

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN JANUARY 2015

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in January 2015 was 1,940 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in December 2014 and an increase of 21% from that of January 2014. Malaysia, Bolivia, Peru, and Indonesia, in descending order, were the leading sources of refined tin imports in January 2015.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January 2015 was \$9.12 per pound, a slight decrease from the December 2014 price of \$9.31 per pound and a decrease of 11% from the January 2014 average price of \$10.28 per pound. During January 2015, global London Metal Exchange Ltd. stocks of tin decreased by 295 t to 11,840 t.

In January, Rwanda's mining minister announced that a new tin smelter had started a 10-day pilot program. The new plant was expected to produce 300 to 350 metric tons per month [3,600 to 4,200 metric tons per year (t/yr)] of tin. The new smelter was seeking to be certified as a conflict-free smelter, and the final phase of that audit was expected to be completed in July. Rwanda had a small smelter near the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, but it was shut down due to the unreliable power supply. Rwanda has been a net exporter of tin concentrate since 2006 (ITRI Ltd., 2015a).

Recent results indicate that tin could be used as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and extend fuel efficiency in cars. Tin alloy pellets were added in the fuel system of vehicles as a catalyst for combustion. The Malaysia Smelting Corporation conducted an experiment involving both gasoline and diesel engines, and both types had fuel savings ranging from 4% to 7%, while emissions of greenhouse gases were reduced by 30% to 60%. This may provide a low cost alternative to catalytic converters that use platinum, rhodium, and palladium (Dragomanovich, 2015; ITRI Ltd., 2015b).

Gippsland Ltd. extended the date for raising funding its Abu Dabbab tin-tantalum project in Egypt to January 30 from December 2014. Gippsland had announced an entitlement issue

to raise up to 1.96 million Australian dollars. The project is expected to achieve first production in 2016, with the first stage producing 260 t/yr of tin metal, and the second stage producing 960 t/yr of tin metal over a 25-year period (Gippsland Ltd., 2015a, b; Sparks, 2015)

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# $\begin{tabular}{ll} TABLE 1 \\ SALIENT TIN STATISTICS $^1$ \\ \end{tabular}$

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	20	2015	
	Year	December	January
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	11,100	834	931
Reported consumption:			
Primary	23,300	1,900 <sup>r</sup>	1,940
Secondary	2,920	243	243
Imports for consumption, refined tin	35,600	1,950	3,300
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	5,700	264	305
Stocks at end of period	6,970	6,980 <sup>r</sup>	7,010
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,023.05	930.88	912.21
London Metal Exchange cash	993.75	899.03	882.38
Kuala Lumpur	992.53	896.34	NA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised NA Not available.

TABLE 2 AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

	London			
	Metals Week	Metal		
	New York	Exchange	Kuala	
Period	dealer, Grade A	cash	Lumpur	
2014:				
January	1,027.50	1,000.86	998.14	
February	1,060.69	1,034.34	1,027.14	
March	1,072.33	1,047.45	1,044.18	
April	1,095.19	1,061.99	1,055.08	
May	1,086.44	1,056.98	1,055.14	
June	1,064.38	1,032.72	1,035.47	
July	1,044.89	1,014.89	1,018.88	
August	1,038.00	1,010.75	1,013.19	
September	985.81	957.77	960.81	
October	934.36	902.78	902.65	
November	936.11	905.46	903.36	
December	930.88	899.03	896.34	
January-December	1,023.05	993.75	992.53	
2015, January	912.21	882.38	NA	

NA Not available.

Source: Platts Metals Daily.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

 $\label{eq:table 3} \textbf{TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES}^1$ 

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

			Tinpl	ate (all forms)	
			Production		
	Tinplate waste production			Tin per metric ton	
	(strips, cobbles, etc.)	Gross	Tin	of plate	Shipments <sup>2</sup>
Period	(gross weight)	weight	content	(kilograms)	(gross weight)
2014:					
January	888	71,700	428	6.0	109,000
February	452	71,000	444	6.2	102,000
March	348	92,300	495	5.4	114,000
April	1,510	87,800	498	5.7	122,000
May	2,330	92,500	502	5.4	120,000
June	2,910	93,600	505	5.4	123,000
July	2,800	90,200	490	5.4	115,000
August	2,930	87,400	476	5.4	110,000
September	3,820	98,900	489	4.9	116,000
October	4,970	79,500 <sup>r</sup>	442 <sup>r</sup>	5.6 r	108,000
November	4,970	80,200	459	5.7	78,500
December	4,970	80,800	453	5.6	85,000
January-December	32,900	1,030,000	5,680	5.5	1,300,000 <sup>r</sup>
2015, January	4,970	80,700	458	5.7	NA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

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

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

 $\label{eq:table 4} \textbf{U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS}^1$ 

#### (Metric tons)

	2	2015	
Country or product	Year	December	January
Imports:			
Metal (refined tin):			
Belgium	219	3	303
Bolivia	4,550	226	526
Brazil	3,030	441	190
China	3,470	76	91
Indonesia	8,140	426	330
Malaysia	6,050		1,380
Peru	9,260	570	354
Singapore	375	200	
Thailand	291		
Other	218	4	131
Total	35,600	1,950	3,300
Other (gross weight):			
Alloys	1,570	190	150
Bars and rods	1,890	135	83
Foil, tubes, pipes	90	(3)	6
Plates, sheets, strip	116	7	6
Waste and scrap	49,700	2,620	4,050
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	2,240	92	129
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,700	264	305

<sup>--</sup> Zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

 ${\bf TABLE~5}$  REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT  $^1$ 

#### (Metric tons of contained tin)

2014			2015			
<del></del>		December		January		
Year <sup>p</sup>	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
3,560	230	2	232	221	2	223
340	25	W	25	23	W	23
1,710	57 <sup>r</sup>	86	143 <sup>r</sup>	60	86	146
5,440	415	W	415	455	W	455
4,160	196	W	196	196	W	196
584	29		29	32		32
5,680	453	W	453	458	W	458
4,740	498	154	652	498	154	652
26,200	1,900 <sup>r</sup>	243	2,150	1,940	243	2,190
	3,560 340 1,710 5,440 4,160 584 5,680 4,740	Year Primary   3,560 230   340 25   1,710 57 °   5,440 415   4,160 196   584 29   5,680 453   4,740 498	Year Primary Secondary   3,560 230 2   340 25 W   1,710 57 r 86   5,440 415 W   4,160 196 W   584 29    5,680 453 W   4,740 498 154	Year Primary Secondary Total   3,560 230 2 232   340 25 W 25   1,710 57 86 143   5,440 415 W 415   4,160 196 W 196   584 29  29   5,680 453 W 453   4,740 498 154 652	December   Year <sup>p</sup> Primary Secondary Total Primary   3,560 230 2 232 221   340 25 W 25 23   1,710 57 ° 86 143 ° 60   5,440 415 W 415 455   4,160 196 W 196 196   584 29  29 32   5,680 453 W 453 458   4,740 498 154 652 498	December January   Year <sup>p</sup> Primary Secondary Total Primary Secondary   3,560 230 2 232 221 2   340 25 W 25 23 W   1,710 57 ° 86 143 ° 60 86   5,440 415 W 415 455 W   4,160 196 W 196 196 W   584 29  29 32    5,680 453 W 453 458 W   4,740 498 154 652 498 154

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

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</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).

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes terne metal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.