

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 2024

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 January 2024, the amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of materials totaled 601 metric tons (t), a 7% decrease from the 647 t imported in December 2023 (table 2). The leading sources of imports of contained tungsten in January 2024 were China (36%), Germany (13%), Bolivia (12%), Austria (11%), and Canada (10%). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January 2024 was 177 t, 45% less than the 319 t exported in December 2023 (table 3).

Prices

The following tungsten price comparisons are U.S. Geological Survey calculations based on Argus Media Group, Argus Tungsten Analytics prices. The January 2024 monthly average price for tungsten concentrate, ex-works China, was essentially unchanged from that of December 2023 and was unchanged from that of January 2023. The January 2024 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate, European Union market, was unchanged from that in December 2023 and was 10% lower than in January 2023 (fig. 1).

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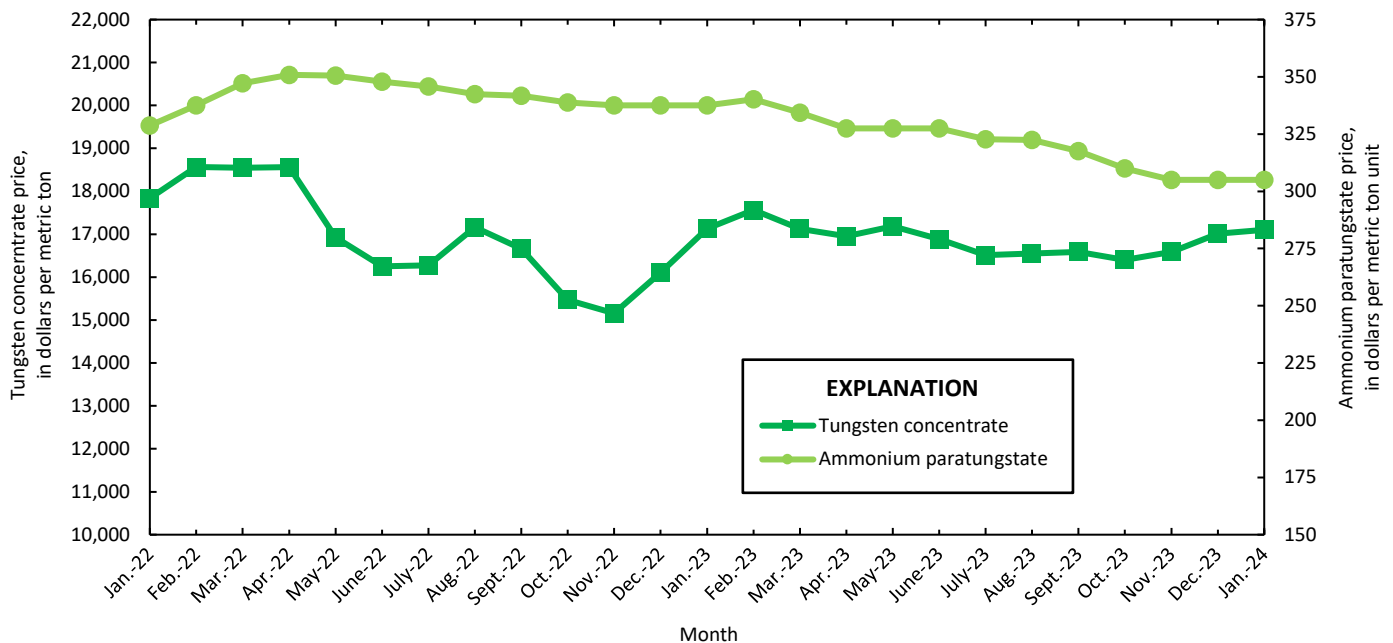


Figure 1. Monthly average prices for tungsten concentrate and ammonium paratungstate for January 2022 through January 2024. Source: Argus Tungsten Analytics

Table 1. U.S. salient tungsten statistics.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons, tungsten content. W, withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.]

Period	Concentrate		Intermediate products		
	Consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period ^{1,2}	Net production ³	Stocks, end of period ⁴
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
2024					
January	W	114	W	W	W

¹Consumer stocks.

²U.S. Government National Defense Stockpile inventory statistics are no longer available.

³Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁴Producer stocks of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

Table 2. U.S. imports for consumption of tungsten, by country or locality.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons. Note: Imports of waste and scrap in January 2024 totaled 183 metric tons, tungsten content. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.]

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten		Total
					carbide powder	Other ¹	
2023							
Total	1,640	1,400	21	1,230	1,620	2,360	8,270
2024, January							
Austria	0	0	0	1	67	(²)	69
Bolivia	71	0	0	0	0	0	71
Canada	0	0	0	45	13	(²)	58
China	8	108	0	5	61	35	217
Germany	0	62	0	0	3	16	81
India	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
Israel	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Japan	(²)	0	0	10	(²)	7	18
Mongolia	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
Portugal	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Spain	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Vietnam	0	0	0	(²)	0	18	18
Other	0	0	0	(²)	0	6	6
Total	114	170	0	61	147	108	601

¹Includes 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.

²Less than ½ unit.

Table 3. U.S. exports of tungsten, by country or locality.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons, tungsten content. Note: Exports of waste and scrap in January 2024 totaled 187 metric tons, tungsten content. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.]

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder		Other ²	Total
2023							
Total	1,510	81	661	568	769	3,590	
2024, January							
Australia	0	0	0	3	(³)	3	
Belgium	10	0	0	1	0	11	
Canada	0	0	18	2	4	24	
China	0	0	(³)	(³)	17	17	
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	7	7	
Germany	0	0	(³)	21	1	22	
Israel	0	0	0	5	(³)	5	
Japan	0	0	2	4	2	8	
Madagascar	0	0	16	0	0	16	
Mexico	0	0	2	1	15	18	
Saudi Arabia	0	0	4	8	0	11	
United Kingdom	0	0	1	1	5	6	
Vietnam	13	0	(³)	0	0	13	
Other	0	0	4	5	6	14	
Total	23	0	46	51	57	177	

¹Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

²Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

³Less than ½ unit.