

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: kshedd@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 SEPTEMBER 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 September 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 September 2017 was 26% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for September 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—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$353/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$320/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$287/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$260/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$303/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$275/short ton unit WO₃)

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NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey plans to discontinue this monthly Mineral Industry Surveys report. The last published report will be Tungsten in December 2017. Information on this mineral commodity will still be available on an annual basis in the tungsten chapters of the Mineral Commodity Summaries and the Minerals Yearbook, Volume I, Metals and Minerals. Prior to the proposed discontinuation date, please direct any comments or concerns to Elizabeth Sangine, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section, escottsangine@usgs.gov.

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:								
September	W	303	W	11,600	W	476	125	
October	W	414	W	11,600	W	532	125	
November	W	182	W	11,600	W	437	125	
December	W	289	W	11,600	W	544	125	
January–December	W	3,580	W	11,600	W	544	125	
2017:								
January	W	404	W	11,600	W	564	125	
February	W	313	W	11,600	W	576	125	
March	W	305	W	11,300	W	422	125	
April	W	412	W	11,100	W	446	125	
May	W	307	W	10,800	W	644	125	
June	W	252	W	10,700	W	614	125	
July	W	353	W	10,600	W	W	125	
August	W	292	W	10,400	W	W	125	
September	W	256	W	10,400	W	W	125	
January–September	W	2,890	W	10,400	W	W	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 COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality 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:								
July	353	144	9	148	142	267	1,060	7,500
August	292	119	13	77	128	113	742	8,240
September:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	17	2	19	310
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	879
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	73
Canada	--	--	--	53	16	1	70	450
China	--	121	--	43	38	75	278	3,620
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	2	4	16
Germany	--	92	--	4	1	5	101	588
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	15
Israel	--	--	--	--	7	(3)	7	78
Japan	--	--	--	4	--	1	5	87
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	20	--	--	20	232
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	105
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Portugal	49	--	--	--	--	--	49	395
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	685
Rwanda	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	30
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	11
Spain	52	--	--	--	1	(3)	52	366
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
Uganda	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	44
United Kingdom	30	--	--	--	1	(3)	31	355
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	53	53	609
Other	--	--	--	1	1	2	4	11
Total	256	213	--	124	83	144	821	9,060
January–September	2,890	1,940	143	1,010	1,100	1,970	9,060	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 September 2017 totaled 164 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 1,610 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality 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:							
July	86	--	41	58	133	318	1,990
August	45	(4)	25	56	115	240	2,230
September:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	51
Austria	27	--	1	9	--	37	738
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	13
Canada	--	--	7	20	4	32	319
Chile	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	5
China	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	32
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Czechia	--	--	6	3	--	9	39
Denmark	--	54	--	--	--	54	56
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	8
Ecuador	--	20	--	--	(4)	20	20
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	86
France	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	8
Germany	--	--	1	25	2	28	184
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	13
Hungary	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
India	--	--	3	(4)	1	4	18
Japan	--	--	2	3	3	8	81
Korea, Republic of	3	--	1	3	1	7	25
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	33
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	1	--	13	14	149
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	207
Peru	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	7
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	13	--	(4)	13	99
Singapore	--	--	--	1	1	2	18
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	2	2	18
Spain	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	10
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	2	--	2	49
Thailand	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	16
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	1	2	13
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	23
Vietnam	29	--	--	--	--	29	72
Other	--	--	2	1	1	4	41
Total	59	74	39	72	32	276	2,510
January–September	519	79	299	581	1,030	2,510	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 September 2017 totaled 70 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 317 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.