

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN FEBRUARY 2023

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 February 28, 2023, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was unchanged from that on January 31, 2023 (table 1).

During January through February 2023, the amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of materials listed in table 2 was 15% more than that imported during the same period in 2022. The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of materials listed in table 3 was 50% more during January through February 2023 than that exported during the same period in 2022.

Prices

The following tungsten price comparisons are U.S. Geological Survey calculations based on Argus Metals International prices. The February 2023 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was 3% higher than that in January 2023 and 5% lower than that in February 2022. The February 2023 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was essentially the same as those in January 2023 and February 2022 (fig. 1).

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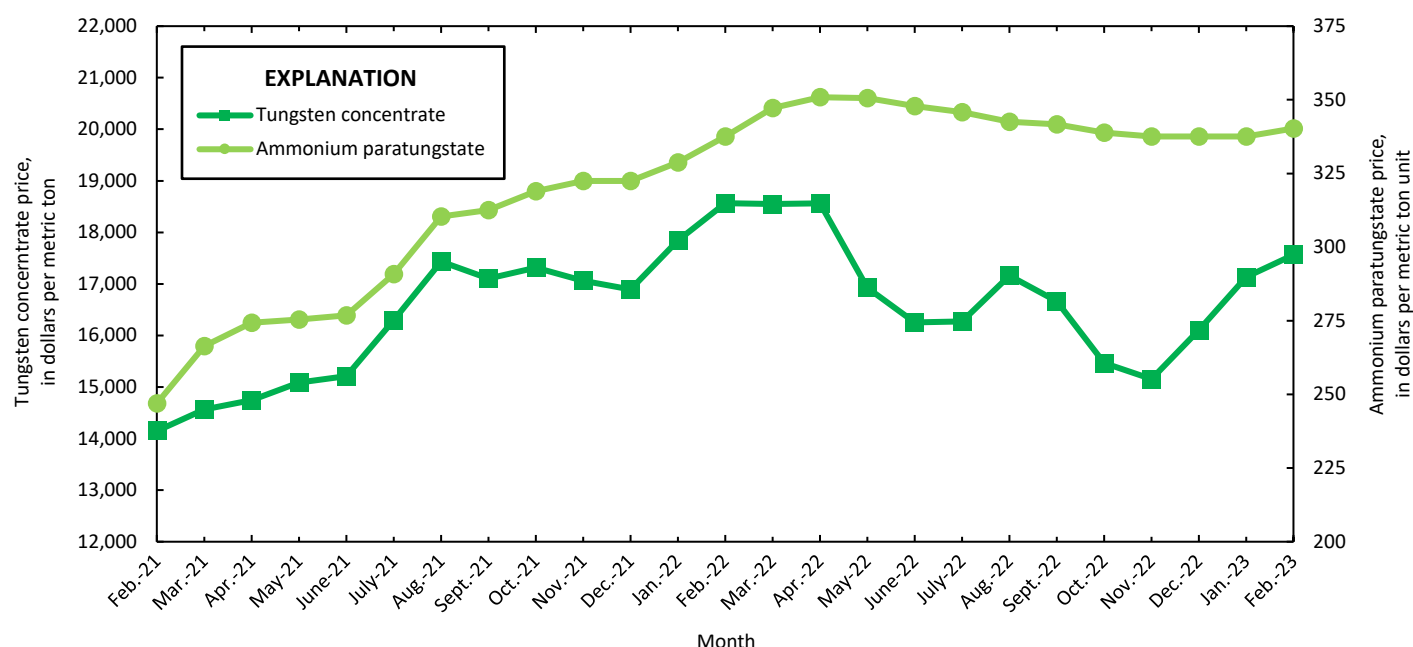


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for February 2021 through February 2023. Source: Argus Metals International.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products	
	Consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production ⁴	Stocks, end of period ⁵
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		
2022:						
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
July	W	224	W	6,080	W	W
August	W	134	W	6,000	W	W
September	W	245	W	6,000	W	W
October	W	202	W	6,000	W	W
November	W	197	W	5,970	W	W
December	W	239	W	5,880	W	W
January–December	W	2,140	W	5,880	W	W
2023:						
January	W	153	W	5,880	W	W
February	W	99	W	5,880	W	W
January–February	W	252	W	5,880	W	W

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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
2022:								
January–February	207	131	9	258	205	487	1,300	XX
January–December	2,140	1,200	52	2,010	1,990	3,340	10,700	XX
2023:								
January	153	97	--	205	79	346	880	880
February:								
Austria	--	--	--	14	52	1	67	87
Bolivia	12	--	--	--	--	--	12	78
Canada	--	--	--	55	24	8	87	152
China	9	37	--	17	60	111	233	544
France	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	3
Germany	--	10	--	(3)	(3)	5	16	51
India	--	--	--	--	--	5	5	30
Israel	--	--	--	1	5	(3)	6	16
Japan	(3)	--	--	--	--	7	7	24
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	7	--	(3)	7	19
Portugal	23	--	--	--	--	--	23	56
Russia	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	49
Spain	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	43
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	47	47	92
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	11
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	43	43	228
Other	--	--	1	--	2	3	5	7
Total	99	46	1	93	142	232	613	1,490
January–February	252	144	1	298	221	577	1,490	XX

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 February 2023 totaled 320 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 821 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
2022:							
January–February	34	2	110	75	91	312	XX
January–December	609	8	787	512	461	2,380	XX
2023:							
January	56	2	65	41	43	207	207
February:							
Australia	--	--	--	2	1	3	5
Belgium	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	3
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	4
Canada	(4)	--	48	9	7	65	143
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	3	4	13
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	4	4	8
Czechia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	11
Denmark	--	29	--	--	(4)	29	29
France	--	5	--	--	1	6	6
Germany	--	--	(4)	19	(4)	20	23
India	--	--	2	(4)	6	9	18
Israel	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	4
Japan	--	1	(4)	--	1	2	3
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	3	(4)	4	5
Mexico	--	--	2	2	10	14	27
Philippines	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2	1	(4)	3	5
Slovakia	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	85	87	87
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	56
Other	--	1	4	2	2	9	13
Total	(4)	35	60	45	122	262	469
January–February	57	37	125	86	165	469	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: Exports of waste and scrap in February 2023 totaled 42 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–February total of 100 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.