

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: ksheddd@usgs.gov

Annie Hwang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7952
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: ahwang@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

TUNGSTEN IN MAY 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 May 2017 was 60% 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 May 2017 was 26% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for May 2017 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. In the first week of May, the average of high and low prices for ammonium paratungstate increased by 19% compared with that of the last week of April and the average of high and low prices for concentrates increased by 31%. 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—\$254/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$230/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

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

High—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/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: | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| May | W | 307 | W | 10,800 | W | 673 | 125 |
| January–May | W | 1,740 | W | 10,800 | W | 673 | 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: | | | | | | | | |
| March | 305 | 269 | 37 | 69 | 121 | 337 | 1,140 | 3,090 |
| April | 412 | 301 | 8 | 59 | 60 | 376 | 1,210 | 4,310 |
| May: | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 31 | 3 | 35 | 164 |
| Bolivia | 53 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 53 | 510 |
| Brazil | 6 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 6 | 6 |
| Burundi | 23 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 23 | 63 |
| Canada | -- | -- | -- | 8 | 31 | (3) | 39 | 237 |
| China | -- | 284 | 9 | 84 | 81 | 103 | 562 | 2,300 |
| Czechia | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | (3) | (3) | 3 |
| France | -- | -- | -- | (3) | 1 | (3) | 1 | 6 |
| Germany | -- | 66 | -- | 1 | (3) | 7 | 75 | 307 |
| Hong Kong | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Hungary | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| India | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| Israel | -- | -- | -- | 8 | 2 | (3) | 10 | 50 |
| Japan | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | 1 | 2 | 42 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | -- | 52 | -- | -- | 52 | 123 |
| Mongolia | 24 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 24 | 54 |
| Netherlands | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Portugal | 47 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 47 | 204 |
| Russia | 59 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 59 | 551 |
| Rwanda | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 11 |
| Seychelles | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 7 |
| Spain | 41 | -- | -- | 1 | -- | (3) | 42 | 180 |
| Taiwan | -- | -- | -- | (3) | -- | (3) | (3) | 3 |
| Thailand | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 13 |
| Uganda | 12 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 14 | 25 | 25 |
| United Kingdom | 43 | -- | -- | (3) | -- | (3) | 44 | 176 |
| Uzbekistan | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 9 |
| Vietnam | -- | 36 | -- | -- | -- | 33 | 68 | 411 |
| Other | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Total | 307 | 386 | 9 | 157 | 146 | 177 | 1,180 | 5,490 |
| January–May | 1,740 | 1,270 | 121 | 532 | 561 | 1,260 | 5,490 | 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 May 2017 totaled 149 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 814 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: | | | | | | | |
| March | 13 | (4) | 31 | 67 | 104 | 215 | 617 |
| April | 66 | 4 | 40 | 82 | 94 | 287 | 904 |
| May: | | | | | | | |
| Australia | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | 20 | 21 | 41 |
| Austria | 59 | -- | -- | 15 | 52 | 126 | 319 |
| Belgium | -- | -- | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | 3 |
| Brazil | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | (4) | 1 | 6 |
| Canada | -- | -- | 8 | 9 | 3 | 21 | 185 |
| Chile | -- | -- | (4) | -- | (4) | 1 | 3 |
| China | -- | -- | (4) | 4 | 1 | 5 | 21 |
| Costa Rica | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Czechia | -- | -- | -- | 14 | (4) | 14 | 28 |
| Dominican Republic | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5 |
| Finland | -- | -- | -- | -- | 18 | 18 | 55 |
| Germany | -- | -- | -- | 9 | 3 | 11 | 92 |
| Hong Kong | -- | -- | (4) | -- | (4) | (4) | 8 |
| Hungary | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| India | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | (4) | 1 | 8 |
| Ireland | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3 |
| Japan | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 8 | 12 | 39 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | (4) | 1 | 11 |
| Malaysia | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Mexico | -- | (4) | 1 | (4) | 17 | 18 | 75 |
| Netherlands | -- | -- | (4) | -- | 35 | 35 | 80 |
| Peru | -- | -- | 1 | (4) | -- | 1 | 3 |
| Portugal | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 39 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | -- | 13 | 1 | -- | 14 | 67 |
| Singapore | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| South Africa | -- | -- | 1 | -- | (4) | 1 | 15 |
| Spain | -- | -- | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | 9 |
| Taiwan | -- | -- | (4) | -- | (4) | (4) | 20 |
| Thailand | -- | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | (4) | 3 |
| United Arab Emirates | -- | -- | (4) | -- | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Vietnam | 10 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 10 | 23 |
| Other | (4) | -- | (4) | (4) | 4 | 5 | 23 |
| Total | 69 | (4) | 29 | 61 | 167 | 327 | 1,230 |
| January–May | 188 | 4 | 144 | 320 | 575 | 1,230 | 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 May 2017 totaled 21 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 134 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.