

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN MAY 2019

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 2019 was slightly less than that imported during the same period in 2018 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through May 2019 was 5% less than that exported during the same period in 2018 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged in May 2019. The May 2019 monthly average price was 16% lower than that in May 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The May 2019 monthly average price was 19% lower than that in May 2018. The

following prices for May 2019, 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—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$250/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 |
| 2018: | | | | | | | |
| May | W | 332 | W | 9,540 | W | W | 125 |
| June | W | 461 | W | 9,450 | W | W | 125 |
| July | W | 196 | W | 9,390 | W | W | 125 |
| August | W | 385 | W | 9,250 | W | W | 125 |
| September | W | 419 | W | 9,170 | W | W | 125 |
| October | W | 462 | W | 9,170 | W | W | 125 |
| November | W | 169 | W | 9,090 | W | W | 125 |
| December | W | 435 | W | 8,990 | W | W | 125 |
| January–December | W | 4,050 | W | 8,990 | W | W | 125 |
| 2019: | | | | | | | |
| January | W | 315 | W | 8,900 | W | W | 125 |
| February | W | 251 | W | 8,760 | W | W | 125 |
| March | W | 282 | W | 8,640 | W | W | 125 |
| April | W | 200 | W | 8,520 | W | W | 125 |
| May | W | 274 | W | 8,520 | W | W | 125 |
| January–May | W | 1,320 | W | 8,520 | 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; includes estimates.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

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 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 2018 | 4,050 | 2,200 | 143 | 1,440 | 1,530 | 2,120 | 11,500 | XX |
| 2019: | | | | | | | | |
| March | 282 | 134 | 6 | 123 | 125 | 162 | 833 | 2,560 |
| April | 200 | 82 | -- | 170 | 164 | 145 | 762 | 3,320 |
| May: | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 27 | 3 | 33 | 278 |
| Bolivia | 84 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 84 | 505 |
| Brazil | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 11 |
| Burundi | 18 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 18 | 36 |
| Canada | -- | -- | -- | 24 | 39 | 6 | 68 | 285 |
| China | -- | 35 | -- | 127 | 50 | 101 | 314 | 1,610 |
| France | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Germany | -- | 41 | -- | 1 | (3) | 12 | 54 | 204 |
| Hong Kong | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 31 | 31 | 39 |
| India | -- | -- | -- | 6 | -- | 12 | 18 | 34 |
| Israel | -- | -- | -- | 5 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 65 |
| Japan | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 20 | 21 | 83 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | -- | 10 | -- | (3) | 10 | 52 |
| Mexico | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4 |
| Mongolia | 3 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 66 |
| Nigeria | 23 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 23 | 45 |
| Philippines | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 14 | 14 | 65 |
| Poland | 8 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 8 | 23 |
| Portugal | 57 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 57 | 266 |
| Russia | -- | -- | 3 | -- | -- | (3) | 3 | 80 |
| Spain | 57 | -- | -- | -- | -- | (3) | 57 | 257 |
| Switzerland | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | (3) | (3) | 7 |
| Thailand | 11 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 11 | 17 |
| Uganda | 12 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 12 | 23 |
| Ukraine | -- | -- | 5 | -- | -- | -- | 5 | 5 |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | -- | (3) | -- | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Vietnam | -- | -- | -- | 10 | -- | 56 | 66 | 169 |
| Other | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 274 | 76 | 7 | 186 | 120 | 260 | 925 | 4,250 |
| January–May | 1,320 | 551 | 40 | 751 | 771 | 810 | 4,250 | XX |

-- 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 2019 totaled 246 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 1,180 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 |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 2018 | 284 | 106 | 260 | 1,180 | 1,020 | 2,850 | XX |
| 2019: | | | | | | | |
| March | 66 | -- | 20 | 79 | 119 | 283 | 673 |
| April | 66 | 16 | 15 | 81 | 65 | 243 | 916 |
| May: | | | | | | | |
| Australia | -- | -- | -- | 4 | (4) | 4 | 21 |
| Austria | -- | -- | -- | (4) | 8 | 8 | 77 |
| Belgium | -- | -- | 1 | (4) | -- | 1 | 3 |
| Brazil | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | (4) | 1 | 14 |
| Canada | -- | -- | 5 | 18 | 3 | 25 | 153 |
| China | -- | -- | (4) | 13 | 1 | 14 | 32 |
| Costa Rica | -- | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Czechia | -- | -- | 1 | 12 | -- | 13 | 30 |
| France | 12 | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | 13 | 21 |
| Germany | -- | -- | (4) | 11 | 1 | 12 | 103 |
| Hong Kong | -- | -- | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | 3 |
| India | -- | -- | 2 | 1 | (4) | 3 | 13 |
| Indonesia | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 1 | 3 |
| Ireland | -- | -- | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | 9 |
| Japan | -- | (4) | (4) | 4 | 94 | 98 | 321 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | (4) | 1 | (4) | 2 | 7 |
| Mexico | -- | -- | 1 | 2 | 17 | 19 | 96 |
| Netherlands | 88 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 88 | 174 |
| Philippines | -- | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | (4) | 4 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | -- | (4) | (4) | -- | (4) | 9 |
| Singapore | -- | -- | -- | 1 | (4) | 1 | 4 |
| South Africa | -- | -- | -- | 1 | (4) | 1 | 9 |
| Taiwan | -- | -- | (4) | 2 | (4) | 2 | 4 |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | 1 | 3 | (4) | 4 | 16 |
| Vietnam | 26 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 26 | 106 |
| Other | (4) | -- | 1 | 1 | (4) | 2 | 20 |
| Total | 126 | (4) | 13 | 76 | 126 | 341 | 1,260 |
| January–May | 276 | 18 | 81 | 374 | 508 | 1,260 | XX |

-- 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: Exports of waste and scrap in May 2019 totaled 68 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–May total of 277 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.