

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 April 2017 was 54% 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 April 2017 was 14% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for April 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 WO_3 (\$180/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$220/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$200/short ton unit WO_3)

Concentrates:

Low—\$187/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$170/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$209/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$190/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 ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³		Producer ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³	
2016:								
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	125	
February	W	313	W	11,600	W	601	125	
March	W	305	W	11,300	W	455	125	
April	W	412	W	11,100	W	487	125	
January–April	W	1,430	W	11,100	W	487	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
2016	3,580	1,020	236	1,040	782	1,510	8,200	XX
2017:								
February	313	93	9	74	98	126	715	1,950
March	305	269	37	69	121	337	1,140	3,090
April:								
Austria	--	--	--	(3)	16	3	19	130
Bolivia	167	--	--	--	--	--	167	457
Burundi	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	40
Canada	--	--	--	27	22	--	50	199
China	--	153	8	17	20	272	469	1,740
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	5
Germany	--	68	--	1	(3)	6	75	232
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	4
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	40
Japan	--	--	--	3	--	8	11	40
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	9	--	(3)	10	72
Mongolia	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	30
Portugal	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	157
Russia	138	--	--	--	--	8	146	493
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Spain	41	--	--	--	--	--	41	137
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
United Kingdom	22	--	--	1	--	(3)	23	133
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	80	--	--	--	78	158	343
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	7
Total	412	301	8	59	60	376	1,210	4,310
January–April	1,430	885	112	375	414	1,090	4,310	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 April 2017 totaled 186 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 665 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	763	1,580	2,940	XX
2017:							
February	39	--	17	61	123	240	402
March	13	(4)	31	67	104	215	617
April:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	19
Austria	66	--	--	35	34	135	193
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	3
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	5
Canada	(4)	--	12	10	7	29	164
China	--	--	(4)	4	3	8	15
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	3
Czechia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	14
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Finland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	37
Germany	--	3	5	12	3	22	80
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
Hungary	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
India	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	7
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	--	--	3
Japan	--	--	1	4	7	12	27
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	9
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	3
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	13	15	57
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	18	18	45
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	18	(4)	(4)	18	52
Singapore	--	--	--	1	1	2	10
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	13
Spain	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	20
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	3
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
United Kingdom	--	--	--	7	2	9	15
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Other	--	1	1	3	1	5	22
Total	66	4	40	82	94	287	904
January–April	119	4	115	259	408	904	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 April 2017 totaled 44 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 113 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.