

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN NOVEMBER 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in November 2016 was 1,960 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that of October 2016. Total refined tin imports for November 2016 were 3,500 t, an increase of 67% from those in the previous month (table 4). Imports from Indonesia, the leading year-to-date source of refined tin imports, doubled in November to 1,100 t from those in October. Imports from Bolivia, the fourth leading year-to-date source of refined tin imports, rose to 680 t, more than triple those of the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in November were, in descending order, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Malaysia and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for November was \$9.90 per pound, an increase of 5% from the October price of \$9.41 per pound, and an increase of 42% from the November 2015 average price of \$6.95 per pound (figure 1, table 2).

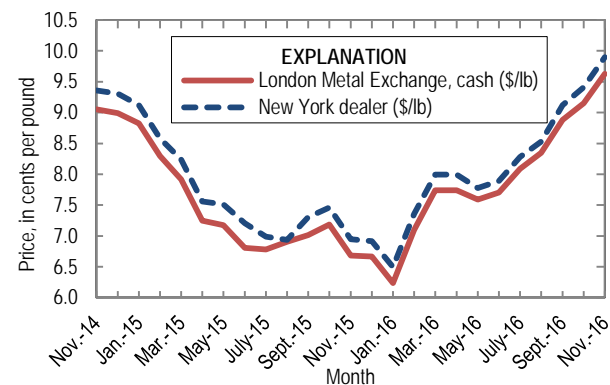


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for tin from November 2014 to November 2016. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Corporación Minera de Bolivia, a state-run company of Bolivia, signed a \$75 million contract to fund the construction

of a new processing plant at the Colquiri tin-zinc mine that would double ore processing capacity at the mine to 2,000 metric tons per day (t/d) from about 1,000 t/d. The plant was to be built by Ziegler SRL (Bolivia) with funding provided by the United States investment firm, Nalex International Development Corp. The Colquiri Mine produced 4,230 t of tin in 2015 (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

According to Chinese customs data, imports of tin ores and concentrates in November 2016 were 44,500 t, with an estimated 5,300 t of contained tin, an increase of 22% from those in October 2016 and an increase of 17% from those in November 2015. Wa County in Burma continued to be the primary supplier of tin ores and concentrates to China, accounting for 99.7% of China's imports in November (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

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References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2016a, China tin ore imports up, metal imports down in November: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, December 23. (Accessed January 15, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-tin-ore-imports-up-metal-imports-down-in-november.>)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, Contract signed for new plant at Colquiri: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, November 4. (Accessed December 10, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/contract-signed-for-new-plant-at-colquiri.>)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015 ^p	2016		
		October	November	January– November ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,100	838	838	9,220
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,700	1,950	1,960	21,600
Secondary	2,940	247	249	2,650
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600	2,090	3,500	29,900
Exports, refined tin	807	74	121	1,040
Stocks at end of period	7,090	6,320 ^t	6,270	6,270
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	941.00	989.71	824.96
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	914.97	962.89	801.81

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^tRevised.

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:		
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
November	989.71	962.89
January–November	824.96	801.81

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:					
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
November	2,310	46,700	695	14.9	73,700
January–November	27,500	582,000	7,390	13.1	931,000

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		
		October	November	January– November ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	917	2	--	309
Bolivia	6,260	205	680	5,930
Brazil	2,950	208	200	1,960
Canada	32	16	(3)	46
China	1,230	--	--	219
Hong Kong	125	--	--	--
Indonesia	5,210	547	1,100	7,680
Malaysia	9,990	574	670	7,090
Netherlands	35	--	--	33
Peru	6,600	522	695	6,150
Singapore	225	--	100	176
Thailand	20	20	58	331
Other	8	--	--	5
Total	33,600	2,090	3,500	29,900
Other:				
Alloys	2,720	144	172	1,740
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,220	84	136	1,140
Flakes and powders	238	16	34	192
Foil	96	(3)	3	68
Plates, sheets, strip	90	6	8	85
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	12	--	--	1
Waste and scrap	32,700	1,380	2,150	24,800
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,200	76	50	868
Exports:				
Refined tin	807	74	121	1,040
Alloys	2,540	93	87	930

-- 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						
		October			November			January– November ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,640	231	--	231	234	--	234	2,570
Babbitt	305	19	W	19	19	W	19	263
Bronze and brass	1,760	64 ^r	90	154 ^r	61	87	148	1,640
Chemicals	5,440	218	W	218	224	W	224	2,760
Solder	4,200	215	W	215	197	W	197	3,710
Tinning	392	33	--	33	31	--	31	354
Tinplate ⁴	5,840	676	W	676	695	W	695	7,460
Other ⁵	6,020	494	157	651	494	163	657	5,540
Total reported	26,600	1,950	247	2,200 ^r	1,960	249	2,210	24,300

^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 terre 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.