

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN AUGUST 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in August 2017 was 1,950 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in July 2017 (table 1). Apparent consumption of refined tin in August was 2,660 t, a 30% decrease from the July apparent consumption of 3,830 t. Total refined tin imports for August 2017 were 1,970 t, a 36% decrease from those in the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in August were, in descending order, Peru, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, and Bolivia.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for August was \$9.61 per pound, slightly more than the July price of \$9.48 per pound and a 13% increase from the August 2016 average price of \$8.53 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

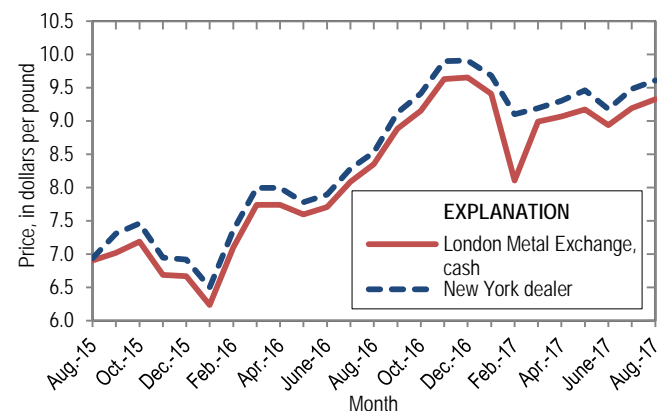


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from August 2015 through August 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

The Government of Russia announced plans to develop the Ruchey Tirkhtyakh and Pravourmyskoe tin fields in eastern Russia and approved the extension of a tax exemption on tin produced in Russia until 2022. The Government was also considering granting tin companies operating in the country a special status to allow for further tax and customs duty exemptions. Russia's Ministry of Energy projected that these and other incentives could result in a tenfold increase in the country's tin production (Vorotnikov, 2017).

The government of Bangka Belitung Province, Indonesia, announced a 2- to 3-month moratorium on issuing and renewing tin mining licenses in the Province while it drafted new regulations on tin mining and assessed the environmental damage caused by illegal mining and exportation of tin concentrates. The affect on export volumes from the Province was unknown (ITRI Ltd., 2017c).

In August, China imported 19,081 t of tin ore containing an estimated 4,600 t of tin from Burma, a 25% decrease from July's imports of 25,602 t of ore containing an estimated 6,100 t of tin (ITRI Ltd., 2017a).

Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. resumed tin production at its 50,000-metric-ton-per-year smelter in Gejiu, Yunnan Province, on October 9 after a 41-day shutdown to perform maintenance. The shutdown was estimated to have resulted in a loss of 5,000 t of refined tin output (ITRI Ltd., 2017b).

References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2017a, China ore imports from Myanmar decline in August: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, September 28. (Accessed October 9, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-ore-imports-from-myanmar-decline-in-august>.)
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- ITRI Ltd., 2017c, Indonesian governor imposes tin licence moratorium: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, August 24. (Accessed September 5, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/indonesian-governor-imposes-tin-licence-moratorium>.)
- Vorotnikov, Eugene, 2017, Russia plans to increase tin production tenfold: Metal Bulletin, August 25. (Accessed August 29, 2017, via <http://www.metalbulletin.com/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017			
	2016 ^p	July	August	January–August ²
Production, secondary ^{c,3}	10,300	858	858	6,840
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,950	1,950	15,500
Secondary	2,600	216	225	1,760
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	3,090	1,970	21,600
Exports, refined tin	1,150	122	117	1,040
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,520	6,570	6,570
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	948.00	960.78	937.36
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	919.02	932.57	902.35

^cEstimated, ^pPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2016:		
August	852.78	834.85
September	912.11	888.22
October	941.00	914.97
November	989.71	962.89
December	990.63	964.98
January–December	838.76	815.41
2017:		
January	968.00	940.81
February	909.88	810.32
March	919.00	899.00
April	929.88	906.37
May	945.89	917.26
June	917.44	893.42
July	948.00	919.02
August	960.78	932.57
January–August	937.36	902.35

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Production			Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2016:					
August	2,310	51,400	705	13.7	89,400
September	2,310	44,200	684	15.5	80,600
October	2,310	39,900	676	16.9	74,700
November	2,310	46,700	695	14.9	73,700
December	2,310	41,100	454	11.0	78,600
January–December	29,800	623,000	7,840	12.6	1,010,000
2017:					
January	2,310	41,600	444	10.7	62,500
February	2,310	45,500	449	9.9	67,800
March	2,310	39,800	455	11.5	78,200
April	2,310	44,100	481	10.9	75,600
May	2,310	40,900	465	11.4	85,400
June	2,310	41,200	455	11.0	82,400
July	2,310	39,800	438	11.0	80,100
August	2,310	41,000	435	10.6	97,300
January–August	18,500	334,000	3,620	10.9	629,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Country or product	2016	2017		
		July	August	January– August
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	309	--	--	18
Bolivia	6,170	626	85	3,630
Brazil	2,120	246	170	1,100
Canada	48	1	--	15
China	229	100	50	268
Indonesia	8,580	978	415	6,620
Malaysia	7,560	400	510	4,080
Netherlands	33	--	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	580	653	5,080
Singapore	176	--	--	40
Thailand	392	61	40	349
Other	5	95	45	374
Total	32,200	3,090	1,970	21,600
Other:				
Alloys	1,910	134	178	1,010
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	67	96	748
Flakes and powders	219	13	29	118
Foil	86	22	19	67
Plates, sheets, strip	94	2	8	50
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	--	(2)	1
Waste and scrap	27,200	5,590	4,540	37,600
Miscellaneous ³	921	32	94	485
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,150	122	117	1,040
Alloys	1,040	46	90	569

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes other articles of tin not elsewhere specified or included (HTS code 8007.00.5000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2016 ^p	2017						
		July			August			January– August
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,680	222	--	222	222	--	222	1,770
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	21	W	21	189
Bronze and brass	1,760	32	89	121	32	88	120	1,260
Chemicals	3,190	468	W	468	470	W	470	3,670
Solder	3,640	202	W	202	202	W	202	2,500
Tinning	364	29	--	29	29	--	29	240
Tinplate ³	7,910	438	W	438	435	W	435	3,680
Other ⁴	6,060	535	127	662	542	137	679	4,010
Total reported	25,900	1,950	216	2,160	1,950	225	2,180	17,300

^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinning chemical solutions.

⁴Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.