

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN MARCH 2016

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through March 2016 was 17% less than that imported during the same period in 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through March 2016 was 35% less than that exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

### Prices

Prices for March 2016 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. The following prices, in dollars per metric ton unit, were

converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$184/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$167/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$187/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$170/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$138/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$125/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$140/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$127/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products			
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production <sup>p, 4</sup>	Stocks, end of period		
			Industry <sup>2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Industry Producer <sup>p, 5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>	
2015:								
March	W	376	W	11,600	W	635	125	
April	W	309	W	11,600	W	675	125	
May	W	325	W	11,600	W	621	125	
June	W	337	W	11,600	W	616	125	
July	W	354	W	11,600	W	571	125	
August	W	219	W	11,600	W	578	125	
September	W	344	W	11,600	W	567	125	
October	W	382	W	11,600	W	550	125	
November	W	352	W	11,600	W	552	125	
December	W	308	W	11,600	W	490 <sup>r</sup>	125	
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	490 <sup>r</sup>	125	
2016:								
January	W	393	W	11,600	W	496 <sup>r</sup>	125	
February	W	127	W	11,600	W	538 <sup>r</sup>	125	
March	W	384	W	11,600	W	615	125	
January–March	W	905	W	11,600	W	615	125	

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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>Reported by consumers.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

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

<sup>5</sup>Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total	Total, year to date
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,550	XX
2016:								
January	393	62	39	105	20	155	775	775
February	127	81	33	84	69	110	503	1,280
March:								
Australia	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	74
Austria	--	--	--	--	27	1	29	75
Bolivia	93	--	--	--	--	--	93	264
Canada	--	--	--	12	1	1	13	47
China	--	9	--	48	22	74	153	526
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	10
Finland	--	--	--	9	--	--	9	20
France	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	5
Germany	--	83	--	1	--	3	87	170
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	3
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	4
Israel	--	--	--	6	--	(3)	6	25
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3)	8	10	38
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	10	3	--	14	54
Mongolia	26	--	--	--	--	--	26	73
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	48	--	--	--	--	--	48	131
Russia	36	--	--	--	--	--	36	81
Spain	115	--	--	--	--	--	115	210
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	6
United Kingdom	38	--	--	(3)	(3)	(3)	39	83
Vietnam	--	--	45	--	--	--	45	123
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	7
Total	384	91	45	89	56	96	760	2,040
January–March	905	234	117	278	145	361	2,040	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 March 2016 totaled 132 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 317 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country 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
2015	398	310	312	902	1,190	3,110	XX
2016:							
January	--	76	20	50	60	205	205
February	(4)	--	18	32	96	147	352
March:							
Australia	--	--	--	4	(4)	5	7
Austria	--	--	(4)	--	5	5	10
Brazil	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	4
Canada	(4)	--	6	7	40	53	148
China	--	--	(4)	(4)	2	2	7
Czech Republic	--	--	--	6	--	6	7
France	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	3
Germany	--	--	3	9	44	57	119
Japan	--	--	(4)	2	(4)	2	52
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	5
Mexico	--	--	1	--	11	11	45
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Singapore	--	--	(4)	(4)	5	5	20
Spain	--	--	--	--	9	9	13
Taiwan	(4)	--	--	1	6	6	51
Thailand	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	1	1	6
Other	--	--	3	4	3	10	25
Total	(4)	--	15	36	127	179	531
January–March	1	76	52	119	283	531	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: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in March 2016 totaled 22 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–March total of 77 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.