

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 FEBRUARY 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in February 2016 was 2,000 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in January 2016. Total refined tin imports for February 2016 were 2,900 t, essentially unchanged from those in January 2016. Bolivia, Malaysia, Peru, Indonesia, and Belgium were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in February (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for February was \$7.36 per pound, an increase of 18% from the January price of \$6.24 per pound, and a decrease of 14% from the February 2015 average price of \$8.58 per pound (table 2).

In Indonesia, several compounding factors could limit production and sales of tin. In February, the government of Bangka Belitung Province announced that it had halted offshore mining activities and that new audits and inspections of smelters were to take place by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Also, the Government of Indonesia will again require producers to obtain "Permission to Export" letters. These letters will declare a maximum tonnage that a producer can ship over a 6-month period. In addition to regulatory obstacles, flooding was reported in Bangka that restricted access to smelting and mining areas and caused electrical supply problems. PT Timah announced that the flooding had shut down the Nudur mining area (ITRI Ltd., 2016 a, c).

Indonesia's private miner and smelter PT Refined Bangka Tin (RBT) announced plans to end all tin operations. The decision to close the smelter and refining facility was reportedly made after the company failed to meet "environmentally friendly" requirements that were implemented in August 2015.

RBT had declining exports of tin during the second half of 2015 (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo [Congo (Kinshasha)], Alphamin Resources Corp. announced plans to raise \$123 million to develop the first industrial-scale tin mine in North Kivu Province. Developing the mine will require the construction of a 35-kilometer access road for hauling the ore (Wilson, 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

- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, Bangka governor halts some offshore mining: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, January 27. (Accessed March 8, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/bangka-governor-halts-some-offshore-mining>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, PT Refined Bangka Tin announces end to tin operations: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, February 23. (Accessed March 8, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/pt-refined-bangka-tin-announces-end-to-tin-operations>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016c, Regulation and flooding curb Indonesian tin operations: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, February 9. (Accessed March 8, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/regulation-and-flooding-curb-indonesian-tin-operations>.)
- Wilson, Thomas, 2016, Congo's war-torn east earmarked for \$123 million tin mine: Bloomberg News, February 29. (Accessed April 12, 2016, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-03-01/alphamin-seeks-money-for-the-first-mine-in-congo-s-war-torn-east>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		January	February	January–February
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	10,600	880	880	1,760
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	2,000	2,000	4,010
Secondary	2,890	239 ^r	239	478
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600	2,880	2,900	5,790
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	73	203	276
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,420 ^r	6,440	6,440
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	623.55	735.89	692.76
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	649.63	709.75	666.65

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

³Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2015:		
February	858.03	829.36
March	823.67	791.68
April	756.00	724.80
May	751.13	717.52
June	720.56	680.84
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
January–February	692.76	666.65

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)			
		Production			Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2015:					
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	3,260	75,900	513	6.8	95,400
September	3,250	71,600	501	7.0	95,400
October	3,140	74,700	504	6.7	97,400
November	2,930	47,000	422	9.0	62,100
December	3,010	59,100	466	7.9	74,900
January–December	43,800	828,000	5,840	7.2	1,120,000
2016:					
January	3,010	63,400	474	7.5	76,300
February	3,010	67,300	693	10.3	80,600
January–February	6,020	131,000	1,170	8.9	157,000

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		
		January	February	January– February
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	920	--	300	300
Bolivia	6,280	539	786	1,330
Brazil	2,950	288	228	516
China	1,230	4	26	30
Indonesia	5,210	615	451	1,070
Malaysia	9,990	780	606	1,390
Peru	6,600	560	480	1,040
Singapore	225	50	--	50
Thailand	20	40	25	65
Other	199	7	2	9
Total	33,600	2,880	2,900	5,790
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,720	99	191	290
Bars and rods	1,220	104	97	201
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	(2)	18	19
Plates, sheets, strip	90	7	13	20
Waste and scrap	32,700	1,880	1,700	3,580
Miscellaneous ³	1,440	70	100	170
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	73	203	276

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

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						
		January			February			January– February
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,640	216	-- ^r	216	245	--	245	461
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	42
Bronze and brass	1,760	63	87	150	61	87	148	298
Chemicals	5,440	470	W	470	229	W	229	699
Solder	4,240	228	W	228	228	W	228	456
Tinning	392	35	--	35	32	--	32	67
Tinplate ³	5,840	474	W	474	693	W	693	1,170
Other ⁴	6,020	495	152	646 ^r	495	152	646	1,290
Total reported	26,600	2,000	239^r	2,240	2,000	239	2,240	4,480

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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.

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁴Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.