

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN JANUARY 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in January 2018 was 1,660 metric tons (t), a 5% increase from the reported consumption of 1,590 t in December 2017. Apparent consumption of refined tin in January was 3,490 t, a 5% increase from the December apparent consumption of 3,320 t (table 1).

Total refined tin imports for January 2018 were 2,720 t, a 6% increase from the imports in the previous month (table 4), owing mostly to an increase in imports from Bolivia. The leading sources of refined tin in January were, in descending order, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Malaysia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January 2018 was \$9.56 per pound, a 6% increase from the December 2017 price of \$9.03 per pound. The London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for January 2018 was \$9.39 per pound, a 7% increase from the December 2017 price of \$8.81 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

## News

The International Tin Association Ltd released its list of the top ten refined tin producers of 2017. According to International Tin, six of the top ten increased their production, and the remaining four only had marginal decreases (International Tin Association Ltd, 2018). The world's leading refined tin producers and their production in 2017 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

Company	Production
1. Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	74,500
2. PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	30,200
3. Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	27,200
4. Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	26,800
5. Minsur S.A. (Peru)	18,000
6. Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. (EM Vinto) (Bolivia)	12,600
7. Guangxi China Tin Group. Co. Ltd. (China)	11,500

8. Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thailand)	10,600
9. Metallo Chimique N.V. (Belgium)	9,700
10. Gejiu Zi-Li Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. (China)	8,700

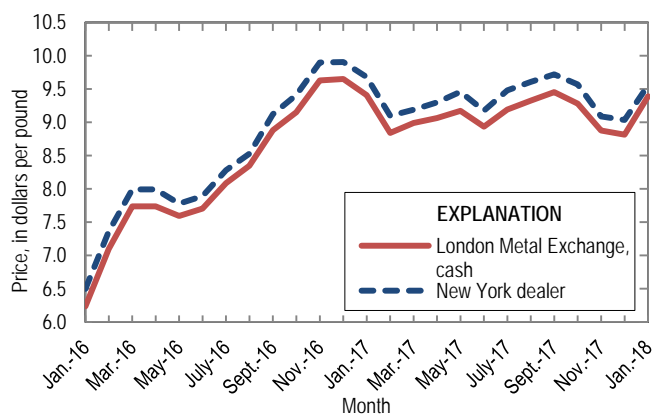


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from January 2016 through January 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

## Reference Cited

International Tin Association Ltd, 2018, The top 10 refined tin producers of 2017: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd news release, January 25. (Accessed January 31, 2018, at <http://www.internationaltin.org/the-top-10-refined-tin-producers-of-2017/>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017		2018
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December	January
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	10,300	858	858
Consumption, reported:			
Primary	22,100	1,590	1,660
Secondary	2,640	214	200
Consumption, apparent: <sup>3</sup>	42,800	3,320	3,490
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	2,570	2,720
Exports, refined tin	1,560	108	93
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,570	6,280
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup>			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	903.43	955.56
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	881.43	939.09

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated from secondary production plus imports minus exports.

<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
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
2018, January	955.56	939.09

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		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
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
2018, January	NA	41,500	386	9.3	74,400

NA Not available.

<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	2017		2018
	Year	December	January
<b>Imports:</b>			
Refined tin:			
Belgium	26	2	2
Bolivia	6,250	190	541
Brazil	1,720	225	149
Canada	17	--	1
China	510	50	51
Indonesia	9,910 <sup>r</sup>	895	811
Malaysia	7,050	606	442
Netherlands	(2)	--	--
Peru	7,350	491	700
Singapore	40	--	--
Thailand	449	20	--
Other	750	87	23
Total	34,100	2,570 <sup>r</sup>	2,720
Other:			
Alloys	1,590	88	64
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	82	114
Flakes and powders	171	12	8
Foil	98	21	(2)
Plates, sheets, strip	74	8	6
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	8	(2)
Waste and scrap	52,100	4,340	3,310
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	732	53	89
<b>Exports:</b>			
Refined tin	1,560	108	93
Alloys	965	117	60

<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			2018			
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December		January			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,580	180	--	180	182	--	182
Babbitt	285	24	W	24	23	W	23
Bronze and brass	2,110	59	95	154	59	78	137
Chemicals	5,350	292	W	292	332	W	332
Solder	3,690	163	W	163	163	W	163
Tinning	312	22	--	22	22	--	22
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	4,380	352	W	352	386	W	386
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,010	493	119	612	494	122	616
Total reported	24,700	1,590	214	1,800	1,660	200	1,860

<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.