

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MARCH 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in March 2018 was 1,640 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from the reported consumption of 1,630 t in February 2018. Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in the first 3 months of 2018 was 4,930 t, a 14% decrease from that in the same time period in 2017. Apparent consumption of refined tin in March was 3,260 t, slightly less than the February 2018 apparent consumption of 3,310 t. Apparent consumption of refined tin for the first 3 months of 2018 was 10,100 t, a 12% increase from the same time period in 2017 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for March 2018 was \$9.89 per pound, slightly less than the February 2018 price of \$10.04 per pound. The London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for March 2018 was \$9.62 per pound, slightly less than the February 2018 price of \$9.83 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in March 2018 were 2,560 t, essentially unchanged from imports in February 2018 (table 4). Imports from Bolivia decreased, but imports from Brazil, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia increased. The leading sources of refined tin in March were, in descending order, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, China, and Brazil.

Update

On March 9, Congo (Kinshasa) finalized revisions to its mining code into law. The new mining code included an increase in the royalty rate on tin to a minimum of 3.5% from 2%; the creation of a 10% royalty rate on minerals that are designated to be a “strategic mineral”; and contract stability guarantees would be reduced to a period of 5 years from a

period of 10 years (International Tin Association Ltd., 2018; Mining Review Africa, 2018).

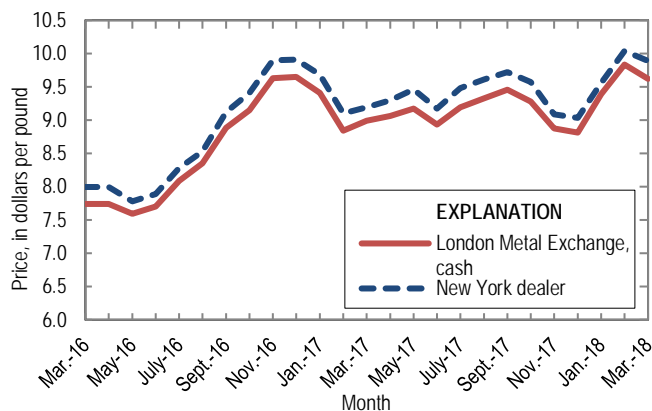


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from March 2016 through March 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

References Cited

- International Tin Association Ltd., 2018, DRC mineral royalty increases with mining code revision: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, March 27. (Accessed April 9, 2018, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/drc-mineral-royalty-increases-with-mining-code-revision/>.)
- Mining Review Africa, 2018, New DRC mining code will not alter positive outlook: Rondebosch, South Africa, Spintelligent (Pty) Ltd. news release, March 13. (Accessed April 9, 2018, at <https://www.miningreview.com/new-drc-mining-law-will-not-alter-positive-outlook/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2018			
	2017 ^p	February	March	January– March
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	10,300	858	858	2,570
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,630	1,640	4,930
Secondary	2,640	202	195	597
Consumption, apparent ³	42,800	3,310	3,260	10,100
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	2,580	2,560	7,860
Exports, refined tin	1,560	131	156	379
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,330	6,300	6,300
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	1,003.75	988.67	982.66
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	983.43	961.75	961.42

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary.

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

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

³Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2017:		
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
February	1,003.75	983.43
March	988.67	961.75
January–March	982.66	961.42

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			
2017:						
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	42,400	390	9.2	74,400	
February	NA	35,200	357	10.1	66,600	
March	NA	40,100	382	9.5	72,700	
January–February	NA	118,000	1,130	10	214,000	

NA Not available.

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	2017	2018		January– March
		February	March	
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	(2)	2	5
Bolivia	6,250	686	145	1,370
Brazil	1,720	75	150	375
Canada	17	--	--	1
China	510	--	303	355
Indonesia	9,910	681	727	2,220
Malaysia	7,050	506	599	1,550
Peru	7,350	541	500	1,740
Singapore	40	--	--	--
Thailand	449	25	71	96
Other	750	67	65	155
Total	34,100	2,580	2,560	7,860
Other:				
Alloys	1,590	136	121	322
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	94	120	329
Flakes and powders	171	13	15	36
Foil	98	1	-2	1
Plates, sheets, strip	74	-2	9	16
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	31	(2)	32
Waste and scrap	52,100	4,420	4,180	11,900
Miscellaneous ³	732	56	44	189
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	131	156	379
Alloys	965	70	147	277

-- 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 ^P	2018						
		February			March			January– March
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,580	181	--	181	181	--	181	545
Babbitt	285	22	W	22	23	W	23	73
Bronze and brass	2,110	61	79	140	59	73	132	409
Chemicals	5,350	326	W	326	312	W	312	973
Solder	3,690	163	W	163	163	W	163	821
Tinning	312	22	--	22	22	--	22	67
Tinplate ³	4,380	357	W	357	382	W	382	1,150
Other ⁴	6,010	493	123	616	493	122	615	1,490
Total reported	24,700	1,630	202	1,830	1,640	195	1,830	5,520

^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 terre 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.