

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in September 2016 was 1,970 metric tons (t), slightly less than the revised consumption of the previous month. Total refined tin imports for September 2016 were 2,760 t, a decrease of 17% from those in August 2016. Imports from Indonesia, the leading year-to-date source of refined tin imports, decreased by 54% to 652 t in September from those in August (table 4). Imports from Indonesia in August were at their highest level since October 2015. The leading sources of refined tin in September were, in descending order, Malaysia, Peru, Indonesia, Bolivia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for September was \$9.12 per pound, an increase of 7% from the August price of \$8.53 per pound, and an increase of 23% from the September 2015 average price of \$7.31 per pound (table 2).

PT Refined Bangka Tin, the largest private smelter in Indonesia, announced plans to ramp up production at their smelter on Sungailiat, Bangka Island, to 800 to 900 metric tons per month (t/mo) from the current 200 to 300 t/mo. The smelter had been sold and closed in February, but the new owners revived the business with "Green Mining," a concept of best practices and technologies intended to reduce the environmental impacts associated with mining. The restart and increase in production were reportedly in response to a formal request by the Governor of Bangka Belitung Province to help support the local economy (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

In China, imports of tin ore and concentrate for September were 17,800 t, (containing an estimated 2,100 t of tin) a decrease of 54% from tin ore and concentrate imports in August. Burma accounted for 98% of China's tin ore and concentrate imports. The decrease of imports was attributed to reduced production in Burma during the rainy season (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

In Burma, the United Wa State Army (UWSA) walked out of peace talks during the Union Peace Conference on September 1. The UWSA controls the Man Maw mining area, in Shan State

Special Region 2, or Wa State, which accounts for 95% of Burmese tin production. The UWSA had almost complete autonomy over the region, which shares a border with China. In late September, the UWSA took over two outposts and a border checkpoint from the National Democratic Alliance Army, restricting travel between Mongla and the capital of Kengtung (Giry and Moe, 2016).

Update

In October, the Myanmar Army ordered the UWSA to withdraw from the two outposts and border checkpoint by October 24th. The UWSA failed to meet this deadline, and according to industry experts, further escalation of tensions may have a disruptive impact on tin production in the area. (ITRI Ltd., 2016c)

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References Cited

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- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, RBT builds up production: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, September 27. (Accessed December 10, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/rbt-builds-up-production>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, Rainy season hits Myanmar ore exports: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, October 24. (Accessed December 10, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/rainy-season-hits-myanmar-ore-exports>.)
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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2016			
	2015 ^p	August	September	January–September ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,100 ^r	880	880	7,920
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	2,000 ^r	1,970	17,700
Secondary	2,890	239	239	2,150
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600 ^r	3,330 ^r	2,760	24,300
Exports, refined tin	807 ^r	130 ^r	111 ^r	843
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,210 ^r	6,210	6,210
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	852.78	912.11	793.75
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	834.85	888.22	771.34

^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:		
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
July	828.00	808.64
August	852.78	834.85
September	912.11	888.22
January–September	793.75	771.34

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:						
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	
July	2,310	52,300	701	13.4	85,100	
August	2,310	51,400	706	13.7	89,400	
September	2,310	44,200	684	15.5	80,600	
January–September	22,900	496,000	6,020	12.5	783,000	

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, gross weight)

Country or product	2015	2016		
		August	September	January–September ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	917	--	--	306
Bolivia	6,260	667	445	5,050
Brazil	2,950	188	185	1,550
Canada	32	1	1	31
China	1,230 ^r	3	25	219
Hong Kong	125	--	--	--
Indonesia	5,210	1,410 ^r	652	6,040
Malaysia	9,990	415	714	5,840
Netherlands	35	--	--	33
Peru	6,600	602	701	4,930
Singapore	225	25	--	75
Thailand	20	20	41	252
Other	8 ^r	-- ^r	--	5
Total	33,600	3,330	2,760	24,300
Other:				
Alloys	2,720	141	143	1,420
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,220	115	146	917
Flakes and powders	238	22	31	143
Foil	96 ^r	4 ^r	18	64
Plates, sheets, strip	90	5 ^r	12	71
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	12	1	(3)	1
Waste and scrap	32,700	2,730	2,460	21,200
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,200 ^r	149 ^r	44	743
Exports:				
Refined tin	807	130	111	843
Alloys	2,540	136	108	749

^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 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– September ²
		August			September			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	232	--	232	228	--	228	2,100
Babbitt	305	21	W	21	19	W	19	214
Bronze and brass	1,760	61	87	148	63	87	150	1,330
Chemicals	5,440	240	W	240	240	W	240	2,320
Solder	4,200	205 ^r	W	205 ^r	197	W	197	3,020
Tinning	392	32	--	32	32	--	32	290
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	706	W	706	684	W	684	6,070
Other ⁵	6,020	503	152	655	503	152	655	4,530
Total reported	26,600	2,000 ^r	239	2,240 ^r	1,970	239	2,210	19,900

^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.