

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 2017

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 February 2017 was 53% more than that imported during the same period in 2016 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through February 2017 was 14% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3). In January, imports were 82% higher and exports were 34% lower than the monthly averages in 2016. In February, imports and exports returned to levels closer to the monthly averages in 2016.

Prices

Prices for February 2017 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—\$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
2016:							
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	525	125
July	W	180	W	11,600	W	516	125
August	W	432	W	11,600	W	530	125
September	W	303	W	11,600	W	490	125
October	W	414	W	11,600	W	548	125
November	W	182	W	11,600	W	456	125
December	W	289	W	11,600	W	565	125
January–December	W	3,580	W	11,600	W	565	125
2017:							
January	W	404	W	11,600	W	587 ^r	125
February	W	313	W	11,600	W	601	125
January–February	W	718	W	11,600	W	601	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
2016	3,580	1,020	236	1,050	782	1,510	8,180	XX
2017:								
January	404	222	58	173	135	247	1,240	1,240
February:								
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	--	4	5	53
Bolivia	105	--	--	--	--	--	105	237
Burundi	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	29
Canada	--	--	--	30	7	--	37	119
China	--	57	9	20	73	104	263	775
Germany	--	10	--	1	1	2	14	88
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
Israel	--	--	--	--	16	(3)	16	25
Japan	--	--	--	4	--	2	6	14
Korea, South	--	--	--	18	(3)	(3)	18	40
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	74
Russia	81	--	--	--	--	--	81	243
Rwanda	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	11
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	7	7	7
Spain	10	--	--	--	--	(3)	11	34
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
United Kingdom	51	--	--	1	1	(3)	53	94
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	26	--	--	--	--	26	63
Other	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4	4	8
Total	313	93	9	74	98	126	715	1,950
January–February	718	315	67	247	233	374	1,950	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 February 2017 totaled 126 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 286 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
2016	183	108	308	764	1,580	2,950	XX
2017:							
January	--	--	27	49	87	162	162
February:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	1	10	11	11
Austria	--	--	(4)	--	17	17	17
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	1	2	3
Canada	--	--	8	14	36	58	110
China	--	--	1	2	1	4	6
Czech Republic	--	--	--	1	--	1	13
Finland	--	--	--	--	20	20	20
Germany	--	--	1	12	4	16	42
Hong Kong	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
India	--	--	--	1	1	2	4
Japan	--	--	--	3	2	6	11
Korea, South	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	5
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	14	15	27
Portugal	39	--	--	--	--	39	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	16	(4)	16	19
Singapore	--	--	--	2	3	5	7
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	8
Spain	--	--	(4)	--	4	4	9
Taiwan	--	--	--	3	5	8	14
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	2	1	3	5
Other	--	--	4	2	4	10	21
Total	39	--	17	61	123	240	402
January–February	39	--	43	110	210	402	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 February 2017 totaled 16 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 33 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.