

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN OCTOBER 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in October 2016 was 1,950 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that of September 2016. Total refined tin imports for October 2016 were 2,090 t, a decrease of 24% from those in the previous month (table 1). Imports from Indonesia, the leading year-to-date source of refined tin imports, decreased by 16% in October from those in September to 547 t (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in October were, in descending order, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for October was \$9.41 per pound, a slight increase from the September price of \$9.12 per pound, and an increase of 26% from the October 2015 average price of \$7.46 per pound (table 2).

China imported 36,500 t of tin ore and concentrates (containing an estimated 4,300 t of tin) in October, more than double the amount imported in September. In the first 10 months of 2016, China's imports of tin ore and concentrates increased by more than 83% from those in the same period of

2015 to 384,000 t, and more than 97% of the imports originated from Burma (ITRI Ltd., 2016a, b).

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References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, China tin ore imports rebound in October: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, November 29. (Accessed December 10, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-tin-ore-imports-rebound-in-october.>)
- 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.>)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		September	October	January– October ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,100	838 ^r	838	8,380
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,970	1,950	19,700
Secondary	2,940 ^r	239	247	2,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600	2,760	2,090	26,400
Exports, refined tin	807	111	74	917
Stocks at end of period	7,090 ^r	6,210	6,330	6,330
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	912.11	941.00	808.48
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	888.22	914.97	785.70

^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:		
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
October	941.00	914.97
January–October	808.48	785.70

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:						
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	
October	2,310	39,900	676	17.0	74,700	
January–October	25,200	536,000	6,700	12.9	858,000	

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		
		September	October	January– October ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	917	--	2	309
Bolivia	6,260	445	205	5,250
Brazil	2,950	185	208	1,760
Canada	32	1	16	46
China	1,230	25	--	219
Hong Kong	125	--	--	--
Indonesia	5,210	652	547	6,580
Malaysia	9,990	714	574	6,420
Netherlands	35	--	--	33
Peru	6,600	701	522	5,450
Singapore	225	--	--	75
Thailand	20	41	20	273
Other	8	--	--	5
Total	33,600	2,760	2,090	26,400
Other:				
Alloys	2,720	143	144	1,560
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,220	146	84	1,000
Flakes and powders	238	31	16	159
Foil	96	18	(3)	65
Plates, sheets, strip	90	12	6	77
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	12	(3)	--	1
Waste and scrap	32,700	2,460	1,380	22,600
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,200	44	76	818
Exports:				
Refined tin	807	111	74	917
Alloys	2,540	108	93	942

-- 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						
		September			October			January– October ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	228	--	228	231	--	231	2,330
Babbitt	305	19	W	19	19	W	19	241
Bronze and brass	1,760	63	87	150	63	90	153	1,490
Chemicals	5,440	240	W	240	218	W	218	2,540
Solder	4,200	197	W	197	215	W	215	3,370
Tinning	392	32	--	32	33	--	33	323
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	684	W	684	676	W	676	6,750
Other ⁵	6,020	503	152	655	494	157	651	5,030
Total reported	26,600	1,970	239	2,210	1,950	247	2,190	22,100

^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.