

# Mineral Industry Surveys

## For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist  
National Minerals Information Center  
Telephone: (703) 648-4974  
Email: kshed@usgs.gov

Annie Hwang (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7952

Email: ahwang@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys>

## TUNGSTEN IN JUNE 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. U.S. Government National Defense Stockpile inventory statistics are no longer available.

During January through June 2023, the amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of materials listed in table 2 was 19% 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 64% more during January through June 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 June 2023 monthly average price for

tungsten concentrate, ex works China, was slightly lower than that in May 2023 and 4% higher than that in June 2022. The June 2023 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was unchanged from that in May 2023 and 6% lower than that in June 2022 (fig. 1).

## Industry News

In late June, EQ Resources Ltd. (Australia) restarted tungsten production from freshly mined ore at its Mt. Carbine mining and beneficiation operation in Far North Queensland, Australia. The ore was mined from the recently dewatered Andy White open pit. EQ Resources expected to ramp up production to meet planned targets by September 30, 2023. Based on the production schedule in an update to EQ Resources' 2022 bankable feasibility study, 2023 production of tungsten in concentrate was scheduled to be 4,290 metric tons, gross weight, with a minimum grade of 50% tungsten trioxide. In addition to

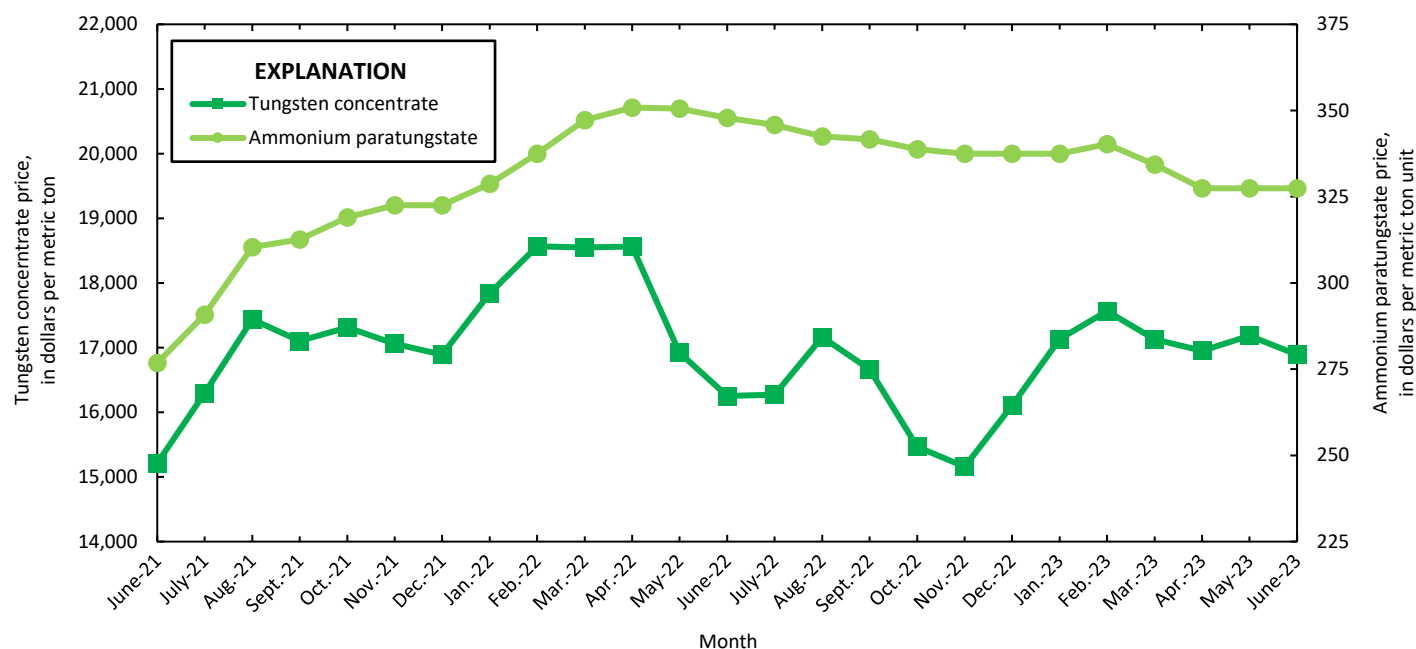


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for June 2021 through June 2023. Source: Argus Metals International.

preparing the beneficiation plant to transition from processing primarily low-grade stockpiled ore to open pit ore, EQ Resources continued to work on expanding and upgrading the plant (EQ Resources Ltd., 2023a; 2023b, p. 26, 53; 2023c, p. 1–2, 4–5).

