

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN APRIL 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 April 30, 2023, the U.S. Government stockpile inventory of tungsten concentrates held by DLA Strategic Materials was slightly less than that on March 31, 2023 (table 1).

During January through April 2023, the amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of materials listed in table 2 was 6% less 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 78% more during January through April 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 April 2023 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was essentially unchanged from that in March 2023 and 9% lower than that in April 2022. The April 2023 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was slightly lower than that in March 2023 and 7% lower than that in April 2022 (fig. 1).

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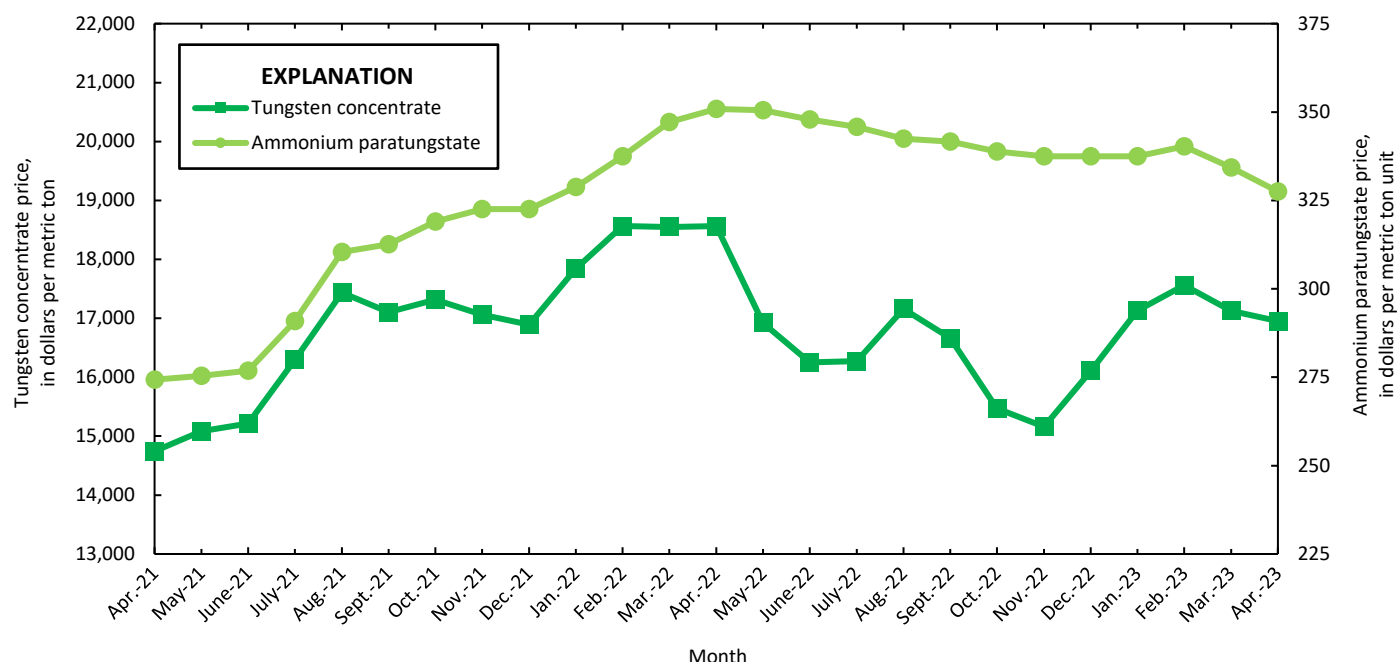


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for April 2021 through April 2023. Source: Argus Metals International.

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:						
April	W	139 ^r	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	190 ^r	W	5,970	W	W
December	W	239	W	5,880	W	W
January–December	W	2,130 ^r	W	5,880	W	W
2023:						
January	W	153	W	5,880	W	W
February	W	99	W	5,880	W	W
March	W	120	W	5,880	W	W
April	W	119	W	5,790	W	W
January–April	W	491	W	5,790	W	W

^rRevised. 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 concen- trates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2022:								
January–April	484 ^r	268	14	525	502 ^r	1,110	2,900 ^r	XX
January–December	2,130 ^r	1,200	52	1,990 ^r	2,010 ^r	3,340	10,700	XX
2023:								
February	99	46	1	93	142	232	613	1,490
March	120	36	(3)	92	159	139	546	2,040
April:								
Austria	--	--	--	6	32	1	40	186
Bolivia	70	--	--	--	--	--	70	216
Canada	--	--	--	45	22	(3)	67	295
China	4	55	--	30	56	121	265	1,030
France	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	5
Germany	--	57	--	--	1	3	61	129
India	--	--	--	--	--	14	14	46
Israel	--	--	--	5	--	(3)	5	23
Japan	--	18	--	7	--	1	26	54
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	11	--	(3)	11	38
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	114
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49
Spain	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	53
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	10	10	102
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Vietnam	--	--	5	9	--	50	63	333
Other	--	--	(3)	--	3	2	5	14
Total	119	130	5	114	114	204	686	2,720
January–April	491	310	6	504	494	920	2,720	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 April 2023 totaled 331 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 1,370 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–April	63	3	212	180	158	616	XX
January–December	614 ^r	8	787	512	463 ^r	2,380	XX
2023:							
February	(4)	35	60	45	122	262	469
March	15	1	72	57	46	192	661
April:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	2	1	3	11
Austria	--	--	--	(4)	6	6	6
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	4
Brazil	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	6
Canada	--	--	52	4	11	67	300
China	--	--	(4)	11	7	18	38
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	3	3	16
Czechia	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	14
Denmark	--	--	--	1	--	1	29
France	--	15	1	(4)	(4)	16	23
Germany	--	--	2	11	1	14	51
India	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	11	12	37
Israel	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	6
Japan	--	--	(4)	5	13	18	32
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	6
Malaysia	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	--	1	1	8	11	55
Philippines	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	5
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	12
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	22	22	109
United Kingdom	--	2	(4)	(4)	(4)	3	7
Vietnam	198	--	--	--	36	234	306
Other	--	--	(4)	2	2	4	22
Total	198	17	58	42	124	439	1,100
January–April	270	55	256	184	335	1,100	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 April 2023 totaled 97 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–April total of 356 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.