

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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 2016 was 4% less than the revised quantity imported during 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2016 was 6% less than the revised quantity exported during 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for December 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—\$209/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$190/short ton unit WO₃)

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

Concentrates:

Low—\$187/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$170/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		Producer ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³
2015:							
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
December	W	289	W	11,600	W	582	125
January–December	W	3,580	W	11,600	W	582	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:								
October	414	129	8	83	57	111	803	6,720
November	182	156	22	91	85	151	687	7,410
December:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	121
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	35	3	39	412
Bolivia	80	--	--	--	--	--	80	1,090
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Burundi	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	23
Canada	--	--	--	12	5	1	17	201
China	--	75	--	46	39	71	232	2,450
Congo (Kinshasa)	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	26
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
France	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	14
Germany	--	62	--	2	3	2	68	650
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	35
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	10
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Israel	--	--	--	--	7	--	7	76
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8	8	118
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	21	--	--	21	187
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	271
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	522
Russia	53	--	--	--	--	15	68	332
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Spain	36	--	--	--	(3)	--	37	748
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	14
Thailand	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	34
United Kingdom	39	--	--	--	(3)	2	41	425
Vietnam	--	13	--	--	--	47	60	313
Other	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	23
Total	289	150	--	81	90	154	763	8,180
January–December	3,580	1,020	236	1,050	782	1,510	8,180	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 December 2016 totaled 239 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 1,690 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:							
October	36	--	28	89	162	315	2,310
November	7	--	18	67	215	307	2,610
December:							
Australia	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	27
Austria	--	--	--	--	10	10	256
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	1	19
Canada	--	--	7	18	44	69	604
Chile	--	--	1	--	--	1	7
China	--	--	(4)	1	59	60	103
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	15
Czech Republic	--	--	--	8	(4)	8	153
Finland	--	--	--	--	17	17	68
France	--	--	1	(4)	--	1	10
Germany	--	--	7	13	66	85	405
Hungary	--	5	--	--	1	6	11
India	--	--	1	1	(4)	3	93
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	19
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
Italy	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	8
Japan	--	--	1	5	2	9	121
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	1	2	3	27
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	16	17	203
Netherlands	(4)	--	--	--	17	18	279
Peru	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	8
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	54
South Africa	--	--	1	--	--	1	12
Spain	--	--	--	--	2	2	39
Taiwan	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	112
Thailand	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	2	22
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	8
United Kingdom	--	--	1	1	1	2	31
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	149
Other	--	--	1	4	(4)	4	56
Total	(4)	5	21	58	240	325	2,950
January–December	183	108	308	764	1,580	2,950	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 December 2016 totaled 52 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 429 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.