## References Cited

- EQ Resources Ltd., 2023a, First blast at Mt Carbine restarts open cut production: Bowen Hills, Queensland, Australia, EQ Resources Ltd., June 26, 3 p. (Accessed September 8, 2023, at <https://www.eqresources.com.au/site/pdf/c02fa85e-79e2-4cdd-8137-5a2c8afdddae/First-Blast-at-Mt-Carbine-Restarts-Open-Cut-Production.pdf>.)
- EQ Resources Ltd., 2023b, Mt Carbine bankable feasibility study—2023 economic update: Bowen Hills, Queensland, Australia, EQ Resources Ltd., May, 61 p. (Accessed September 8, 2023, at

- <https://www.eqresources.com.au/site/pdf/4eb6bc98-470f-4353-80c0-5143ba342366/Mt-Carbine-Expansion-Project-Bankable-Feasibility-Study-2023-Economic-Update.pdf>.)
- EQ Resources Ltd., 2023c, Quarterly activities report—Quarter ended 30 June 2023: Bowen Hills, Queensland, Australia, EQ Resources Ltd., July 31, 25 p. (Accessed September 8, 2023, at <https://eqresources.com.au/site/pdf/ebb12ccb-b859-4dfc-baf1-5f4c583889fc/Quarterly-Activities-and-Cash-Flow-Report-June-2023.pdf>.)

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate			Intermediate products	
	Consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period <sup>2, 3</sup>	Net production <sup>4</sup>	Stocks, end of period <sup>5</sup>
2022:					
June	W	156	W	W	W
July	W	224	W	W	W
August	W	134	W	W	W
September	W	245	W	W	W
October	W	202	W	W	W
November	W	190	W	W	W
December	W	239	W	W	W
January–December	W	2,130	W	W	W
2023:					
January	W	153	W	W	W
February	W	99	W	W	W
March	W	120	W	W	W
April	W	119	W	W	W
May	W	91	W	W	W
June	W	91	W	W	W
January–June	W	673	W	W	W

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>Consumer stocks.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Government National Defense Stockpile inventory statistics are no longer available.

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

<sup>5</sup>Producer stocks of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

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
2022:								
January–June	896	535	14	848	968 <sup>r</sup>	1,600	4,860 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	2,130	1,200	52	1,990	2,010	3,340	10,700	XX
2023:								
April	119	130	5	114	114	204	686	2,720
May	91	80	4	112	168	190	646	3,370
June:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	39	3	43	267
Bolivia	50	--	--	--	--	--	50	305
Canada	--	--	--	37	24	2	63	441
China	8	58	--	26	69	55	216	1,480
France	--	--	--	(3)	1	2	3	14
Germany	--	46	--	(3)	1	10	56	269
India	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	53
Israel	--	--	--	--	9	(3)	9	40
Japan	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	1	62
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	20	(3)	(3)	20	65
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
Portugal	23	--	--	--	--	--	23	160
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	53
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	8
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	21	21	154
Thailand	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	48
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5
Vietnam	--	--	8	--	--	48	56	432
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	13
Total	91	104	8	83	142	145	573	3,940
January–June	673	494	18	699	804	1,260	3,940	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in June 2023 totaled 300 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 1,990 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
2022:							
January–June	303	4	374	277	275	1,230	XX
January–December	614	8	787	512	463	2,380	XX
2023:							
April	198	17	58	42	124	439	1,100
May	319	1	82	40	46	488	1,590
June:							
Australia	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	32
Austria	--	--	--	--	8	8	30
Belgium	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	39
Brazil	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	1	8
Canada	--	--	62	13	2	77	453
China	--	--	--	1	5	6	48
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	4	4	24
Czechia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	15
Denmark	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	30
France	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	24
Germany	--	--	1	10	1	11	70
India	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	2	42
Israel	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
Japan	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	37
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	7
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	--	2	1	14	16	86
Philippines	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	4	--	4	20
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	5
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	5
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	110
United Kingdom	(4)	--	3	(4)	(4)	3	13
Vietnam	287	--	(4)	(4)	--	287	881
Other	--	--	3	1	1	5	27
Total	288	--	72	37	38	435	2,020
January–June	876	56	410	262	418	2,020	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: Exports of waste and scrap in June 2023 totaled 126 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–June total of 572 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.