

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN SEPTEMBER 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 September 2019 was 6% 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 September 2019 was slightly 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 September 2019. The September 2019 monthly average price was 16% lower than that in September 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The September 2019 monthly average price was 18% lower than that

in September 2018. The following prices for September 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:							
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
June	W	335	W	8,480	W	W	125
July	W	143	W	8,480	W	W	125
August	W	255	W	8,480	W	W	125
September	W	106	W	8,370	W	W	125
January–September	W	2,160	W	8,370	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:								
July	143	140	3	182	195	215	877	6,100
August	255	186	5	179	181	161	966	7,060
September:								
Austria	--	--	--	2	36	2	40	430
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	839
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Burundi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54
Canada	--	--	--	28	17	3	48	522
China	--	105	--	84	115	102	407	3,040
Congo (Kinshasa)	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	9
France	--	--	--	--	1	2	3	19
Germany	--	50	--	2	--	24	76	577
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	70
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	39
Israel	--	--	--	--	7	(3)	7	120
Japan	--	--	--	3	1	2	6	145
Korea, Republic of	--	--	8	8	--	(3)	16	103
Mongolia	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	131
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	20
Nigeria	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	171
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	12	12	92
Poland	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	30
Portugal	23	--	--	--	--	--	23	437
Russia	26	--	5	--	--	--	30	152
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	277
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	21	21	121
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	1	8
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	1	205	206	508
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	14
Total	106	155	12	129	177	385	965	8,030
January–September	2,160	1,130	69	1,370	1,550	1,750	8,030	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 September 2019 totaled 282 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 2,310 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:							
July	47	--	21	65	53	187	1,630
August	18	2	24	51	75	170	1,800
September:							
Argentina	--	--	--	1	--	1	4
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	24
Austria	--	--	--	--	1	1	121
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Brazil	--	--	2	2	(4)	4	22
Canada	1	--	4	10	5	20	246
China	--	--	--	1	1	2	70
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	7
Czechia	--	--	1	--	--	1	33
France	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Germany	--	--	(4)	3	1	5	129
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	5
India	--	--	(4)	4	(4)	5	37
Indonesia	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	6
Ireland	--	--	--	4	--	4	13
Japan	--	(4)	(4)	--	49	49	504
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	1	1	13
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	4	5	1	16	27	191
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	204
Peru	--	--	(4)	(4)	--	1	4
Philippines	9	--	--	--	--	9	14
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	22
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	6
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	12
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Thailand	104	--	--	(4)	(4)	105	106
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	2	2	4	26
Vietnam	57	--	--	--	--	57	215
Other	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	2	23
Total	171	5	16	31	78	299	2,090
January–September	539	25	155	565	810	2,090	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 September 2019 totaled 74 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–September total of 626 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.