

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 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 November 2016 was 5% 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 November 2016 was 12% less than the revised quantity exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for November 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—\$198/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$180/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$220/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$200/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

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

High—\$198/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$180/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 ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³		Industry ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³
2015:							
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	125
July	W	180	W	11,600	W	533	125
August	W	432	W	11,600	W	530	125
September	W	303	W	11,600	W	484	125
October	W	414	W	11,600	W	566	125
November	W	182	W	11,600	W	474	125
January–November	W	3,290	W	11,600	W	474	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	Total, year to date
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,560	XX
2016:								
September	303	35	21	87	27	154	628	5,920
October	414	129	8	83	57	111	803	6,720
November:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	121
Austria	--	--	--	--	38	3	41	374
Bolivia	38	--	--	--	--	--	38	1,010
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Canada	--	--	--	13	5	1	19	184
China	--	39	12	68	32	73	223	2,220
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	25
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
France	--	--	--	1	1	(3)	2	12
Germany	--	116	--	1	(3)	15	133	582
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	5	2	7	34
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	10
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Israel	--	--	--	--	5	--	5	69
Japan	--	--	--	3	(3)	2	4	109
Korea, Republic of	--	--	2	6	--	(3)	7	166
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	258
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	47	--	--	--	--	--	47	486
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	264
Rwanda	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	13
Spain	68	--	--	--	--	--	68	711
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	14
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
United Kingdom	16	--	9	--	--	(3)	25	383
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	53	53	253
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	22
Total	182	156	22	91	85	151	687	7,410
January–November	3,290	866	236	970	692	1,350	7,410	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 November 2016 totaled 172 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 1,460 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:							
September	49	4	14	51	160	278	2,000
October	36	--	28	89	162	315	2,310
November:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	--	1	24
Austria	--	--	--	--	52	52	246
Brazil	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	19
Canada	--	--	6	16	33	55	535
Chile	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
China	7	--	(4)	2	1	10	44
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	1	1	15
Czech Republic	--	--	--	24	(4)	24	145
Finland	--	--	--	--	17	17	51
France	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	9
Germany	--	--	5	8	2	15	320
India	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	90
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	18
Israel	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	17
Italy	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Japan	--	--	(4)	3	6	9	112
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	24
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	12	14	186
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	82	82	260
Peru	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	8
Singapore	--	--	--	1	3	4	53
South Africa	--	--	1	2	(4)	2	11
Spain	--	--	--	--	2	2	37
Taiwan	--	--	--	3	1	4	109
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	21
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
United Kingdom	--	--	--	1	1	2	29
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	149
Other	--	--	2	3	1	5	56
Total	7	--	18	67	215	307	2,620
January–November	183	103	287	705	1,340	2,620	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 November 2016 totaled 35 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 377 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.