

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in April 2016 was 1,940 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from consumption in the previous month. Total refined tin imports for April 2016 were 2,180 t, 8% less than those in March 2016. Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru, and Brazil were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in April (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for April was \$7.78 per pound, a decrease of 3% from the March price of \$7.99 per pound, but an increase of 3% from the April 2015 average price of \$7.56 per pound (table 2).

The Bolivian Ministry of Mining agreed to lend Empresa Minera Huanuni \$20 million to purchase equipment and to repay \$17 million of debt to its suppliers. The company expected to pay off the debt by 2018. The Huanuni Mine, Bolivia's leading tin producing mine, experienced financial difficulties in 2015 owing to low tin prices and a large labor force, estimated at about 3,700 employees. Although construction of a new mill with a capacity to produce 3,000 metric tons per month of tin concentrate has been completed as

part of a modernization plan, startup was not expected until a new tailings dam was completed (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

Indonesian tin exports in March were 2,719 t, a decrease of 61% from March 2015 shipments. The decrease in shipments was attributed to monsoon flooding, smelter audits, and delays in renewing export permits (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

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References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, Huanuni receives \$20 million loan for mine operations: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, April 1. (Accessed May 13, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/huanuni-receives-20-million-from-government>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, Another slow month for Indonesian exports: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, April 6. (Accessed May 13, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/another-slow-month-for-indonesian-exports-2>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		March	April	January–April ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,600	880	880	3,520
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,940	1,940	7,810
Secondary	2,890	239	239	955
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600	2,360	2,180	10,300
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	159	188	622
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,400	6,350	6,350
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	799.25 ^r	777.89	740.66
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	773.78 ^r	759.20	716.57

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
2015:		
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
March	799.25 ^r	773.78 ^r
April	777.89	759.20
January–April	740.66	716.57

^rRevised.

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			
2015:						
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 ^r	5,840	7.1 ^r	1,120,000	
2016:						
January	3,010	63,400	474	7.5	76,300	
February	3,010	67,300	693	10.3	80,600	
March	3,010	66,800	689	10.3	92,500	
April	2,310	47,500	687	14.5	88,800	
January–April	11,300	245,000	2,540	10.7	338,000	

^rRevised.

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		
		March	April	January–April ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	920	2	2	304
Bolivia	6,280	807	90	2,220
Brazil	2,950	118	146	780
China	1,230	--	8	38
Indonesia	5,210	301	577	1,940
Malaysia	9,990	631	775	2,790
Peru	6,600	440	555	2,040
Singapore	225	--	--	50
Thailand	20	46	20	131
Other	199	18	2	29
Total	33,600	2,360	2,180	10,300
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,720	155	166	611
Bars and rods	1,220	122	69	392
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	6	1	26
Plates, sheets, strip	90	6	10	36
Waste and scrap	32,700	2,100	2,090	7,770
Miscellaneous ³	1,440	65	66	299
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	159	188	622

-- 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 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						
		March			April			January–April ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	242	--	242	242	--	242	946
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	96
Bronze and brass	1,760	61	87	148	62	87	149	594
Chemicals	5,440	227	W	227	228	W	228	1,160
Solder	4,200	168	W	168	168	W	168	1,270
Tinning	392	32	--	32	33	--	33	131
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	689	W	689	687	W	687	2,570
Other ⁵	6,020	495	152	646	495	152	646	2,000
Total reported	26,600	1,940	239	2,170	1,940	239	2,180	8,760

^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.