

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JUNE 2022

U.S. reported consumption of tungsten concentrate, net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, and industry stocks of tungsten materials were withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

On June 30, 2022, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was unchanged from that on May 31, 2022 (table 1).

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through June 2022 was 19% more than that imported during the same period in 2021 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through June 2022 was unchanged from that exported during the same period in 2021 (table 3).

Prices

The following tungsten price comparisons are U.S. Geological Survey calculations based on Argus Metals International prices. The June 2022 monthly average price for

tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was 4% lower than that in May 2022 and 7% higher than that in June 2021. The June 2022 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially unchanged from that in May 2022 and 26% higher than that in June 2021 (fig. 1).

Industry News

Fireweed Zinc Ltd. of Canada signed a binding letter of intent with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to acquire a 100% interest in the Mactung tungsten project in the Selwyn Mountain range on the border of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, Canada. GNWT took ownership of Mactung in 2015 after former project owner North American Tungsten Corp. Ltd. of Canada filed for court protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (Fireweed Zinc Ltd., 2022, North American Tungsten Corp. Ltd., 2015).

After Fireweed and GNWT sign a definitive purchase agreement, the company plans to validate previous work on the project to support the development of a new mineral resource

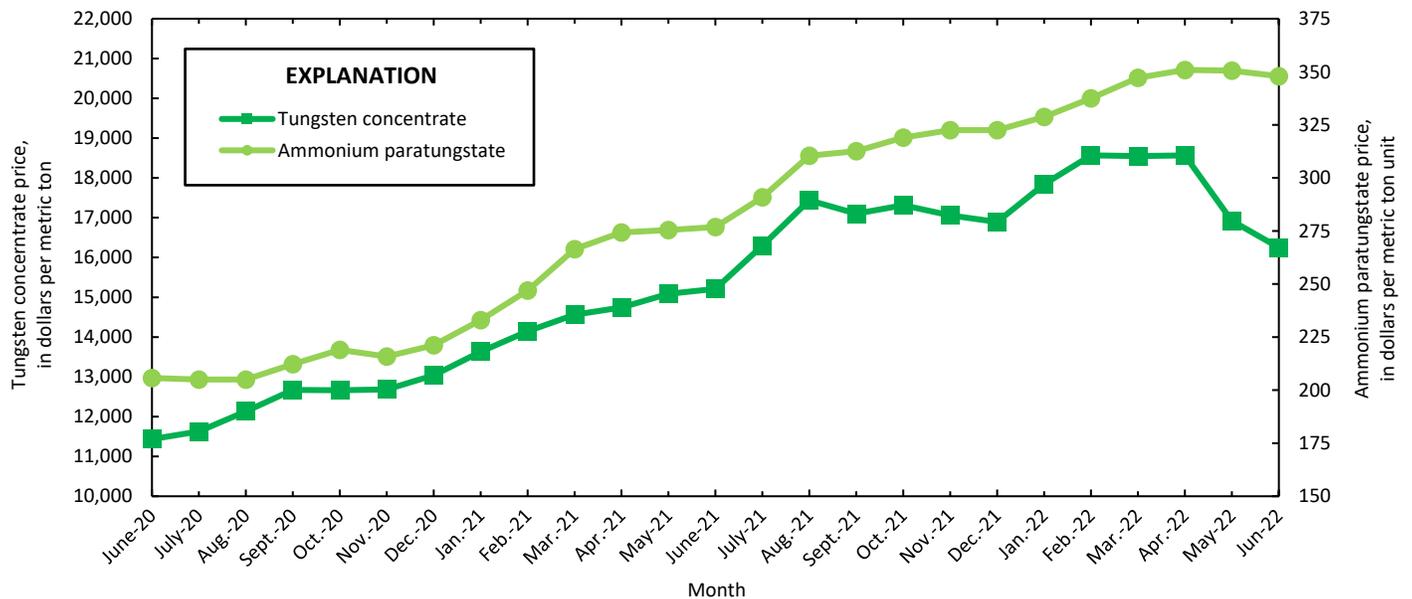


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for June 2020 through June 2022. Source: Argus Metals International.

estimate, followed by a preliminary economic assessment in 2023. Fireweed also planned to evaluate synergies between the Mactung project and its adjacent Macmillan Pass zinc-lead-silver project (Fireweed Zinc Ltd., 2022).

