolia	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	98
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	166
Russia	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	90
Spain	63	--	--	1	--	(3)	64	274
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
United Kingdom	24	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	25	108
Vietnam	14	--	1	--	--	--	15	137
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	6
Total	372	75	32	93	57	113	743	2,780
January–April	1,280	309	149	371	202	474	2,780	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 2016 totaled 93 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 410 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	Total, year to date
2015	398	310	312	902	1,190	3,110	XX
2016:							
February	(4)	--	18	32	96	147	352
March	(4)	--	15	36	127	179	531
April:							
Australia	(4)	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	9
Austria	--	--	--	8	1	9	18
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	5
Canada	(4)	--	8	8	28	44	192
China	9	--	--	2	2	13	20
Czech Republic	--	--	--	13	--	13	20
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	3
Germany	--	--	4	33	(4)	37	156
India	--	--	27	4	(4)	31	33
Indonesia	--	3	(4)	--	(4)	4	4
Ireland	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	3
Japan	--	1	2	1	6	10	62
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	1	3	8
Luxembourg	--	--	--	10	--	10	10
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	17	18	63
Netherlands	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	4
Peru	--	--	--	3	--	3	4
Philippines	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	3
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	4
Singapore	--	--	--	1	11	12	32
Spain	--	--	--	--	4	4	17
Taiwan	--	--	--	2	21	23	74
Thailand	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	4	5	10
United Kingdom	--	--	--	7	(4)	7	14
Other	(4)	--	3	2	4	9	26
Total	9	4	48	103	99	263	794
January–April	10	81	100	222	382	794	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 2016 totaled 17 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 94 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.