

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN NOVEMBER 2018

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 November 2018 was slightly less than that imported during the same period in 2017 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through November 2018 was 9% less than that exported during the same period in 2017 (table 3).

### Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged in November 2018. The November 2018 monthly average price was 5% higher than that in November 2017. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged from mid-to late June through the end of November. The November 2018

monthly average price for tungsten concentrates was 11% higher than that in November 2017. The following prices for November 2018, 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—\$342/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$310/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$375/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$340/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$280/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$353/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$320/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production <sup>p, 4</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry <sup>p, 2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Producer <sup>p, 5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
2017:							
November	W	287	W	10,300	W	W	125
December	W	363	W	10,200	W	W	125
January–December	W	3,930	W	10,200	W	W	125
2018:							
January	W	366	W	9,960	W	W	126
February	W	256	W	9,930	W	W	126
March	W	258	W	9,740	W	W	126
April	W	310	W	9,630	W	W	125
May	W	332	W	9,540	W	W	125
June	W	455	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	425	W	9,170	W	W	125
October	W	475	W	9,170	W	W	125
November	W	169	W	9,090	W	W	125
January–November	W	3,630	W	9,090	W	W	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Reported by consumers; includes estimates.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

<sup>5</sup>Data 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 LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2017	3,930	2,230	209	1,300	1,440	2,330	11,400	XX
2018:								
September	425	202	3	117	104	139	990	8,580
October	475	132	17	102	115	156	996	9,570
November:								
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	30
Austria	--	--	--	13	6	4	24	389
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,090
Burundi	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	76
Canada	--	--	--	14	43	(3)	58	571
China	--	107	--	71	131	35	345	3,770
Finland	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	8
France	--	--	--	(3)	2	1	3	28
Germany	--	78	--	2	(3)	1	80	727
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	22
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	27
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	128
Japan	--	--	--	3	(3)	10	14	132
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	3	(3)	(3)	3	209
Mongolia	13	--	--	--	--	--	13	132
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	8
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	726
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	153
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27
Spain	32	--	--	--	--	(3)	32	591
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	21
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	81
Uganda	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	73
United Kingdom	16	--	--	1	--	(3)	17	616
Vietnam	--	--	--	2	--	99	101	651
Other	2	--	--	(3)	4	1	8	39
Total	169	185	--	110	187	157	808	10,400
January–November	3,630	2,060	143	1,260	1,340	1,950	10,400	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in November 2018 totaled 263 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 2,700 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of destination	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder <sup>2</sup>	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2017	532	97	367	901	1,200	3,100	XX
2018:							
September	(4)	4	17	104	93	219	2,130
October	3	34	24	123	73	257	2,390
November:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	38
Austria	--	--	--	16	(4)	16	334
Belgium	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	26
Brazil	--	--	(4)	3	2	6	20
Canada	--	--	2	32	3	37	328
China	--	--	(4)	3	2	5	87
Czechia	--	--	2	1	--	2	139
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	46
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
France	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	13
Germany	--	--	(4)	14	7	21	289
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	30
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
India	--	--	1	4	(4)	5	41
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	10
Japan	--	--	(4)	19	16	35	403
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	3	19
Mexico	--	--	1	1	13	15	199
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	23
Peru	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	7
Philippines	--	--	(4)	1	62	63	68
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	9
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	28
South Africa	--	--	1	--	8	9	32
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Taiwan	--	--	--	5	(4)	5	42
Turkey	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	8
United Arab Emirates	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	10
United Kingdom	--	--	--	4	1	5	154
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	107
Other	--	--	1	3	3	7	66
Total	--	--	12	106	120	239	2,630
January–November	281	97	236	1,120	900	2,630	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in November 2018 totaled 87 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–November total of 604 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.