

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JULY 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in July 2016 was 1,950 metric tons (t), slightly less than the revised consumption of the previous month. Total refined tin imports for July 2016 were 2,570 t, 23% less than those in June 2016. Imports from Malaysia, the leading source of refined tin imports in June, decreased from 1,090 t to 645 t in July (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin were, in descending order of quantity, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for June was \$8.28 per pound, an increase of 5% from the June price of \$7.89 per pound, and an increase of 18% from the July 2015 average price of \$6.99 per pound (table 2).

ITRI announced that in 2015, there was a global tin smelting overcapacity, mainly in Indonesia and China. This overcapacity was due to lower mine production and concentrate availability. In 2015, Indonesian smelters operated at a 21% capacity utilization rate, and China's smelters had a utilization rate of 64%. The only region with an expected increase in production in 2016 was South America (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

China's Government conducted special environmental inspections of tin smelters, beginning on July 19. The Government sent teams to ensure that environmental standards were being adhered to, and plants were expected to remain idle during the inspections. Some smelters took advantage of the inspections to do maintenance, such as the China Tin Group Ausmelt furnace in Laibin City, and were expected to remain idle for more than one month. The inspections also coincided with the seasonal decrease in ore supplies, most of which were imported from Burma (ITRI Ltd., 2016 b, c).

On July 12, Strongbow Exploration Inc. announced that they had completed the acquisition of the South Crofty tin project in

Cornwall, United Kingdom. The mineral resource estimate showed indicated resources of 1.66 million metric tons grading 1.81% tin and containing 30,000 t of tin. This purchase originally began in March 2016 (Strongbow Exploration Inc., 2016).

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References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, ITRI study reveals global smelting overcapacity: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, July 13. (Accessed August 31, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/itri-study-shows-global-smelting-over-capacity>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, China tin halts production for one month: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, 19 July. (Accessed September 13, 2016 at: <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-tin-halts-production-for-one-month>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016c, China's tin smelters cut production for environmental inspections: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, July 29. (Accessed September 15, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-s-tin-smelters-cut-production-for-environmental-inspections>.)
- Strongbow Exploration Inc., 2016, Strongbow completes acquisition of South Crofty tin project, Cornwall, UK: Strongbow Exploration Inc. news release, July 12. (Accessed September 13, 2016 at http://www.strongbowexploration.com/s/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=755374&_Type=News-Releases&_Title=Strongbow-Completes-Acquisition-of-South-Crofty-Tin-Project-Cornwall-Uk.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		June	July	January– July ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,600	880	880	6,160
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,970 ^r	1,950	13,800
Secondary	2,890	239	239	1,670
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,500	3,310	2,570	18,300
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	155	175	1,110
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,310	6,230	6,230
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	789.00	828.00	768.41
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	770.24	808.64	745.57

^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:		
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	773.81
May	777.89	759.20
June	789.00	770.24
July	828.00	808.64
January–July	768.41	745.57

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:						
July	3,450	76,200	416	5.5	101,000	
August	3,260	75,900	412	5.4	95,400	
September	3,250	71,600	401	5.6	95,400	
October	3,140	74,700	404	5.4	97,400	
November	2,930	47,000	319	6.8	62,100	
December	3,010	59,100	364	6.1	74,900	
January–December	43,800	812,000	4,650	5.7	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	
June	2,310	50,900	692	13.6	96,200	
July	2,310	52,300	701	13.4	85,100	
January–July	18,300	400,000	4,630	11.8	613,000	

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		
		June	July	January– July ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	917	2	--	306
Bolivia	6,260	536	378	3,940
Brazil	2,950	170	187	1,170
China	1,190	84	45	191
Indonesia	5,210	797	752	4,030
Malaysia	9,990	1,090	645	4,720
Peru	6,600	615	520	3,630
Singapore	225	--	--	50
Thailand	20	20	20	192
Other	99	1	18	64
Total	33,500	3,310	2,570	18,300
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,720	180	208	1,140
Bars and rods	1,220	73	85	656
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	17	1	44
Plates, sheets, strip	90	11	3	54
Waste and scrap	32,700	3,780	2,640	16,000
Miscellaneous ³	1,440	110	77	639
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	157	175	1,110

-- 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						
		June			July			January– July ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	232	--	232	232	--	232	1,640
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	168
Bronze and brass	1,760	59	87	146	59	87	146	1,040
Chemicals	5,440	214	W	214	208	W	208	1,830
Solder	4,200	222	W	222	190	W	190	2,350
Tinning	392	32	--	32	33	--	33	227
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	692	W	692	701	W	701	4,670
Other ⁵	6,020	503	152	655	503	152	655	3,520
Total reported	26,600	1,970	239	2,210	1,950	239	2,190	15,400

^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.