

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN DECEMBER 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.

In 2023, the amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of materials totaled 8,270 metric tons (t), a 23% decrease from 10,700 t in 2022. Based on contained tungsten, China was the leading source of U.S. tungsten imports, supplying 36% in 2023. The other major sources of U.S. imports were supplied by Bolivia (11%), Canada, Germany, and Vietnam (9 % each), Austria (6%) and other countries (20%) (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in 2023 was 3,590 t, 51% higher than the 2,380 t exported in 2022 (table 3).

## Prices

The following tungsten price comparisons are U.S. Geological Survey calculations based on Argus Media Group, Argus Tungsten Analytics prices. The December 2023 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex-works China, was 3% higher than that in November 2023 and was 6% higher than that in December 2022. The December 2023 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was unchanged from that in November 2023 and was 10% lower than in December 2022 (fig. 1).

## Industry News

According to Argus Tungsten Analytics, (Argus Metals International, 2023, p. 7), tungsten producers in both Europe and the United States have extended their maintenance periods or intend to temporarily close their plants based on low demand for their products. Argus specifically mentioned the Masan High-

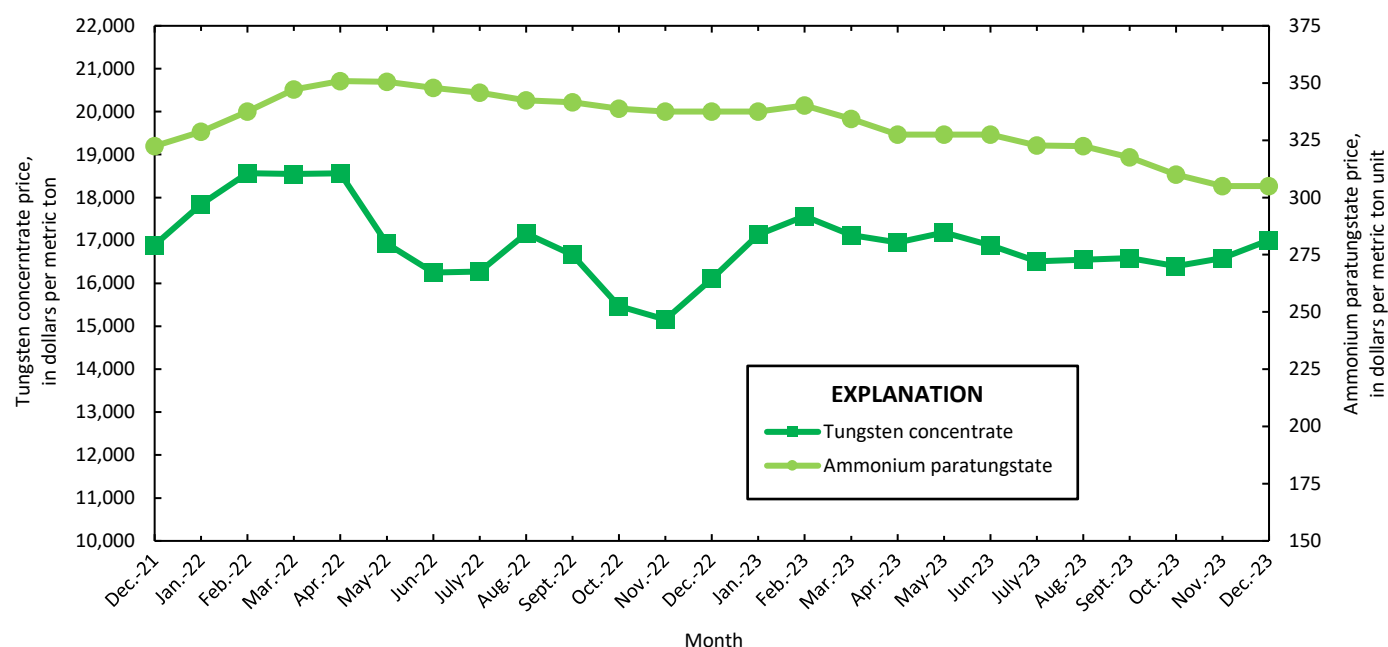


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for December 2021 through December 2023. Source: Argus Tungsten Analytics

Tech Materials Corp. (Vietnam) H.C. Starck Tungsten Powders plant in Goslar, Germany, which will halt production from mid-December until the end of February. Another company specifically mentioned was the Global Tungsten and Powders Corp. (GTP) plant in Towanda, PA. GTP has been producing at a 50% rate since November 2022 owing to lower demand and the need to reduce inventory.

