

TANTALUM STATISTICS¹
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

[All values are in metric tons (t) tantalum unless otherwise noted]

Last modification: October 11, 2007

Year	Mine production	Secondary production	Producer shipments	Government shipments	Imports	Exports	Stocks	Apparent consumption	Unit value (\$/t)	Unit value (98\$/t)	World production
1964	0	23		184	353	54	1,790	231	17,500	92,100	
1965	0	32		75	385	57	1,870	352	20,900	108,000	
1966		45		251	608	59	2,090	632	35,000	176,000	
1967		50	405	260	955	64	2,310	785	27,600	135,000	
1968		41	362	0	558	95	2,090	472	17,500	82,200	
1969		16	446	98	360	104	1,950	586	19,200	85,260	388
1970	0	11	507	73	440	106	2,300	410	19,200	80,670	318
1971	0	14	436	3	464	91	2,150	536	17,500	70,420	496
1972	0	18	494	40	525	113	1,930	690	15,200	59,280	371
1973	0	18	682	121	566	146	1,810	682	21,500	78,930	384
1974	0	23	762	401	785	197	1,910	906	37,700	124,600	436
1975	0	2	392	39	423	194	2,080	100	43,100	130,600	411
1976	0	23	589	4	594	201	1,900	602	47,500	136,100	339
1977	0	20	646	0	933	244	1,860	670	66,300	178,300	409
1978	0	25	687	0	639	275	1,740	505	106,000	265,000	362
1979	0	23	771	0	868	327	1,250	653	249,000	559,000	476
1980		55	685	0	1,030	320	1,480	538	284,000	561,800	544
1981		43	447	0	717	101	1,570	572	101,000	181,100	403
1982		40	400	-15	493	154	1,450	481	60,600	102,400	284
1983	0	18	461	0	94	119		536	79,400	130,000	313
1984	0	59	582	0	330	174		762	86,100	135,100	315
1985	0	41	461	-115	119	145		363	61,200	92,710	315
1986	0	34	462	0	148	142		372	58,500	87,000	215
1987	0	57	506	0	127	171		381	70,000	100,400	275
1988	0	59	523	0	239	256		422	135,000	186,000	292
1989		54	372	0	536	195		376	72,700	95,570	395
1990		54		0	320	200		390	88,800	110,800	396
1991		50		0	359	180		370	76,000	90,950	477
1992		55		0	434	150		375	78,100	90,740	399
1993	0	60		0	457	170		410	70,000	78,960	292
1994	0	85		0	383	190		430	70,700	77,760	333
1995	0	100		0	481	220		515	74,700	79,890	361
1996	0	100		34	563	290		524	74,700	77,600	436
1997	0	115		20	467	340		570	88,800	90,180	562
1998	0	148		213	588	440		738	91,400	91,400	779
1999	0	110		5	564	480		555	91,400	89,400	656
2000	0	130		242	900	530		650	591,000	559,000	1,070

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2001	0	110		-53	1,160	640		550	99,500	91,600	1,180
2002	0	100		16	1,040	510		500	83,300	75,500	1,338
2003	0	100		335	770	580		500	75,300	66,700	1,282
2004	0	105		225	1,110	720		500	86,000	74,200	1,475
2005	0			273	1,625	984		915	160,000	134,000	1,399
2006	0			226	1,158	949		435	150,000	121,000	1,388

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Data are calculated, estimated, or reported. See notes for more information.

Tantalum Worksheet Notes

Data Sources

The sources of data for the tantalum worksheet are the mineral statistics publications of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey—Minerals Yearbook (MYB), Mineral Commodity Summaries (MCS), Mineral Facts and Problems (MFP), and Metal Prices in the United States through 1998 (MP98). The years of publication and corresponding years of data coverage are listed in the References section below. Tantalum data prior to 1964 were not included in the tantalum statistics worksheet because they were either recorded in gross weight, combined with columbium data, ambiguous in detail, or were not available. Zeros are used where data are actually “0.” Blank cells in the worksheet indicate that data either were not available or were withheld because they are proprietary.

