

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 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 October 2016 was 7% 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 October 2016 was 13% less than the revised quantity exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for October 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—\$196/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$178/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$207/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$188/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$143/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$130/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$147/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$133/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:							
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	541 ^r	125
July	W	180	W	11,600	W	533 ^r	125
August	W	432	W	11,600	W	530 ^r	125
September	W	303	W	11,600	W	484 ^r	125
October	W	414	W	11,600	W	566	125
January–October	W	3,110	W	11,600	W	566	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	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:								
August	432	23	9	101	108	137	809	5,290
September	303	35	21	87	27	154	628	5,920
October:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	121
Austria	--	--	--	1	29	3	32	333
Bolivia	159	--	--	--	--	--	159	973
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Burundi	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	13
Canada	--	--	--	19	4	--	23	166
China	--	47	--	34	17	75	172	1,990
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	25
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
France	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	10
Germany	--	83	--	1	(3)	4	88	449
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	28
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	10
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	6
Israel	--	--	--	11	--	(3)	11	64
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3)	13	15	105
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	15	6	--	20	159
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	258
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Poland	4	--	--	--	--	--	4	4
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	439
Russia	26	--	--	--	--	(3)	26	264
Spain	63	--	--	--	1	--	64	643
Taiwan	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	13
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	22
United Kingdom	91	--	--	1	--	(3)	91	358
Vietnam	--	--	8	--	--	11	19	200
Other	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	10
Total	414	129	8	83	57	111	803	6,720
January–October	3,110	710	214	880	607	1,200	6,720	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 October 2016 totaled 188 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 1,280 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:							
August	(4)	(4)	30	93	115	238	1,720
September	49	4	14	51	160	278	2,000
October:							
Australia	(4)	--	(4)	5	--	5	23
Austria	--	--	--	14	22	36	195
Brazil	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	17
Canada	--	--	5	15	28	48	480
Chile	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
China	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	33
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	14
Czech Republic	--	--	1	25	--	26	121
Finland	--	--	--	--	17	17	34
France	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	8
Germany	--	--	14	11	5	30	306
India	--	--	1	1	1	3	90
Ireland	--	--	1	--	--	1	18
Israel	--	--	--	--	4	4	17
Italy	(4)	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	7
Japan	--	--	--	3	3	6	103
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	2	(4)	2	21
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	33	35	172
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	(4)	34	35	179
Peru	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	8
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	49
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	8
Spain	--	--	--	--	4	4	35
Taiwan	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	105
Thailand	--	--	--	--	7	7	21
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	8
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	2	1	4	27
Vietnam	36	--	(4)	(4)	--	37	149
Other	--	--	1	2	1	4	51
Total	36	--	28	89	162	315	2,310
January–October	176	103	269	638	1,130	2,310	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 October 2016 totaled 70 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 342 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.