

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN OCTOBER 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 October 2023, the amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of materials listed in table 2 was 22% 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 58% more during January through October 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 Analytics prices. The October 2023 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, minimum 65% tungsten trioxide, ex works China,

was essentially unchanged from that in September 2023 (revised) and 6% more than that in October 2022. The October 2023 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, in-warehouse Rotterdam, duty unpaid, was slightly lower than that in September 2023 and 9% lower than that in October 2022 (fig. 1).

## Government and Industry News

On October 3, the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, released the annual materials plan (AMP) for fiscal year 2024 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024). The AMP lists the maximum quantities of materials that can be acquired or disposed during the fiscal year. For fiscal year 2024, potential acquisitions included 266 t of tungsten and potential disposals included 907 metric tons (t) of tungsten content of tungsten ores and concentrates (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2023a, b).

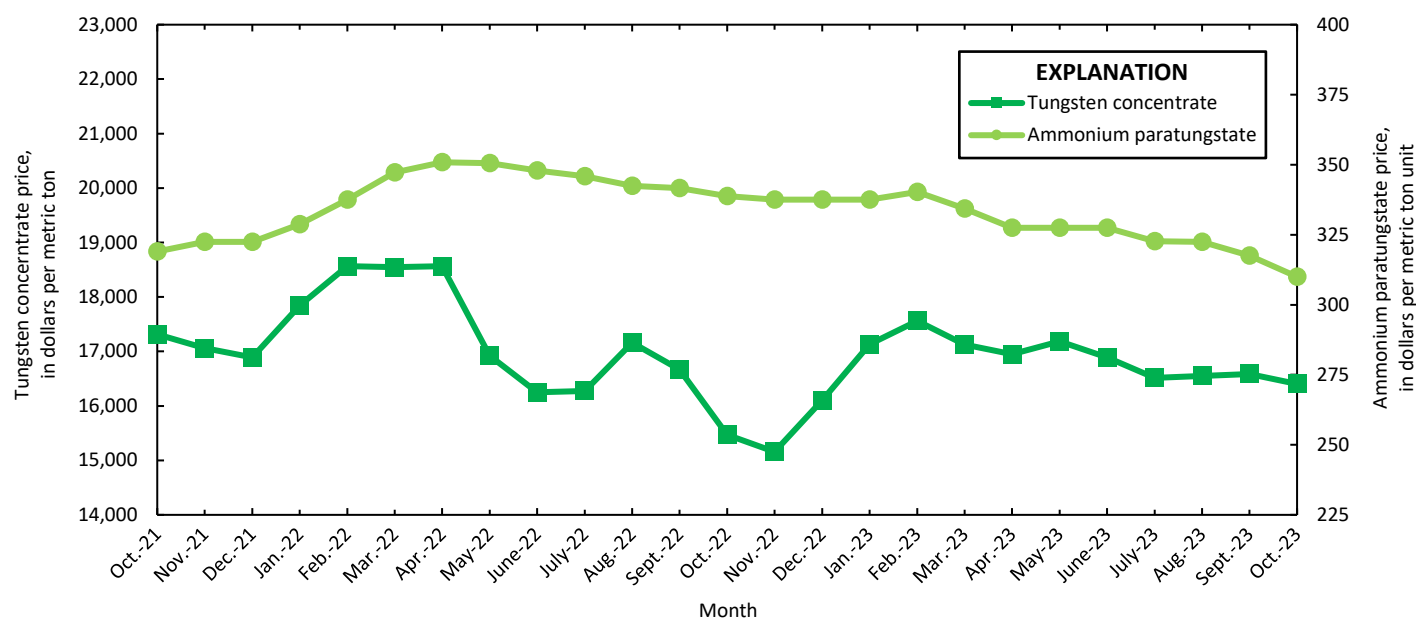


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for October 2021 through October 2023. Source: Argus Analytics.

In late October, Sandvik AB (Sweden) signed an agreement to acquire U.S. tungsten processor Buffalo Tungsten, Inc. Buffalo Tungsten produces tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder at its facility in Depew, NY. Sandvik is the parent company of tungsten processor Wolfram Bergbau & Hütten AG, which has a refining facility in St. Martin, Austria, where it produces similar tungsten products to those produced by Buffalo Tungsten. The Buffalo Tungsten acquisition was expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2023 (Sandvik AB, 2023).

