

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JUNE 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in June 2016 was 1,950 metric tons (t), unchanged from that in the previous month. Total refined tin imports for June 2016 were 3,310 t, 59% more than those in May 2016. Imports from Malaysia, the leading source of refined tin imports in June, increased to 1,090 t in June from 190 t in May (table 4). Tin imports fluctuate significantly from month to month, however, and total imports and imports from Malaysia for the first 6 months of 2015 were 11% and 3% less, respectively, than those in the first 6 months of 2015.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for June was \$7.89 per pound, essentially unchanged from the May price of \$7.78 per pound, and an increase of 9% from the June 2015 average price of \$7.21 per pound (table 2).

Chinese customs data show that 39,044 t of tin ore and concentrate were imported into China in June, of which 38,936 t was from Burma. In the first half of 2016, China imported an estimated 254,120 t of tin ores and concentrates from Burma, containing an estimated 30,000 t of tin (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

In June, Indonesia exported 7,652 t of refined tin, 8% less than in the previous month. In the first half of 2016, Indonesia exported 29,650 t, a 25% decrease from exports in the same period in 2015. This decrease was attributed to lower prices, flooding in the first quarter of 2016, stricter regulations, and the closure of private smelters during the past year (ITRI Ltd., 2016c).

On June 10, South Korea's Public Procurement Service (PPS) purchased 100 t of Malaysian tin from the Sanji Corporation, the second tin purchase by the PPS in 2016. The PPS is a state-run organization that provides a purchasing and stockpiling service for small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Republic of Korea. The PPS maintains a stockpile of about 3,000 t of tin (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

Bushveld Minerals Ltd. completed pilot-scale tests on their Groenfontein tin deposit in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Bushveld produced a cassiterite concentrate containing 58.75% tin. Pursuant to a scoping study released in September 2014 that estimated production to be between 610 and 1,130 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tin, Bushveld revised its development plan to focus on mining the higher-grade zones. Based on the pilot-scale tests, a new plant design was developed that was expected to produce only 510 t/yr of tin oxide that will be concentrated by gravity separation (Bushveld Minerals Ltd., 2016).

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References Cited

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- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, Myanmar tin exports fall slightly in June: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, July 25. (Accessed August 10, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/myanmar-tin-exports-fall-slightly-in-june>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, South Korea makes second 2016 stockpile purchase: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, June 10. (Accessed June 17, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/south-korea-makes-second-2016-stockpile-purchase>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016c, Strong month for Indonesian exports: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, July 20. (Accessed August 10, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/strong-month-for-indonesian-exports>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		May	June	January– June ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,600	880	880	5,280
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,950	1,950	9,760
Secondary	2,890	239	239	1,190
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,500	2,080 ^r	3,310	15,700
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	157	155	934
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,380 ^r	6,310	6,310
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	777.89	789.00	758.48
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	759.20	770.24	735.05

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
2015:		
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
March	799.25	773.78
April	799.25	773.81
May	777.89	759.20
June	789.00	770.24
January–June	758.48	735.05

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			
2015:						
June	3,510	76,000	401	5.3	97,000	
July	3,450	76,200	416	5.5	101,000	
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	
January–June	16,000	348,000	3,930	11.6	528,000	

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		
		May	June	January– June ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	917	--	2	306
Bolivia	6,260	800	536	3,560
Brazil	2,950	36	170	986
China	1,190	24	84	146
Indonesia	5,210	536 ^r	797	3,280
Malaysia	9,990	192	1,090	4,070
Peru	6,600	458	615	3,110
Singapore	225	--	--	50
Thailand	20	20	20	172
Other	99	17	1	47
Total	33,500	2,080^r	3,310	15,700
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,720	138	180	929
Bars and rods	1,220	106	73	571
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	(3)	17	43
Plates, sheets, strip	90	4	11	51
Waste and scrap	32,700	1,850	3,780	13,400
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,440	145	110	556
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	157	157	934

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes 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						
		May			June			January– June ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	232	--	232	232	--	232	1,410
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	21	W	21	144
Bronze and brass	1,760	61	87	148	59	87	146	888
Chemicals	5,440	240	W	240	214	W	214	1,620
Solder	4,200	168	W	168	222	W	222	1,930
Tinning	392	31	--	31	32	--	32	194
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	693	W	693	692	W	692	3,960
Other ⁵	6,020	503	152	655 ^r	503	152	655	3,010
Total reported	26,600	1,950	239	2,190	1,970	239	2,210	13,200

^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.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes terne metal.

⁴Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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