

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN DECEMBER 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in December 2017 was 1,590 metric tons (t), a 14% decrease from the revised reported consumption of 1,840 t in November 2017. Reported consumption for 2017 was 22,100 t, a 15% decrease from 2016. Apparent consumption of refined tin in December was 3,270 t, a 10% decrease from the revised November apparent consumption of 3,610 t (table 1).

Total refined tin imports for December 2017 were 2,520 t, a 13% decrease from the revised imports in the previous month (table 4), owing mostly to a decrease in imports from Indonesia. Total refined tin imports for 2017 were 34,100 t, a 6% increase from those in 2016. The leading sources of refined tin in December were, in descending order, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia. The leading sources of refined tin for 2017 were, in descending order, Indonesia, Peru, Malaysia, Bolivia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for December was \$9.03 per pound, essentially unchanged from the November 2017 average price of \$9.09 per pound. The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for 2017 was \$9.37 per pound, a 12% increase from the 2016 average of \$8.39 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

**Update**

On March 8, the President announced that a 25% tariff was being instituted on imported steel articles, except those imported from Canada and Mexico, under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. The tariff would become effective on March 23 (Executive Office of the President, 2018a, b). Imports of tinplate, which is steel sheet coated in a thin layer of tin, would be included in this tariff.

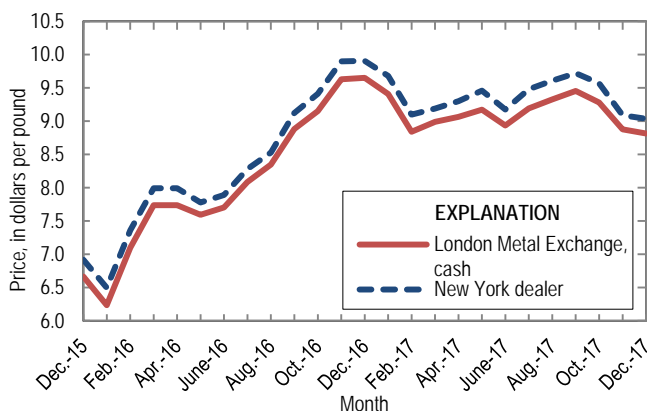


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from December 2015 through December 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

**References Cited**

Executive Office of the President, 2018a, Adjusting imports of steel into the United States: Federal Register, v. 83, no. 51, March 15, p. 11625–11630. (Accessed on March 15, 2018, at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-15/html/2018-05478.htm>.)  
 Executive Office of the President, 2018b, Adjusting imports of aluminum into the United States: Federal Register, v. 83, no. 51, March 15, p. 11619–11624. (Accessed on March 15, 2018, at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-15/html/2018-05478.htm>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017			
	2016 <sup>p</sup>	November	December	January– December <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e,3</sup>	10,300	858	858	10,300
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,840 <sup>r</sup>	1,590	22,100
Secondary	2,600	221 <sup>r</sup>	214	2,640
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	2,900 <sup>r</sup>	2,520	34,100
Exports, refined tin	1,150	144	108	1,560
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,550 <sup>r</sup>	6,570	6,570
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	908.67	903.43	936.65
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	887.55	881.43	911.24

<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:		
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
November	908.67	887.55
December	903.43	881.43
January–December	936.65	911.24

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:					
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
November	2,310	41,700	448	10.7	79,600
December	2,310	36,200	352	9.7	90,300
January–December	27,700	496,000	5,340	10.8	978,000

<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		
		November	December	January– December
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	309	1	2	26
Bolivia	6,170	522	190	6,250
Brazil	2,120	200	225	1,720
Canada	48	1	--	17
China	229	70	50	510
Indonesia	8,580	872 <sup>r</sup>	895	9,960
Malaysia	7,560	565	606	7,050
Netherlands	33	--	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	498	491	7,350
Singapore	176	--	--	40
Thailand	392	20	20	449
Other	5	46 <sup>r</sup>	87	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>2,900<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>34,100</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,910	189	88	1,590
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	79	82	1,130
Flakes and powders	219	19	12	171
Foil	86	2	21	98
Plates, sheets, strip	94	7	8	74
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	--	8	11
Waste and scrap	27,200	3,430	4,340	52,100
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	921	68	53	732
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,150	144	108	1,560
Alloys	1,040	68	117	965

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- 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>	November			December			January– December
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,680	218 <sup>r</sup>	--	218 <sup>r</sup>	180	--	180	2,580
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	24	W	24	285
Bronze and brass	1,760	81 <sup>r</sup>	95	176 <sup>r</sup>	59	95	154	2,110
Chemicals	3,190	465	W	465	292	W	292	5,350
Solder	3,640	180 <sup>r</sup>	W	180 <sup>r</sup>	163	W	163	3,690
Tinning	364	25 <sup>r</sup>	--	25 <sup>r</sup>	22	--	22	312
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	7,910	350 <sup>r</sup>	W	350 <sup>r</sup>	352	W	352	4,380
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,060	498	126 <sup>r</sup>	624 <sup>r</sup>	493	119	612	6,010
Total reported	25,900	1,840 <sup>r</sup>	221 <sup>r</sup>	2,060 <sup>r</sup>	1,590	214	1,800	24,700

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.