References Cited

Fireweed Zinc Ltd., 2022, Fireweed Zinc acquires Mactung tungsten project— Expands critical minerals portfolio: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Fireweed Zinc Ltd. news release, June 7, 7 p. (Accessed December 8, 2022, via <https://www.sedar.com/DisplayCompanyDocuments.do?lang=EN&issuerNo=00042438>.)

North American Tungsten Corp. Ltd., 2015, NATC Announces Extension of Stay of Proceedings under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, North American Tungsten Corp. Ltd. news release, November 19, 3 p. (Accessed December 8, 2022, via <https://www.sedar.com/DisplayCompanyDocuments.do?lang=EN&issuerNo=00007610>.)

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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 ⁴	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Industry ⁵	U.S. Government ³
2021:							
June	W	100	W	6,900	W	W	--
July	W	105	W	6,900	W	W	--
August	W	180	W	6,850	W	W	--
September	W	135	W	6,850	W	W	--
October	W	107	W	6,850	W	W	--
November	W	176	W	6,660	W	W	--
December	W	252	W	6,570	W	W	--
January–December	W	1,590	W	6,570	W	W	--
2022:							
January	W	125	W	6,570	W	W	--
February	W	82	W	6,390	W	W	--
March	W	96	W	6,300	W	W	--
April	W	181	W	6,170	W	W	--
May	W	256	W	6,080	W	W	--
June	W	156	W	6,080	W	W	--
January–June	W	896	W	6,080	W	W	--

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. --Zero.

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

²Consumer stocks.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁵Producer stocks of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

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
2021:								
January–June	635	353	3	699 ^r	836 ^r	1,540	4,060 ^r	XX
January–December	1,590	1,040	26	1,290	1,900	3,360	9,200	XX
2022:								
April	181	43	--	145	187	240	796	2,890
May	256	142	(3)	145	276	193	1,010	3,900
June:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	15
Austria	--	--	--	19	71	3	93	449
Bolivia	98	--	--	--	--	--	98	507
Canada	--	--	--	45	26	5	75	388
China	1	94	--	79	87	102	363	1,470
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	14
France	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	16
Germany	--	32	--	--	(3)	12	44	439
India	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	57
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	32
Japan	--	--	--	16	(3)	16	32	102
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	19	--	(3)	19	134
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	27
Portugal	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	170
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	113
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	41	41	230
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	(3)	10	74
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	33
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	88	88	556
Other	(3)	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	8
Total	156	125	--	178	184	297	941	4,840
January–June	896	535	14	848	948	1,600	4,840	XX

^rRevised. 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

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in June 2022 totaled 302 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 1,590 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
2021:							
January–June	267	92	180	211 ^r	482 ^r	1,230 ^r	XX
January–December	441	116	550	422	892	2,420	XX
2022:							
April	2	1	45	56	35	139	616
May	89	1	74	39	55	257	874
June:							
Australia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	22
Austria	--	--	--	--	6	6	27
Belgium	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	10
Brazil	--	--	1	1	1	2	7
Canada	--	--	73	21	5	99	434
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
China	--	--	1	(4)	26	26	97
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	5	5	14
Czechia	--	--	--	2	(4)	2	6
Denmark	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	3
France	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	9
Germany	--	--	3	22	(4)	26	93
India	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	16
Indonesia	--	--	1	1	--	2	3
Israel	--	--	--	1	8	8	15
Japan	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	20
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	5	1	7	12
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Mexico	--	--	3	1	7	11	65
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	65
Peru	--	--	1	--	--	1	3
Philippines	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	3
United Kingdom	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	10
Vietnam	151	--	--	--	--	151	267
Other	--	--	1	1	1	4	24
Total	151	--	88	58	62	359	1,230
January–June	303	4	374	277	275	1,230	XX

^rRevised. 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: Exports of waste and scrap in June 2022 totaled 88 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 1,600 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.