

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## **TIN IN APRIL 2015**

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in April 2015 was 2,000 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in March 2015 and an increase of 15% from that of April 2014. Malaysia, Bolivia, Peru, and Indonesia, in descending order, were the leading sources of refined tin imports in April 2015.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for April 2015 was \$7.56 per pound, an 8% decrease from the March 2015 price of \$8.24 per pound and a decrease of 31% from the April 2014 average price of \$10.95 per pound. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) price for tin averaged \$15,800 per metric ton (\$7.25 per pound) and on April 17, briefly declined below \$15,000 per metric ton (\$6.80 per pound), the lowest level in more than 5 years. During April 2015, global stocks of tin decreased by 2,770 t to 9,070 t.

In response to lower prices, the Indonesian Association of Tin Exporters announced another reduction in production. As of the end of April, one half of their members had already stopped production, and the remaining half were producing at one half of capacity or less. Indonesian capacity is around 46,000 metric tons per year (t/yr), and about 12,000 t/yr was taken offline in April (Dragomanovich, 2015a, b).

The falling price of tin was attributed to three major factors: the strength of the U.S. dollar; oversaturation of the Chinese tin market owing to increased supplies from Burma; and uncertainty over Indonesia's commitment to continue to restrict exports. Preliminary data show that sales of tin from Indonesia in the first quarter increased by 20% from those in the first quarter of 2014 (ITRI Ltd., 2015).

In April, the European Union (EU) International Trade Committee approved amendments to its pending conflict mineral legislation that would make a general certification system of conflict minerals (tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold) mandatory for EU smelters and refiners. Companies that consume conflict mineral products in manufacturing were not included. These amendments created requirements for EU smelters and refiners to meet if they declare their products to be free of minerals from conflict areas. It also creates a "European responsible importer" label for importers who comply with this certification system. According to the proposed legislation, the minerals covered could not be expanded beyond tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold (Sparks, 2015).

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#### **References Cited**

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# $\label{eq:table 1} \textbf{TABLE 1} \\ \textbf{SALIENT TIN STATISTICS}^1$

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

			2015	_
				January-
	2014 <sup>p</sup>	March	April	April
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	11,100	931	931	3,720
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,300	1,970	2,000	7,840
Secondary	2,920	241	241	965
Imports for consumption, refined tin	35,600	2,350	3,400	10,900
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	5,700	506	232	1,200
Stocks at end of period	6,970	6,910	6,960	6,960
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,023.05	823.67	756.00	837.48
London Metal Exchange cash	993.75	791.68	724.80	807.05
Kuala Lumpur	992.53	NA	NA	NA

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

TABLE 2 AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

D. I	Metals Week New York	London Metal Exchange	Kuala
Period	dealer, Grade A	cash	Lumpur
2014:			
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
February	858.03	829.36	NA
March	823.67	791.68	NA
April	756.00	724.80	NA
January–April	837.48	807.05	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)

	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:					
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	442	5.6	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
2015:	-				
January	4,970	80,700	458	5.7	110,000
Feburary	4,970	60,700	450	7.4	85,600
March	4,970	69,200	482	7.0	103,000
April	4,970	76,500	500	6.5	106,000
January-April	19,900	287,000	1,890	6.7	404,000

<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.

 ${\bf TABLE~4}$  U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS  $^1$ 

(Metric tons)

		2015		
				January-
Country or product	2014	March	April	April
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	219	3	130	739
Bolivia	4,550	174	685	1,820
Brazil	3,030	223	315	794
China	3,470	287	148	605
Indonesia	8,140	501	535	1,670
Malaysia	6,050	475	945	3,050
Peru	9,260	661	640	2,120
Singapore	375			
Thailand	291	25		25
Other	218	3	2	139
Total	35,600	2,350	3,400	10,900
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,570	264	309	881
Bars and rods	1,890	100	95	361
Foil, tubes, pipes	90	8	20	34
Plates, sheets, strip	116	13	7	27
Waste and scrap	49,700	2,470	3,820	12,300
Miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>	2,240	95	84	351
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,700	506	232	1,200

<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)

					2015			
		March			April			January-
Product	2014 <sup>p</sup>	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	April
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	3,560	218	2	220	218	2	220	882
Babbitt	340	22	W	22	22	W	22	103
Bronze and brass	1,710	59	86	145	62	86	148	584
Chemicals	5,440	459	W	459	467	W	467	1,850
Solder	4,160	197	W	197	197	W	197	1,360
Tinning	584	32		32	33		33	132
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	5,680	482	W	482	500	W	500	1,890
Other <sup>4</sup>	4,740	498	152	650	498	152	650	2,010
Total reported	26,200	1,970	241	2,210	2,000	241	2,240	8,810

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>p</sup>Preliminary. 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.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$ 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.