## References Cited

Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2023a, Annual Materials Plan for FY 2024 [potential acquisitions]: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials news release, October 3, 1 p. (Accessed December 22, 2023, at [https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3239%20FY24%20AMP\\_ACQ.pdf?ver=2V5ApfLdnE3asLDDjz5ExA%3d%3d](https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3239%20FY24%20AMP_ACQ.pdf?ver=2V5ApfLdnE3asLDDjz5ExA%3d%3d).)

Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2023b, Annual Materials Plan for FY 2024 [potential disposals]: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials news release, October 3, 1 p. (Accessed December 22, 2023, at <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3238%20FY24%20AMP%20Disposal.pdf?ver=AWP7ABSEVnbqSawiAMPJQA%3d%3d>.)

Sandvik AB, 2023, Sandvik to acquire tungsten powder manufacturer Buffalo Tungsten: Stockholm, Sweden, Sandvik AB press release, October 26, 1 p. (Accessed December 22, 2023, at <https://www.home.sandvik/en/news-and-media/news/2023/10/sandvik-to-acquire-tungsten-powder-manufacturer-buffalo-tungsten/>.)

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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:					
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
July	W	112	W	W	W
August	W	207	W	W	W
September	W	96	W	W	W
October	W	190	W	W	W
January–October	W	1,280	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 concen- trates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2022:								
January–October	1,700	902	45	1,610 <sup>†</sup>	1,680 <sup>†</sup>	2,890	8,840 <sup>†</sup>	XX
January–December	2,130	1,200	52	1,990	2,010	3,340	10,700	XX
2023:								
August	207	190	4	61	141	129	731	5,450
September	96	112	(3)	73	126	241	648	6,100
October:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	42	2	45	409
Bolivia	106	--	--	--	--	--	106	684
Canada	--	--	--	20	8	8	36	652
China	8	56	--	1	127	79	272	2,570
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	17
Germany	--	107	--	(3)	--	36	144	637
India	--	--	--	--	(3)	6	6	87
Israel	--	--	--	17	11	(3)	28	148
Japan	(3)	--	--	(3)	(3)	8	8	89
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	6	6	85
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Mongolia	19	--	--	--	--	--	19	59
Portugal	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	266
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49
Singapore	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	5
Spain	10	--	--	2	--	--	12	66
Switzerland	--	--	--	(3)	--	4	4	18
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	10	10	250
Thailand	22	--	--	--	--	1	23	81
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	6
Vietnam	--	--	--	5	--	79	83	717
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	2	2	15
Total	190	163	--	47	189	241	830	6,930
January–October	1,280	1,180	21	986	1,370	2,100	6,930	XX

<sup>†</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 estimated in part.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in October 2023 totaled 160 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 2,980 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–October	504 <sup>r</sup>	8	651	426	402 <sup>r</sup>	1,990 <sup>r</sup>	XX
January–December	614	8	787	512	463	2,380	XX
2023:							
August	29	1	62	35	63	189	2,740
September	92	--	67	44	44	247	2,990
October:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	5	(4)	5	61
Austria	--	--	--	--	7	7	53
Belgium	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	42
Brazil	--	--	2	1	(4)	3	16
Canada	--	--	15	6	2	22	685
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	8	9	77
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	6	6	42
Czechia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	17
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
France	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	27
Germany	--	--	1	3	1	5	97
India	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	46
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	7
Israel	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	12
Japan	--	2	(4)	3	1	5	49
Korea, Republic of	--	13	(4)	--	(4)	14	30
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Mexico	--	--	1	1	16	18	144
Netherlands	6	--	(4)	--	(4)	6	9
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	28
Singapore	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	8
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	8
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	8	8	194
Turkey	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	5
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	4	5	29
Vietnam	30	--	--	--	--	30	1,370
Other	--	--	(4)	(4)	2	3	35
Total	35	15	22	23	57	153	3,140
January–October	1,370	79	627	394	666	3,140	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>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 October 2023 totaled 40 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–October total of 880 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.