Mine Production

Mine production data represent the tantalum content in tantalum-bearing ores and mineral concentrates that were mined within the United States. Mine production data for the years 1966–69 and 1980–82 were withheld because they were proprietary. A small, unreported quantity of tantalum contained in tantalum-bearing concentrates was produced in the years and 1989–92. No mine production of tantalum-bearing ores and mineral concentrates occurred for the years 1964–65, 1970–79, 1983–88 and for the years 1993–2006, as reported in the MYB.

Secondary Production

Secondary production represents the tantalum content in tantalum scrap materials that was consumed in the United States. Secondary production data for the years 1964–83 were recorded from the MFP. Secondary production data for the years 1984–2004 were recorded from the Commodity Specialist’s data. Secondary production data were not available after 2004.

Shipments

Shipment data for the years 1964–2006 were recorded from the MYB and the MFP. Producer shipment data for the years 1967–89 represent the tantalum content in tantalum metal, alloy additives, carbides, power, scrap, and other tantalum materials that were shipped by domestic producers. Producer shipments data the years 1964–66 and 1990–2006 were not available. Government shipment data for the years 1964–2006 are shipments or releases of tantalum-bearing materials from the National Defense Stockpile (NDS). Negative numbers for the years 1982 and 1985 indicate U.S. Government inventory acquisitions. Negative number in 2001, the year in which NDS changed accounting systems, indicates U.S. Government inventory increase.

Imports

Import data for the years 1964–68 were recorded from the MFP. Import data for the years 1969–2006 were recorded from the MYB. Import data for the years 1964–82 represent the tantalum content in tantalum mineral concentrates, metal, alloys, tin slags, synthetic concentrates, and other tantalum materials that were imported into the United States for consumption purposes. Tantalum import data for 1983–2004 exclude tantalum contained in tin slags, synthetic concentrate, and tantalum-bearing ore and concentrates other than tantalum ore and concentrate, materials that were included in 1964–82 data. Starting in 2005, import data were recorded from the MYB.

Exports

Export data represent the tantalum content in various tantalum materials that were exported from the United States. Export data for the years 1964–75 were recorded from the MFP. Export data for the years 1976–2004 were recorded from the MCS. Starting in 2005, export data were recorded from the MYB.

Stocks

Stock data for the years 1964–82 represent the tantalum content in various tantalum materials that were held in industrial producer or processor inventories. Stock data for the years 1964–82 were recorded from the MFP. Beginning in 1983, domestic tantalum stock data were not available.

Apparent Consumption

Apparent consumption data represent the tantalum content in various tantalum materials that were consumed within the United States annually. Apparent consumption data for the years 1964–75 were recorded from the MFP. Apparent consumption data for the years 1976–2006 were recorded from the MCS.

Unit Value (\$/t)

Unit value is defined as the value of 1 metric ton (t) of tantalum apparent consumption. Unit value data for the years 1964–2004 were based on the yearend average price, in dollars per pound, of tantalite and converted to contained tantalum using the equation below.

$$\text{UNIT VALUE} = (\text{YEAREND AVERAGE PRICE} * 2,204.623) / (0.82)$$

Yearend average price data were recorded from the MP98 and the MYB. Starting in 2005, unit value was estimated as the mass-weighted average value of tantalum from trade statistics, making unit value representative of the materials that comprise apparent consumption. (The tantalum content of tantalum ore was assumed to have been 0.3.)

Unit Value (98\$/t)

The Consumer Price Index conversion factor, with 1998 as the base year, is used to adjust unit value in current U.S. dollars to the unit value in constant 1998 U.S. dollars.

World Production

World production data for the years 1964–68 were not available. World production data for the years 1969–2006 represent the tantalum content in tantalum-bearing ores and mineral concentrates that were produced from mines throughout the world. World production data for the years 1969–2006 were recorded from the MYB.

References

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U.S. Geological Survey, [year of last update, e.g., 2005], [Mineral commodity, e.g., Gold] statistics, *in* Kelly, T.D., and Matos, G.R., comps., Historical statistics for mineral and material commodities in the United States: U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 140, available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/2005/140/>. (Accessed [date].)

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