

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in April 2018 was 1,670 metric tons (t), slightly more than the reported consumption of 1,640 t in March 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in March was 3,350 t, slightly more than the March 2018 apparent consumption of 3,260 t (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for April 2018 was \$9.90 per pound, essentially unchanged from the March 2018 price of \$9.89 per pound. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for April 2018 was \$9.67 per pound, essentially unchanged from the March 2018 price of \$9.62 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

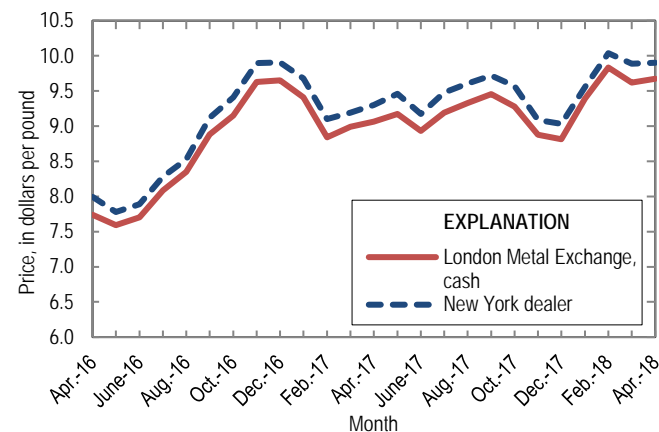


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from April 2016 through April 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in April 2018 were 2,540 t, essentially unchanged from imports in March 2018 (table 4). Imports from China and Bolivia decreased by 68% and 52%, respectively. Imports from Belgium, Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia increased by 1,900%, 54%, 6%, and 18%, respectively. The leading sources of refined tin in April were, in descending order, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Brazil, and China.

Update

The LME announced that all companies that trade on the exchange must comply with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's responsible-sourcing guidelines after reports that LME-traded cobalt, a conflict mineral, was sourced from a mine in Congo (Kinshasa) that had links to child labor. The LME was expected to publish a white paper in early July on responsible sourcing of metal with a timetable for companies to comply (Hotter, 2018; International Tin Association Ltd., 2018).

References Cited

- Hotter, Andrea, 2018, Interview—LME will name companies that don't respond to responsible sourcing survey by year-end—Chamberlain: Las Vegas, NV, Metal Bulletin, May 24 (Accessed May 28, 2018, via <https://www.metalbulletin.com/>)
- International Tin Association Ltd., 2018, LME launches responsible sourcing plan: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, April 30. (Accessed May 28, 2018, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/lme-launches-responsible-sourcing-plan/>)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017 ^p	2018		
		March	April	January–April
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	10,300	858	858	3,430
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,640	1,670	6,590
Secondary	2,640	195	204	802
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000 ^r	3,260	3,350	13,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300 ^r	2,560	2,540	10,400
Exports, refined tin	1,560	156	47	426
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,300	6,430	6,430
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	988.67	990.00	984.49
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	961.75	967.44	962.93

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. ^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:		
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
April	990.00	967.44
January–April	984.49	962.93

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			Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2017:					
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
April	NA	43,100	388	9.0	76,500
January–April	NA	161,000	1,520	9.5	290,000

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		
		March	April	January–April
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	2	40	44
Bolivia	6,450 ^r	145	69	1,440
Brazil	1,720	150	231	605
Canada	17	--	--	1
China	510	303	96	450
Indonesia	9,910	727	768	2,990
Malaysia	7,050	599	708	2,260
Peru	7,350	500	500	2,240
Singapore	40	--	--	--
Thailand	449	71	25	121
Other	790 ^r	65	107	262
Total	34,300 ^r	2,560	2,540	10,400
Other:				
Alloys	1,550 ^r	121	128	450
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	120	105	433
Flakes and powders	172 ^r	15	20	56
Foil	98	(2)	14	16
Plates, sheets, strip	74	9	19	35
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	(2)	--	32
Waste and scrap	52,100	4,180	3,790	15,700
Miscellaneous ³	729	44	43	232
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	156	47	426
Alloys	965	147	65	343

^rRevised. -- 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						
		March			April			January–April
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,580	181	--	181	183	--	183	728
Babbitt	285	23	W	23	22	W	22	98
Bronze and brass	2,110	59	73	132	57	82	139	548
Chemicals	5,350	312	W	312	338	W	338	1,310
Solder	3,690	163	W	163	163	W	163	1,090
Tinning	312	22	--	22	23	--	23	90
Tinplate ³	4,380	382	W	382	388	W	388	1,540
Other ⁴	6,010	493	122	615	493	122	615	1,990
Total reported	24,700	1,640	195	1,830	1,670	204	1,870	7,400

^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 tinning chemical solutions.

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