



Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 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 October 2017 was 46% 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 October 2017 was 17% more than that exported during the same period in 2016 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for October 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 WO_3 (\$290/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$358/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$325/short ton unit WO_3)

Concentrates:

Low—\$287/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$260/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$303/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$275/short ton unit WO_3)

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REVISED NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey has decided to continue to publish this monthly Mineral Industry Surveys report, owing to sufficient interest from its readers. Additionally, 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. 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:								
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	
October	W	336	W	10,400	W	W	125	
January–October	W	3,230	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	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2016	3,580	1,020	236	1,040	782	1,540 [†]	8,200	XX
2017:								
August	292	119	13	77	128	113	742	8,240
September	256	213	--	124	83	144	821	9,060
October:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	20	4	24	334
Bolivia	182	--	--	--	--	--	182	1,060
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Burma	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	73
Canada	--	--	--	13	24	1	37	487
China	(3)	71	8	30	55	72	237	3,860
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
France	--	--	--	1	1	(3)	3	19
Germany	--	47	--	3	(3)	3	53	641
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	15
Israel	--	--	--	--	16	(3)	16	95
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3)	8	10	97
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	3	--	(3)	3	235
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	105
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	430
Russia	--	--	3	--	--	--	3	688
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Seychelles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Spain	31	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	31	398
Switzerland	--	--	12	--	--	(3)	12	14
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	25
Uganda	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	53
United Kingdom	79	--	--	1	--	1	80	436
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	64	64	673
Other	--	--	--	(3)	1	(3)	1	14
Total	336	118	23	53	116	157	803	9,870
January–October	3,230	2,060	166	1,070	1,220	2,120	9,870	XX

[†]Revised. 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 October 2017 totaled 153 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 1,770 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:							
August	45	(4)	25	56	115	240	2,230
September	59	74	39	72	32	276	2,510
October:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	(4)	4	55
Austria	--	--	1	15	(4)	16	755
Brazil	--	--	--	1	6	7	20
Canada	--	--	9	22	4	35	354
Chile	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	6
China	--	--	(4)	8	1	9	40
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Czechia	--	--	9	11	--	20	59
Denmark	--	--	--	1	--	1	57
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Finland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	86
France	(4)	--	2	--	(4)	3	11
Germany	4	--	1	16	1	22	206
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	13
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
India	--	--	1	2	(4)	4	21
Japan	--	1	--	3	4	8	89
Korea, Republic of	8	--	1	(4)	(4)	9	34
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	33
Malaysia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
Mexico	(4)	--	2	1	27	29	178
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	207
Peru	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	1	7
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	99
Singapore	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	19
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	19
Spain	--	--	--	--	1	1	11
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	51
Thailand	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	(4)	16
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	3	26
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	72
Other	--	--	3	1	1	5	45
Total	13	1	32	93	47	185	2,690
January–October	532	80	330	674	1,080	2,690	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 October 2017 totaled 68 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 386 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.