

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

C. Schuyler Anderson, Tin Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: csanderson@usgs.gov

Linda M. Barnes (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7986
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: lbarnes@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

TIN IN JUNE 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in June 2018 was 1,640 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in May 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in June was 4,490 t, an increase of 12% from May's 2018 apparent consumption figure of 4,000 t (table 1). This increase was primarily driven by a 486-t increase in imports of refined tin. For the first 6 months of 2018, apparent consumption was 21,900 t, a 5% increase from that in the first 6 months of 2017.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for June 2018 was \$9.60 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for June 2018 was \$9.37 per pound, slightly less than that of the previous month (fig. 1, table 2).

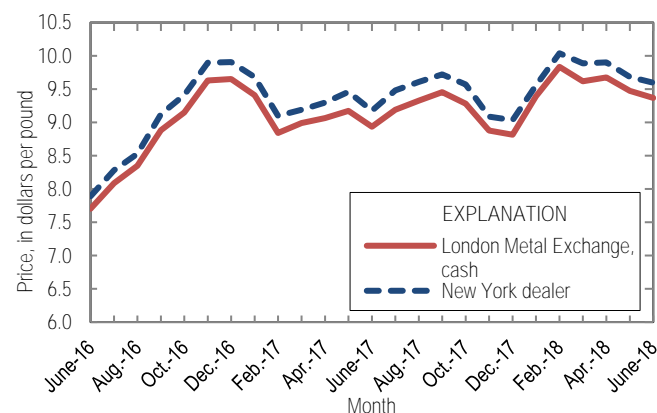


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from June 2016 through June 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in June 2018 were 3,710 t, an increase of 15% from the 3,230 t of imports in May 2018 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in June were, in descending order, Bolivia and Indonesia (25% each), Malaysia

(23%), and Peru (15%). For the first 6 months of 2018, total refined tin imports were 17,400 t, a 5% increase from imports in the first 6 months in 2017. The leading sources of refined tin in the first 6 months of 2018 were, in descending order, Indonesia (26%), Malaysia (21%), Bolivia and Peru (19% each).

Update

In June, India included tinplate under its mandatory quality regime to ensure quality standards. All tinplate would require registration with the Bureau of Indian Standards, and any manufacture, import, storage, sale and distribution of tin products would be prohibited without registration with the Bureau (Argus Metals International, 2018a).

Wolf Minerals Ltd. increased its tin output at the Hemerdon tungsten-tin mine in Devon, United Kingdom, to 324 t of tin in concentrate in fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018) from 194 t of tin in concentrate in fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017) (Argus Metals International, 2018c).

The Uis tin deposit in Namibia was on track to produce tin concentrate within the fourth quarter of 2018. AfriTin Mining Ltd. announced that the initial production rate would be 800 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tin concentrate with an eventual production rate objective of 5,000 t/yr. Other potential byproducts included beryllium, lithium, niobium, and tantalum (Argus Metals International, 2018b).

References Cited

- Argus Metals International, 2018a, India to add tin plate to mandatory quality regime: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, June 25. (Accessed August 25, 2018, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)
- Argus Metals International, 2018b, Uis tin project on track for 4Q output: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, August 7. (Accessed August 14, 2018, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)
- Argus Metals International, 2018c, Wolf Minerals ups tungsten/tin output: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, July 19, 2018. (Accessed July 20, 2018, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017 ^p	2018		
		May	June	January– June
Production, secondary ^{6, 2}	10,300	858	858	5,150
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,650	1,640	9,890
Secondary	2,640	206	203	1,210
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000	4,000	4,490	21,900
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	3,230	3,710	17,400
Exports, refined tin	1,560	90	80	597
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,280	6,370	6,370
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	968.22	959.63	977.64
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	947.44	936.76	955.98

⁶Estimated. ^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:		
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
May	968.22	947.44
June	959.63	936.76
January–June	977.64	955.98

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:						
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	
May	NA	42,400	388	9.2	83,500	
June	NA	42,700	384	9.0	83,800	
January–June	NA	246,000	2,290	9.3	458,000	

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		
		May	June	January– June
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	3	45	92
Bolivia	6,450	896	940	3,280
Brazil	1,720	314	140	1,060
Canada	17	1	--	2
China	510	135	176	761
Indonesia	9,910	596	923	4,510
Malaysia	7,050	601	839	3,700
Peru	7,350	575	540	3,360
Singapore	40	--	--	--
Thailand	449	25	45	192
Other	790	82	66	409
Total	34,300	3,230	3,710	17,400
Other:				
Alloys	1,550	118	93	661
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	112	69	614
Flakes and powders	172	18	6	80
Foil	98	3	(2)	19
Plates, sheets, strip	74	5	5	45
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	--	3	35
Waste and scrap	52,100	4,640	3,940	24,300
Miscellaneous ³	729	76	91	399
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	90	80	597
Alloys	965	37	114	493

-- 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						
		May			June			January– June ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,580	181	--	181	181	--	181	1,090
Babbitt	285	15	W	15	15	W	15	129
Bronze and brass	2,110	57	84	141	62	81	143	832
Chemicals	5,350	331	W	331	321	W	321	1,970
Solder	3,690	164	W	164	138	W	138	1,620
Tinning	312	22	--	22	47	--	47	159
Tinplate ⁴	4,380	388	W	388	384	W	384	2,330
Other ⁵	6,010	493	122	615	493	122	615	2,980
Total reported	24,700	1,650	206	1,860	1,640	203	1,850	11,100

^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.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes terne metal.

⁴Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁵Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.