

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN OCTOBER 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in October 2017 was 1,960 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from reported consumption in September 2017 (table 1). Apparent consumption of refined tin in October was 4,000 t, a 13% decrease from the revised apparent consumption in September. Total refined tin imports for October 2017 were 3,250 t, a 16% decrease from those in the previous month (table 4), owing mostly to a decrease in imports from Bolivia and Malaysia. The leading sources of refined tin in October were, in descending order, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, and Malaysia.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for October was \$9.57 per pound, slightly less than the September price of \$9.72 per pound and a slight increase from the October 2016 average price of \$9.41 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

**Update**

Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center began a project with the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials to refurbish the tin supply in the National Defense Stockpile (NDS). More than 4,000 t of tin was improperly stored and developed tin pest. The tin was currently being refurbished at a rate of 20 metric tons per month (t/mo) with a loss of 5.4% (Conrad, 2017).

China’s leading tin producer, Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (YTC), restarted tin production on October 9, following maintenance that began on August 31. The maintenance shut down 5,000 t/mo at YTC, which returned to production once the maintenance was completed (ITRI Ltd., 2017).

**References Cited**

Conrad, Kimberly, 2017, RIA-JMTC fights tin pest: Rock Island Arsenal, IL, U.S. Army, October 18. (Accessed November 6, 2017, at [https://www.army.mil/article/195567/ria\\_jmtc\\_fights\\_tin\\_pest](https://www.army.mil/article/195567/ria_jmtc_fights_tin_pest).)  
 ITRI Ltd., 2017, China refined tin output to rise following disruptions: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, October 18. (Accessed November 6, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-refined-tin-output-to-rise-following-disruption>.)

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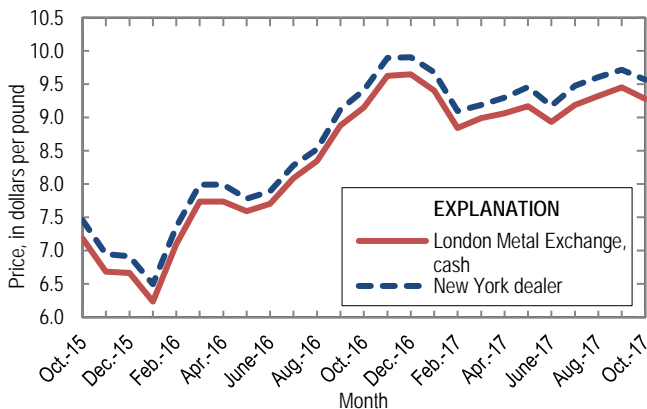


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from October 2015 through October 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017			
	2016 <sup>p</sup>	September	October	January– October <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e,3</sup>	10,300	858	858	8,560
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,940	1,960	19,500
Secondary	2,600	218	227	2,210
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	3,880	3,250	28,700
Exports, refined tin	1,150	158 <sup>r</sup>	113	1,310
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,590	6,560	6,560
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	972.00	956.89	942.78
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	945.44	928.02	916.60

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

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

<sup>4</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2016:		
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
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
October	956.89	928.02
January–October	942.78	916.60

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Production			Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2016:					
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
October	2,310	46,200	470	10.2	84,800
January–October	23,100	418,000	4,540	10.9	808,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Country/locality, or product	2016	2017		
		September	October	January– October
<b>Imports:</b>				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	309	4	--	23
Bolivia	6,170	1,270	632	5,530
Brazil	2,120	109	90	1,290
Canada	48	--	(2)	15
China	229	70	52	390
Indonesia	8,580	541	978	8,140
Malaysia	7,560	1,170	629	5,880
Netherlands	33	--	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	542	741	6,360
Singapore	176	--	--	40
Thailand	392	40	20	409
Other	5	138	108	619
Total	32,200	3,880	3,250	28,700
Other:				
Alloys	1,910	137	164	1,310
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	90	132	970
Flakes and powders	219	14	7	140
Foil	86	(2)	8	76
Plates, sheets, strip	94	3	7	59
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	1	(2)	2
Waste and scrap	27,200	2,740	2,940	44,300
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	921	65	61	610
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,150	158	113	1,310
Alloys	1,040	105	107	781

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>Includes 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 PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2017							
	2016 <sup>p</sup>	September			October			January– October
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,680	220	--	220	222	--	222	2,210
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	22	W	22	238
Bronze and brass	1,760	32	91	123	32	100	132	1,580
Chemicals	3,190	453	W	453	460	W	460	4,590
Solder	3,640	202	W	202	202	W	202	3,130
Tinning	364	28	--	28	29	--	29	297
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	7,910	448	W	448	470	W	470	4,620
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,060	541	127	668	523	127	650	5,010
Total reported	25,900	1,940	218	2,160	1,960	227	2,190	21,700

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes terne metal.

<sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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