

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MARCH 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in March 2016 was 1,940 metric tons (t), slightly less than that in February 2016. Total refined tin imports for February 2016 were 2,360 t, 19% less than those in February 2016. Bolivia, Malaysia, Peru, Indonesia, and Brazil were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in March (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for March was \$8.03 per pound, an increase of 9% from the February price of \$7.36 per pound, and a decrease of 2% from the March 2015 average price of \$8.24 per pound (table 2).

Indonesia's exports of tin in March were only 2,719 t owing to delays in renewing export permits, government inspections, and flooding. Exports from April 2015 through March 2016 were 60,177 t, the lowest 12-month total since 2007. According to the International Tin Research Institute Ltd. (ITRI), based on their projections for world production and consumption, Indonesia needs to export approximately 8,000 metric tons per month of tin for global tin production and consumption to be balanced (Dragomanovich, 2016).

ITRI released the results of their 2015 survey of refined tin producers (ITRI Ltd., 2016b). According to the ITRI the world's 10 leading refined tin producers, unchanged from those in 2014, and their refined tin production in 2015 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

1.	Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	75,500
2.	Malaysia Smelting Corp. Berhad (Malaysia)	30,260
3.	PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	27,431
4.	Minsur S.A. (Peru)	20,224
5.	Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	16,600
6.	Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. (EM Vinto) (Bolivia)	12,106
7.	Guangxi China Tin Group. Co. Ltd. (China)	11,100
8.	Gejiu Zi-Li Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. (China)	11,000
9.	Thailand Smelting and Refining Co., Ltd. (Thailand)	10,502
10.	Metallo Chimique N.V. (Belgium)	8,863

With the exception of EM Vinto in Bolivia, production by the leading producers was either slightly lower or significantly lower than that in 2014. Combined production from the 10

leading producers decreased to 223,586 t in 2015 from 243,710 t in 2014. (See Tin in March 2015.)

The Republic of Korea's Public Procurement Service (PPS) made its first purchase of tin since 2015. The PPS purchased 200 t of standard grade low-lead tin from Daewoo International Corp. Korea reportedly maintains a stockpile of around 3,000 t of tin (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

The Government of South Africa has invested in Alphamin Resources Corp.'s (Canada) Bisie tin project in Nord-Kivu, Congo (Kinshasa). Thus far, South Africa has provided Alphamin \$7 million out of an agreed upon \$10 million loan. The remaining \$3 million was to be provided when a definitive feasibility study is approved. If the project receives a go-ahead, construction was expected to begin early next year, with concentrate being produced in late 2018 (Macmillan, 2016).

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References Cited

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		January	February	January–February
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	10,600	880	880	1,760
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	2,000	2,000	4,010
Secondary	2,890	239 ^r	239	478
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600	2,880	2,900	5,790
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	73	203	276
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,420 ^r	6,440	6,440
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	623.55	735.89	692.76
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	649.63	709.75	666.65

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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.

³Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2015:		
February	858.03	829.36
March	823.67	791.68
April	756.00	724.80
May	751.13	717.52
June	720.56	680.84
July	698.89	678.30
August	693.67	690.31
September	730.50	701.66
October	746.11	718.42
November	694.75	668.35
December	691.67	666.51
January–December	756.43	729.18
2016:		
January	649.63	623.55
February	735.89	709.75
January–February	692.76	666.65

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)	
2015:					
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	3,260	75,900	513	6.8	95,400
September	3,250	71,600	501	7.0	95,400
October	3,140	74,700	504	6.7	97,400
November	2,930	47,000	422	9.0	62,100
December	3,010	59,100	466	7.9	74,900
January–December	43,800	828,000	5,840	7.2	1,120,000
2016:					
January	3,010	63,400	474	7.5	76,300
February	3,010	67,300	693	10.3	80,600
January–February	6,020	131,000	1,170	8.9	157,000

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	2015	2016		
		January	February	January– February
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	920	--	300	300
Bolivia	6,280	539	786	1,330
Brazil	2,950	288	228	516
China	1,230	4	26	30
Indonesia	5,210	615	451	1,070
Malaysia	9,990	780	606	1,390
Peru	6,600	560	480	1,040
Singapore	225	50	--	50
Thailand	20	40	25	65
Other	199	7	2	9
Total	33,600	2,880	2,900	5,790
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,720	99	191	290
Bars and rods	1,220	104	97	201
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	(2)	18	19
Plates, sheets, strip	90	7	13	20
Waste and scrap	32,700	1,880	1,700	3,580
Miscellaneous ³	1,440	70	100	170
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	73	203	276

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

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	2015 ^p	2016						
		January			February			January– February
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,640	216	-- ^r	216	245	--	245	461
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	42
Bronze and brass	1,760	63	87	150	61	87	148	298
Chemicals	5,440	470	W	470	229	W	229	699
Solder	4,240	228	W	228	228	W	228	456
Tinning	392	35	--	35	32	--	32	67
Tinplate ³	5,840	474	W	474	693	W	693	1,170
Other ⁴	6,020	495	152	646 ^r	495	152	646	1,290
Total reported	26,600	2,000	239^r	2,240	2,000	239	2,240	4,480

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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 tinplating chemical solutions.

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