

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 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 September 2016 was 9% 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 September 2016 was 18% less than the revised quantity exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for September 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—\$195/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$177/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$207/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$188/short ton unit WO_3)

Concentrates:

Low—\$142/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$129/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$147/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$133/short ton unit WO_3)

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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:							
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	526 ^r	125
September	W	303	W	11,600	W	515	125
January–September	W	2,700	W	11,600	W	515	125

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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	Total, year to date
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,560	XX
2016:								
July	180	101	15	62	61	64	484	4,490
August	432	23	9	101	108	137	809	5,290
September:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	121
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	18	4	22	300
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	814
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Canada	--	--	--	13	1	(3)	14	142
China	--	35	17	61	8	126	246	1,820
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	25
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
France	--	--	--	1	(3)	(3)	2	9
Germany	--	(3)	--	1	--	1	2	361
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	26
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	53
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	11	12	90
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	8	--	--	8	139
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Mongolia	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	258
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	391
Russia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	238
Spain	63	--	--	1	--	--	64	579
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	13
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	50	--	--	--	--	(3)	50	266
Vietnam	--	--	4	--	--	11	15	181
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	13
Total	303	35	21	87	27	154	628	5,920
January–September	2,700	580	206	796	550	1,090	5,920	XX

¹Revised. 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 September 2016 totaled 103 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 1,100 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:							
July	35	4	28	66	115	248	1,480
August	(4)	(4)	30	93	115	238	1,720
September:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	18
Austria	--	--	--	(4)	54	54	159
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	5	7	16
Canada	--	--	8	10	35	53	432
Chile	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	7
China	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	32
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	13
Czech Republic	--	--	--	18	--	18	95
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
France	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
Germany	--	--	1	5	(4)	6	275
India	--	--	--	1	(4)	2	87
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	2	3	18
Israel	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	13
Italy	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	6
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	4	7	97
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	19
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Malaysia	(4)	--	--	--	--	(4)	5
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	14	17	138
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	35	35	144
Peru	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	7
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	48
South Africa	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	8
Spain	--	--	--	--	5	5	31
Taiwan	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	101
Thailand	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	14
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	(4)	2	23
Vietnam	49	--	--	--	--	49	112
Other	--	4	(4)	1	1	6	41
Total	49	4	14	51	160	278	2,000
January–September	139	103	241	549	966	2,000	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 September 2016 totaled 48 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 272 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.