

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

## For information, contact:

C. Schuyler Anderson, Tin Commodity Specialist  
National Minerals Information Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
Email: csanderson@usgs.gov

Linda M. Barnes (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7986  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
Email: lwhite@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

## TIN IN AUGUST 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in August 2016 was 1,980 metric tons (t), slightly more than the revised consumption of the previous month. Total refined tin imports for August 2016 were 3,280 t, an increase of 28% from those in July 2016. Imports from Indonesia, the leading source of refined tin imports in July, increased from 752 t to 1355 t in August (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in August were, in descending order, Indonesia, Bolivia, Peru, Malaysia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for August was \$8.52 per pound, an increase of 3% from the July price of \$8.28 per pound, and an increase of 23% from the August 2015 average price of \$6.94 per pound (table 2).

In July, the Government in China began environmental inspections of tin smelters and, by the end of August, two tin smelters had delayed reopening, and an additional two smelters not affected by the inspections closed for maintenance. While closing for maintenance, Maanshan Weitai Tin Co. Ltd. was also subject to closure from an air quality improvement campaign because of its proximity to the G20 Hangzhou Summit held in early September. The four smelters accounted for 18% of tin smelter production in China (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

In August, China imported 38,428 t of tin ores and concentrates (estimated 4,600 t of contained tin), 99% from Burma, nearly triple the imports in August 2015. Industry analysts believe that approximately one third of the August imports from Burma were from Government stocks, and that the higher grade ore in Burma is depleted and future shipments will be reduced (ITRI Ltd., 2016a, d).

In August, Indonesia exported 5,379 t of refined tin, an increase of 62% from exports in the previous month. In order to increase revenue, the Bangka Belitung Provincial government

was reportedly considering managing prices and production of refined tin (ITRI Ltd., 2016c).

On August 17, Aus Tin Mining Ltd. began producing tin concentrate from the Granville tin project in Tasmania, Australia. Aus Tin had installed new equipment and reconfigured the existing circuit to treat tailings grading between 0.8% Sn and 3.3% Sn (Aus Tin Mining Ltd., 2016).

*List services and Web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.*

## References Cited

- Aus Tin Mining Ltd., 2016, Aus Tin Mining becomes Australia's second tin producer listed on ASX: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Aus Tin Mining Ltd. news release, August 17. (Accessed September 26, 2016, at <http://www.austinmining.com.au/irm/PDF/1361/AusTinMiningBecomesSecondASXListedTinProducer.>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, China ore imports keep growing: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, September 27. (Accessed October 10, 2016, at: <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-ore-imports-keep-growing.>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, Four China smelters stay closed into September: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, August 24. (Accessed September 26, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/four-china-smelters-stay-closed-into-september.>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016c, Indonesian exports recover in August: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, September 8. (Accessed September 26, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/indonesian-exports-recover-in-august.>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016d, Myanmar tin production may have reached peak: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, August 18. (Accessed September 26, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/myanmar-tin-production-may-have-reached-peak.>)

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2016		
		July	August	January–August <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>6, 3</sup>	10,600	880	880	7,040
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,950	1,980	15,700
Secondary	2,890	239	239	1,910
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,500	2,570	3,280	21,600
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	175	265	1,370
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,220 <sup>r</sup>	6,220	6,220
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	828.00	852.78	778.96
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	808.64	834.85	756.73

<sup>6</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

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

<sup>4</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2015:		
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
August	852.78	834.85
January–August	778.96	756.73

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)				Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Production		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)		
		Gross weight	Tin content			
2015:						
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	
August	2,310	51,400	706	13.7	89,400	
January–August	20,600	452,000	5,340	12.1	702,000	

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2015	2016		
		July	August	January–August <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Metal (refined tin):</b>				
Belgium	917	--	--	306
Bolivia	6,260	378	667	4,600
Brazil	2,950	187	188	1,360
China	1,190	45	3	194
Indonesia	5,210	752	1,360	5,390
Malaysia	9,990	645	415	5,130
Peru	6,600	520	602	4,230
Singapore	225	--	25	75
Thailand	20	20	20	212
Other	99	18	1	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,500</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>21,600</b>
<b>Other (gross weight):</b>				
Alloys	2,720	208	141	1,280
Bars and rods	1,220	85	115	771
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	1	4	48
Plates, sheets, strip	90	3	5	59
Waste and scrap	32,700	2,640	2,730	18,800
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	1,440	84 <sup>r</sup>	171	810
<b>Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1,370</b>

-- Zero. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes 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 PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2015 <sup>p</sup>	2016						
		July			August			January–August <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,640	232	--	232	232	--	232	1,870
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	192
Bronze and brass	1,760	61 <sup>r</sup>	87	148 <sup>r</sup>	61	87	148	1,180
Chemicals	5,440	208	W	208	240	W	240	2,070
Solder	4,200	190	W	190	189	W	189	2,670
Tinning	392	33	--	33	32	--	32	259
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	5,840	701	W	701	706	W	706	5,380
Other <sup>5</sup>	6,020	503	152	654 <sup>r</sup>	503	152	655	4,020
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>26,600</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>17,700</b>

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includesterne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinning chemical solutions.

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