

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 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 August 2016 was 10% less than the revised quantity imported during the same period in 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through August 2016 was 20% less than the revised quantity exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for August 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—\$193/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$175/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$206/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$187/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$141/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$128/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$146/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$132/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:							
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	493	125
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	493	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	592	125
May	W	252	W	11,600	W	490	125
June	W	256	W	11,600	W	537	125
July	W	180	W	11,600	W	531	125
August	W	432	W	11,600	W	532	125
January–August	W	2,400	W	11,600	W	532	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	8,560	XX
2016:								
June	256	32	4	97	26	148	563	4,000
July	180	101	15	62	61	64	484	4,490
August:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	121
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	46	2	48	278
Bolivia	172	--	--	--	--	--	172	721
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Canada	--	--	--	25	1	--	26	128
China	--	23	9	62	60	82	235	1,570
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	24
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
France	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	7
Germany	--	--	--	3	1	9	13	359
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(3)	16	16	26
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	8
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Israel	--	--	--	6	--	(3)	6	53
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3)	8	10	78
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	131
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Mongolia	37	--	--	--	--	--	37	233
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	344
Russia	79	--	--	--	--	--	79	213
Spain	52	--	--	--	(3)	--	52	515
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	13
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
United Kingdom	32	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	32	217
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	16	16	166
Other	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	12
Total	432	23	9	101	108	137	809	5,290
January–August	2,400	545	185	710	522	936	5,290	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 August 2016 totaled 160 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 992 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	901	1,200	3,120	XX
2016:							
June	45	(4)	38	45	126	254	1,230
July	35	4	28	66	115	248	1,480
August:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	17
Austria	--	--	1	25	6	31	105
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	9
Canada	--	--	7	9	27	43	379
Chile	--	--	1	--	--	1	6
China	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	28
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	12
Czech Republic	--	--	7	22	(4)	29	77
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Finland	--	--	--	--	17	17	17
France	--	--	3	--	(4)	3	7
Germany	--	--	7	21	5	33	269
India	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	85
Indonesia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	4
Ireland	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	15
Israel	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	13
Italy	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Japan	--	--	1	3	3	7	90
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	18
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Mexico	--	(4)	1	(4)	15	17	121
Netherlands	(4)	--	(4)	--	34	34	109
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Philippines	--	--	--	1	--	1	5
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	4
Singapore	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	47
South Africa	(4)	--	1	--	2	2	6
Spain	--	--	--	--	1	1	26
Taiwan	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	97
Thailand	--	--	--	--	2	2	13
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	7
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	22
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	63
Other	--	--	1	1	1	3	19
Total	(4)	(4)	30	93	115	238	1,720
January–August	90	99	227	498	806	1,720	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 August 2016 totaled 44 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 225 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.