

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

C. Schuyler Anderson, Tin Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: csanderson@usgs.gov

Linda M. Barnes (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7986
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: lwhite@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in September 2017 was 1,940 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from the revised consumption in August 2017 (table 1). Apparent consumption of refined tin in September was 4,580 t, a 69% increase from the revised August apparent consumption of 2,710 t. Total refined tin imports for September 2017 were 3,880 t, a 97% increase from those in the previous month (table 4), owing mostly to an increase in imports from Bolivia and Malaysia. The leading sources of refined tin in September were, in descending order, Bolivia, Malaysia, Peru, and Indonesia.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for September was \$9.72 per pound, slightly more than the August price of \$9.61 per pound and a 7% increase from the September 2016 average price of \$9.12 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

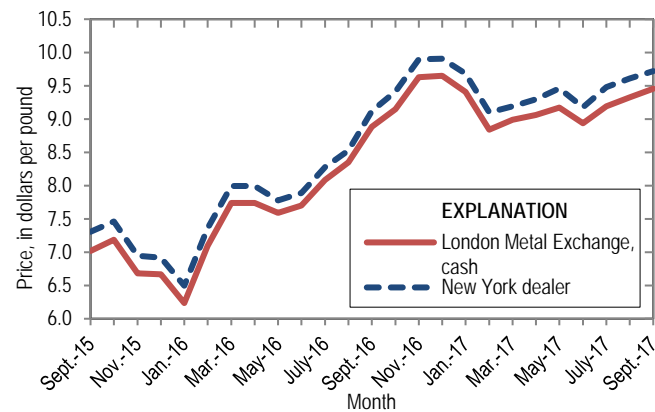


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from September 2015 through September 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Ball Corporation announced that it would halt food can production at its tinplate food and aerosol packaging manufacturing facility in Springdale, AR, in the fourth quarter of 2017, citing reduced food can demand. The plant would continue to make aerosol cans and produce other components for other Ball facilities (Ball Corporation, 2017).

In China, imports of tin concentrates and ores from Burma in September were 20,818 t in gross weight, with an estimated 5,000 t of contained tin. These gross weight imports were an increase of 9% from those of August (ITRI Ltd., 2017).

References Cited

Ball Corporation, 2017, Ball to reduce capacity in U.S. steel food packaging business: Broomfield, CO, Ball Corporation news release, September 27. (Accessed November 29, 2017, at <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=115234&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=2303195>.)
 ITRI Ltd., 2017, China ore imports strong in September: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, October 27. (Accessed November 9, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-ore-imports-strong-in-september>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2016 ^p	2017		
		August	September	January– September ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,300	858	858	7,700
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,970 ^r	1,940	17,500
Secondary	2,600	225	218	1,980
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	1,970	3,880	25,400
Exports, refined tin	1,150	117	117	1,040
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,580 ^r	6,590	6,590
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	960.78	972.00	941.21
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	932.57	945.44	915.33

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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:		
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	884.05 ^r
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
September	972.00	945.44
January–September	941.21	915.33

^rRevised.

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		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2016:					
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
September	2,310	38,400	448	11.7	94,200
January–September	20,800	372,000	4,070	11.0	724,000

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/locality, or product	2016	2017		
		August	September	January– September
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	309	--	4	23
Bolivia	6,170	85	1,270	4,900
Brazil	2,120	170	109	1,200
Canada	48	--	--	15
China	229	50	70	338
Indonesia	8,580	415	541	7,160
Malaysia	7,560	510	1,170	5,250
Netherlands	33	--	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	653	542	5,620
Singapore	176	--	--	40
Thailand	392	40	40	389
Other	5	45	138	511
Total	32,200	1,970	3,880	25,400
Other:				
Alloys	1,910	178	137	1,140
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	96	90	838
Flakes and powders	219	29	14	132
Foil	86	19	(2)	67
Plates, sheets, strip	94	8	3	53
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	(2)	1	2
Waste and scrap	27,200	4,540	2,740	41,400
Miscellaneous ³	921	94	65	549
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,150	117	158	1,190
Alloys	1,040	90	105	674

-- 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	2017							
	2016 ^p	August			September			January– September
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,680	221 ^r	--	221 ^r	220	--	220	1,990
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	21	W	21	213
Bronze and brass	1,760	32	88	120	32	91	123	1,420
Chemicals	3,190	472 ^r	W	472 ^r	453	W	453	4,130
Solder	3,640	202	W	202	202	W	202	2,810
Tinning	364	29	--	29	28	--	28	269
Tinplate ³	7,910	447 ^r	W	447 ^r	448	W	448	4,140
Other ⁴	6,060	542	137	679	541	127	668	4,510
Total reported	25,900	1,970 ^r	225	2,190 ^r	1,940	218	2,160	19,500

^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 tinplating chemical solutions.

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