On December 4, 2023, Sandvik AB (Sweden) announced that their acquisition of U.S. tungsten processor Buffalo Tungsten, Inc. (BTI) had been completed. BTI 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 BTI (Sandvik, 2023).

## References Cited

Argus Metals International, 2023, Argus tungsten monthly outlook: Argus Media Group, Argus Metals International, 12 p. (Accessed December 13, 2023, via <http://argusmedia.com/metals>.)

Sandvik AB, 2023, Sandvik completes the acquisition of Buffalo Tungsten: Stockholm, Sweden, Sandvik AB press release, December 4. (Accessed February 27, 2024, at <https://www.home.sandvik/en/news-and-media/news/2023/12/sandvik-completes-the-acquisition-of-buffalo-tungsten/>.)

## Acknowledgement

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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:					
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
November	W	188	W	W	W
December	W	171	W	W	W
January–December	W	1,640	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	2,130	1,200	52	1,990	2,010	3,340	10,700	XX
2023:								
October	190	163	--	47	189	241	830	6,930
November	188	128	--	131	113	134	693	7,630
December:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	19
Austria	--	--	--	20	21	18	58	510
Bolivia	115	--	--	--	--	--	115	880
Canada	(3)	--	--	48	9	10	67	781
China	1	91	--	1	92	28	212	2,990
France	--	--	--	(3)	--	(3)	(3)	18
Germany	--	--	--	--	10	17	27	709
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	5
India	--	--	--	--	--	12	12	113
Israel	--	--	--	40	3	--	42	240
Japan	(3)	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	1	123
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	8	--	(3)	8	93
Luxembourg	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	14
Mexico	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	10
Mongolia	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	100
Portugal	24	--	--	--	--	--	24	313
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49
Singapore	--	--	--	(3)	--	1	1	6
Spain	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	116
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	21
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	31	31	303
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	81
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	7
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	756
Other	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	11
Total	171	91	--	117	136	133	647	8,270
January–December	1,640	1,400	21	1,230	1,620	2,360	8,270	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>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 December 2023 totaled 174 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 3,400 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	614	8	787	512	463	2,380	XX
2023:							
October	35	15	22	23	57	153	3,140
November	30	--	19	32	49	129	3,270
December:							
Australia	--	--	--	5	(4)	5	70
Austria	--	--	--	--	22	22	86
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	--	42
Brazil	--	--	1	1	1	2	19
Canada	--	--	5	16	2	23	720
China	--	--	2	14	4	20	101
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	4	4	51
Czechia	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	19
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
France	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	31
Germany	--	--	(4)	72	1	73	180
India	--	--	2	(4)	1	3	50
Indonesia	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	11
Israel	--	--	--	3	(4)	3	16
Japan	--	--	(4)	21	(4)	21	80
Korea, Republic of	--	2	(4)	(4)	(4)	2	33
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	6
Mexico	--	--	1	(4)	12	13	173
Netherlands	--	--	(4)	--	1	1	10
Philippines	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	13
Saudi Arabia	--	--	3	6	--	9	39
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	10
South Africa	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	9
Taiwan	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	195
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	(4)	3	4	36
Vietnam	105	--	--	--	(4)	105	1,510
Other	--	--	1	(4)	1	2	44
Total	105	2	15	142	54	319	3,590
January–December	1,510	81	661	568	769	3,590	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 December 2023 totaled 131 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–December total of 1,110 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.