

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2015

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in September 2015 was 2,020 metric tons (t), unchanged from that in August 2015 and slightly more than that in September 2014. Total refined tin imports for September were 2,670 t, a decrease of 13% from August 2015 (fig. 1). Malaysia, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in September (table 4). Year-to-date imports through September were about 6% less than imports during the same period of 2014.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for September was \$7.31 per pound, an increase of 5% from the August price of \$6.94 per pound and a decrease of 26% from the September 2014 average price of \$9.86 per pound (fig. 2; table 2).

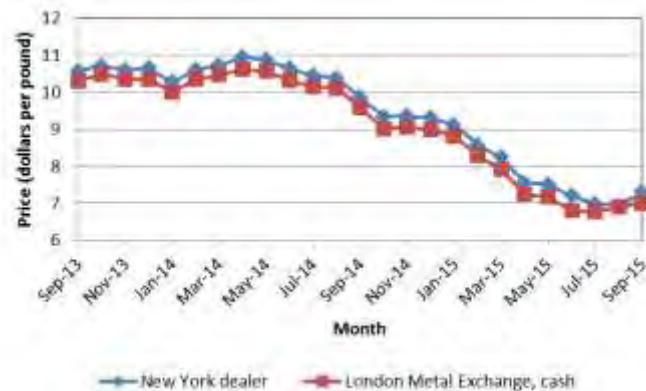


Figure 2. Average monthly prices for tin from September 2013 through September 2015. Source: Platts Metals Week.



Figure 1. U.S. imports and consumption of refined tin from September 2013 through September 2015. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Geological Survey.

During September, U.S. industry stocks of tin decreased by 70 t to 6,900 t, and global London Metal Exchange Ltd. stocks of tin decreased by 1,930 t to 4,800 t.

Wolf Minerals Ltd. officially opened the Hemerdon tungsten and tin project in Devon, United Kingdom, in September 2015. Hemerdon is the first tin mine to be opened in the United Kingdom in 45 years. Hemerdon was expected to produce 450 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tin in concentrate and 3,450 t/yr of tungsten trioxide in concentrate (Wolf Minerals Ltd., 2015).

ITRI Ltd. released their analysis of worldwide uses of tin in 2014. ITRI estimated that recycled and secondary tin had accounted for around one third of global usage. Solder was the leading end use of tin, followed by chemicals and tinplate. Total consumption of tin in 2014 was estimated to be 361,000 t (Dragomanovich, 2015a).

In Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Mines announced plans to redevelop the Kamativi tin mine with the Chinese company Pinchang. A new refinery is to be built on site that will make it possible to extract other metals, including beryllium, copper, lithium, niobium, and tantalum (Dragomanovich, 2015b).

PT Timah Tbk reported 14,261 t of tin metal produced in the first half of 2015, an increase of 32% compared with the same period in 2014. PT Timah also reported production of tin ore for the first half of 2015 of 14,383 t, a slight increase compared

with that in the same period of 2014. PT Timah, along with other Indonesian tin producers, reportedly attempted to stop the price decline by reducing exports, but the country's tin exports exceeded the agreed-upon cap (PT Timah Tbk, 2015).

The Indonesian Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (ICDX) proposed establishing a tin futures contract, to start trading in early 2016. The futures contract was designed to stabilize the tin industry in Indonesia and allow tin producers to hedge production against volatile prices. The proposed contract would be for the TINPB300 tin specification, a 99.9%-pure ingot, with impurity limits of 50 parts per million (ppm) iron, and 300 ppm lead, and a 5-t minimum unit (ITRI Ltd., 2015).

In Peru, Minsur S.A. announced their second quarter results for 2015. In the first 6 months of 2015, they produced 12,415 t of tin, a 16% reduction from the 14,792 t produced in the first 6 months of 2014. Minsur's Pitinga tin mine, the largest tin mine in Peru, halted production in August due to water leaks at the hydroelectric plant that powers the mine. Repairs were being evaluated, and an alternative generator was being considered. No estimate was given for production losses, or how long repairs would take (Minsur S.A., 2015, p. 1, 2, 10).

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2014 ^P	2015		
		August	September	January– September ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	11,100	880	880	6,990
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,300	2,020	2,020	18,000
Secondary	2,920	241	241	2,170
Imports for consumption, refined tin	35,600	3,050	2,670	25,600
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	5,700	318	119	2,800
Stocks at end of period	6,970	6,970	6,900	6,900
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,023.05	693.67	730.50	771.63
London Metal Exchange cash	993.75	690.31	701.66	744.09
Kuala Lumpur	992.53	NA	NA	NA

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

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	Kuala Lumpur
2014:			
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
May	751.13	717.52	NA
June	720.56	680.84	NA
July	698.89	678.30	NA
August	693.67	690.31	NA
September	730.50	701.66	NA
January–September	771.63	744.09	NA

NA Not available.

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			
2014:						
September	3,820	82,400	406	4.9	116,000	
October	4,970	63,000	359	5.7	108,000	
November	3,270	65,600	386	5.9	78,500	
December	3,110	65,800	384	5.8	85,000	
January–December	29,300	831,000	4,710	5.7	1,300,000	
2015:						
January	4,600	78,500	467	5.9	110,000	
February	3,800	57,900	463	8.0	85,600	
March	4,450	67,000	483	7.2	103,000	
April	4,210	75,400	507	6.7	106,000	
May	4,210	68,800	499	7.3	95,100	
June	3,510	76,000	501	6.6	97,000	
July	3,450	76,200	516	6.8	101,000	
August	3,450	79,900	524	6.6	95,400	
September	3,450	75,400	520	6.9	95,400	
January–September	35,100	655,000	4,480	6.9	888,000	

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	2014	2015		
		August	September	January– September ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	219	2	--	918
Bolivia	4,550	255	432	4,790
Brazil	3,030	324	319	2,170
China	3,470	--	91	1,190
Indonesia	8,140	340	40	4,110
Malaysia	6,050	1,450	945	7,220
Peru	9,260	580	741	4,880
Singapore	375	100	100	125
Thailand	291	--	--	20
Other	218	1	2	145
Total	35,600	3,050	2,670	25,600
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,570	177	166	1,890
Bars and rods	1,890	112	101	996
Foil, tubes, pipes	90	17	3	86
Plates, sheets, strip	116	10	5	69
Waste and scrap	49,700	3,170	3,160	28,100
Miscellaneous ³	2,240	88	174	1,110
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,700	318	119	2,800

-- Zero. ¹Revised.

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	2014 ^P	2015						
		August			September			January– September
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	3,560	218	2	220	217	2	219	1,980
Babbitt	340	22	W	22	22	W	22	229
Bronze and brass	1,710	57	86	143	62	87	149	1,310
Chemicals	5,440	436	W	436	439	W	439	4,100
Solder	4,160	228	W	228	228	W	228	3,220
Tinning	584	32	--	32	32	--	32	295
Tinplate ⁴	5,680	524	W	524	520	W	520	4,480
Other ⁵	4,740	498	152	650	495	152	647	4,520
Total reported	26,200	2,020	241	2,260	2,020	241	2,260	20,100

^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.