

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN OCTOBER 2015

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in October 2015 was 2,020 metric tons (t), unchanged from that in September 2015 and 3% more than that in October 2014. Total refined tin imports for October were 2,930 t, an increase of 14% from those in September 2015. Malaysia, Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in October (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for October was \$7.46 per pound, a slight increase from the September price of \$7.31 per pound and a decrease of 20% from the October 2014 average price of \$9.34 per pound (table 2).

During October, U.S. industry stocks of tin increased by 628 t to 7,520 t, and global London Metal Exchange Ltd. stocks of tin increased by 215 t to 5,015 t.

According to official trade data, China exported 65 t of refined tin in January through September 2015, but trade data from importing countries from January through August 2015 indicate receipts of 2,200 t refined tin from China. China's exports of refined tin are currently subject to a 10% export duty. In October, owners of tin and solder companies in China that were accused of illegal exports and tax fraud in 2015, were reportedly arrested (ITRI Ltd., 2015).

In September 2015, China's imports of tin concentrate declined by a reported 17% from those in August, 2015. Burma remained the leading source of tin concentrates, providing 90%

of China's tin imports. The imports were less than in June due to Burma's rainy season, which lasts from June through October. Imports from Burma were expected to increase in November, after the rainy season ends (ITRI Ltd., 2015).

In September 2015, Indonesia exported 6,390 t of tin, an 18% increase from exports in September 2014. In August, Indonesia did not export any tin because producers were reportedly unable to obtain their required exports "clean and clear" licenses from regulators (Dragomanovich, 2015).

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References Cited

- Dragomanovich, Vanya, 2015, Indonesia tin exports pick up after hiatus: Metal-Pages, October 8. (Accessed December 18, 2015, via <http://www.metal-pages.com/>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2015, China clamps down on hidden tin exports: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, October 22. (Accessed December 18, 2015 at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-clamps-down-on-hidden-tin-exports>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2014 ^P	2015		
		September	October	January– October ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	11,100	880	880	7,870
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,300	2,020	2,020	20,000
Secondary	2,920	241	241	2,410
Imports for consumption, refined tin	35,600	2,570 ^r	2,930	28,500
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	5,700	119	299	3,100
Stocks at end of period	6,970	6,900	7,520	7,520
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,023.05	730.50	746.11	769.08
London Metal Exchange cash	993.75	701.66	718.42	741.53
Kuala Lumpur	992.53	NA	NA	NA

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash	Kuala Lumpur
2014:			
October	934.36	902.78	902.65
November	936.11	905.46	903.36
December	930.88	899.03	896.34
January–December	1,023.05	993.75	992.53
2015:			
January	912.21	882.38	NA
February	858.03	829.36	NA
March	823.67	791.68	NA
April	756.00	724.80	NA
May	751.13	717.52	NA
June	720.56	680.84	NA
July	698.89	678.30	NA
August	693.67	690.31	NA
September	730.50	701.66	NA
October	746.11	718.42	NA
January–October	769.08	741.53	NA

NA Not available.

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)				Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Production			Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
		Gross weight	Tin content			
2014:						
October	4,970	63,000	359	5.7	108,000	
November	3,270	65,600	386	5.9	78,500	
December	3,110	65,800	384	5.8	85,000	
January–December	29,300	831,000	4,710	5.7	1,300,000	
2015:						
January	4,600	78,500	467	5.9	110,000	
February	3,800	57,900	463	8.0	85,600	
March	4,450	67,000	483	7.2	103,000	
April	4,210	75,400	507	6.7	106,000	
May	4,210	68,800	499	7.3	95,100	
June	3,510	76,000	501	6.6	97,000	
July	3,450	76,200	516	6.8	101,000	
August	3,450	79,900	524	6.6	95,400	
September	3,450	75,400	520	6.9	95,400	
October	3,450	73,300	503	6.9	97,400	
January–October	38,600	728,000	4,980	6.9	986,000	

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)

Country or product	2014	2015		
		September	October	January– October ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	219	--	--	918
Bolivia	4,550	432	594	5,390
Brazil	3,030	319	296	2,460
China	3,470	91	5	1,190
Indonesia	8,140	40	3	4,120
Malaysia	6,050	945	1,520	8,740
Peru	9,260	741	501	5,380
Singapore	375	-- ^r	--	125
Thailand	291	--	--	20
Other	218	2	14	159
Total	35,600	2,570^r	2,930	28,500
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,570	166	199	2,090
Bars and rods	1,890	101	92	1,090
Foil, tubes, pipes	90	3	18	105
Plates, sheets, strip	116	5	9	78
Waste and scrap	49,700	3,160	2,040	30,100
Miscellaneous ³	2,240	174	153	1,260
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,700	119	299	3,100

-- Zero. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes tin powders and flakes (HTS code 8007.00.3200) and 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	2014 ^p	2015						January– October ²
		September			October			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	3,560	217	2	219	219	2	221	2,210
Babbitt	340	22	W	22	22	W	22	255
Bronze and brass	1,710	62	87	149	64	87	151	1,460
Chemicals	5,440	439	W	439	455	W	455	4,560
Solder	4,160	228	W	228	228	W	228	3,590
Tinning	584	32	--	32	33	--	33	327
Tinplate ⁴	5,680	520	W	520	503	W	503	4,980
Other ⁵	4,740	495	152	647	495	152	647	5,020
Total reported	26,200	2,020	241	2,260	2,020	241	2,260	22,400

^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.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes terne metal.

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

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