

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in May 2016 was 1,950 metric tons (t), slightly more than in the previous month. Total refined tin imports for May 2016 were 2,030 t, 7% less than those in April 2016. Bolivia, Indonesia, Peru and Malaysia were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in May (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May was \$7.78 per pound, a decrease of 3% from the April revised price of \$7.99 per pound, and an increase of 3% from the May 2015 average price of \$7.51 per pound (table 2).

Chinese customs data show that tin ore and concentrate imports from Burma in April contained an estimated 5,500 t of tin, about the same level as in March but an increase of about 40% compared with imports in April 2015. In the first 4 months of 2016, China imported an estimated 21,000 t of tin in ores and concentrates from Burma (ITRI Ltd., 2016c).

Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources announced that audits of tin smelters that had been carried out since March 2016 indicated that only 29 of 47 smelters were operational and that the tin smelting and refining capacity utilization rate was 21% in 2015. The low rate was attributed to poor supervision of mines and smelters by the Bagka Belitung provincial government. The reported smelting capacity was 340,630 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tin and the refining capacity was 339,186 t/yr of tin (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

Indonesia's state-controlled PT Timah Tbk produced only 3,405 t of tin in concentrate in the first quarter of 2016, 49% less than during the same period in 2015. Refined tin production decreased to 4,205 t in the first quarter, a 40% reduction from that of the same time period in 2015. PT Timah's refined tin sales, however, were 5,730 t, an increase of 8% from those in the

first quarter of 2015 owing to a drawdown of refined tin stocks (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

Minsur S.A. (Lima) announced expansion projects at operations in Peru and Brazil that were expected to increase Minsur's tin production capacity by 8,000 to 10,000 t/yr, from its current capacity of 25,750 t/yr. The B2 project at its San Rafael Mine in Peru would reprocess high-grade tailings, and the Pitinga mine in Brazil is being expanded. The B2 project is expected to begin in 2018, and the Pitinga expansion is ongoing (Minsur S.A., 2016, p. 8, 12, 14, 21).

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References Cited

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		April	May	January– May ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,600	880	880	4,400
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,940	1,950	9,760
Secondary	2,890	239	239	1,190
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,500 ^r	2,180	2,030	12,400
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	188	157	779
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,350	6,410	6,410
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	799.25 ^r	777.89	752.38
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	773.81 ^r	759.20	728.02

^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:		
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	773.78
April	799.25 ^r	773.81 ^r
May	777.89	759.20
January–May	752.38	728.02

^rRevised.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate (all forms)				
	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Production			Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2015:					
May	4,210	68,800	399 ^r	5.8 ^r	95,100
June	3,510	76,000	401 ^r	5.3 ^r	97,000
July	3,450	76,200	416 ^r	5.5 ^r	101,000
August	3,260	75,900	412 ^r	5.4 ^r	95,400
September	3,250	71,600	401 ^r	5.6 ^r	95,400
October	3,140	74,700	404 ^r	5.4 ^r	97,400
November	2,930	47,000	319 ^r	6.8 ^r	62,100
December	3,010	59,100	364 ^r	6.1 ^r	74,900
January–December	43,800	812,000 ^r	4,650 ^r	5.7 ^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
May	2,310	52,000	693	13.3	93,400
January–May	13,600	297,000	3,240	11.2	432,000

^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		
		April	May	January– May ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	917 ^r	2	--	304
Bolivia	6,260 ^r	90	800	3,020
Brazil	2,950	146	36	816
China	1,190 ^r	8	24	62
Indonesia	5,210	577	486	2,430
Malaysia	9,990	775	192	2,980
Peru	6,600	555	458	2,490
Singapore	225	--	--	50
Thailand	20	20	20	151
Other	99 ^r	2	17	47
Total	33,500^r	2,180	2,030	12,400
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,720	166	138	749
Bars and rods	1,220	69	106	498
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	1	(3)	26
Plates, sheets, strip	90	10	4	40
Waste and scrap	32,700	2,090	1,850	9,620
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,440	66	145	445
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	188	157	779

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes 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	2016							
	2015 ^P	April			May			January– May ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	242	--	242	232	--	232	1,180
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	120
Bronze and brass	1,760	62	87	149	61	87	148	742
Chemicals	5,440	228	W	228	240	W	240	1,410
Solder	4,200	168	W	168	168	W	168	1,580
Tinning	392	33	--	33	31	--	31	162
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	687	W	687	693	W	693	3,270
Other ⁵	6,020	495	152	646	503	152	654	2,500
Total reported	26,600	1,940	239	2,180	1,950	239	2,190	11,000

^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.