

TIN

(Data in metric tons of tin content unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Tin has not been mined or smelted in the United States since 1993 and 1989, respectively. Twenty-five firms accounted for about 90% of the primary tin consumed domestically in 2014. The major uses for tin were cans and containers, 23%; construction, 18%; transportation, 17%; electrical, 12%; and other, 30%. Based on the average Platts Metals Week New York Dealer price for tin, the value of imported refined tin was \$830 million, and the value of old scrap recovered domestically was \$310 million.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014^e
Production, secondary:					
Old scrap ^e	11,100	11,000	11,200	11,100	11,200
New scrap	2,680	2,530	2,440	2,700	2,800
Imports for consumption, refined tin	35,300	34,200	36,900	34,900	37,300
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	5,630	5,450	5,560	5,870	5,800
Shipments from Government stockpile	—	—	—	—	—
Consumption, reported:					
Primary	25,300	25,200	24,500	26,500	23,300
Secondary	4,820	3,280	3,240	3,260	2,800
Consumption, apparent ¹	41,400	40,300	42,300	39,900	42,300
Price, average, cents per pound:					
New York dealer	954	1,216	990	1,041	1,010
Platts Metals Week composite	1,240	1,575	1,283	1,352	NA
London Metal Exchange, cash	925	1,184	957	1,002	980
Kuala Lumpur	922	1,188	958	1,012	980
Stocks, consumer and dealer, yearend	6,410	5,880	6,140	6,500	6,900
Net import reliance ² as a percentage of apparent consumption	73	73	74	72	74

Recycling: About 14,000 tons of tin from old and new scrap was recycled in 2014. Of this, about 11,200 tons was recovered from old scrap at 2 detinning plants and about 75 secondary nonferrous metal-processing plants.

Import Sources (2010–13): Peru, 40%; Bolivia, 17%; Indonesia, 15%; Malaysia, 12%; and other, 16%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–14
Unwrought tin:		
Tin, not alloyed	8001.10.0000	Free.
Tin alloys, containing, by weight:		
5% or less of lead	8001.20.0010	Free.
More than 5% but not more than 25% of lead	8001.20.0050	Free.
More than 25% of lead	8001.20.0090	Free.
Tin waste and scrap	8002.00.0000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile:**Stockpile Status—9–30–14³**

Material	Inventory	Disposal Plan FY 2014	Disposals FY 2014
Tin	4,020	*804	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Apparent consumption of tin in the United States increased by 6% in 2014 compared with consumption in 2013. Peru remained the primary supplier of tin to the United States, and recycling rates of tin remained unchanged from those in 2013. While the estimated annual prices for tin declined slightly, they continued to fluctuate through several cycles. The New York dealer price averaged 1,028 cents per pound in January and, coinciding with new export restrictions in Indonesia, rose to an average of 1,095 cents per pound in April, the highest monthly level since August 2011. By October, however, the average price had fallen back below 1,000 cents per pound as supply shortages failed to materialize. Platts Metals Composite prices for tin were discontinued in 2014, and the U.S. Geological Survey will use the New York Dealer price for future calculations.

In 2013, Indonesia, the world's leading exporter of tin, created the Indonesia Tin Exchange (ICDX) to allow tin to be traded within Indonesia, and also reduce reliance on foreign trading houses for prices. In 2014, Indonesia modified their new regulations of tin exports involving the ICDX. The primary modification was restricting tin content in solder to a maximum of 99.9% tin, preventing pure tin ingots being sold as solder. This regulation is an attempt to ensure that correct taxes and fees are applied to tin exports from Indonesia and the ICDX. This regulation had the dual effect of raising tin solder prices, and improving tracking of exports from Indonesia. However, the London Metal Exchange remains the largest market for tin options and futures, and it continues to influence the price of tin, dampening the impact of the new ICDX regulations.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Reserves figures were revised for Brazil based on new data from the Instituto Brasileiro de Mineração. Reserves figures for Peru were revised based on data from the Ministerio de Energia y Minas del Perú. Reserves figures for Australia were revised based on data from Geoscience Australia.

	Mine production		Reserves ⁴
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014^e</u>	
United States	—	—	—
Australia	6,470	6,100	370,000
Bolivia	19,300	18,000	400,000
Brazil	12,000	12,000	700,000
Burma	11,000	11,000	NA
China	110,000	125,000	1,500,000
Congo (Kinshasa)	3,000	3,000	NA
Indonesia	95,200	84,000	800,000
Laos	800	800	NA
Malaysia	3,700	3,500	250,000
Nigeria	570	500	NA
Peru	23,700	23,700	80,000
Russia	420	600	350,000
Rwanda	1,900	2,000	NA
Thailand	200	200	170,000
Vietnam	5,400	5,400	NA
Other countries	100	100	180,000
World total (rounded)	294,000	296,000	4,800,000

World Resources: U.S.-identified resources of tin, primarily in Alaska, were insignificant compared with those of the rest of the world. World resources, principally in western Africa, southeastern Asia, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Indonesia, and Russia, are extensive and, if developed, could sustain recent annual production rates well into the future.

Substitutes: Aluminum, glass, paper, plastic, or tin-free steel substitute for tin in cans and containers. Other materials that substitute for tin are epoxy resins for solder; aluminum alloys, copper-base alloys, and plastics for bronze; plastics for bearing metals that contain tin; and compounds of lead and sodium for some tin chemicals.

^eEstimated. NA Not available. — Zero.

¹Defined as old scrap + imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

²Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

³See [Appendix B](#) for definitions.

⁴See [Appendix C](#) for resource/reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

*Correction posted February 4, 2015.