

# 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 JANUARY 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in January 2017 was 1,910 metric tons (t), a slight increase from revised consumption in December 2016 (table 4). Total refined tin imports for January 2017 were 2,560 t, an increase of 12% from those in the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in January were, in descending order, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Malaysia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January was \$9.68 per pound, a slight decrease from the December price of \$9.91 per pound, and an increase of 49% from the January 2016 average price of \$6.50 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

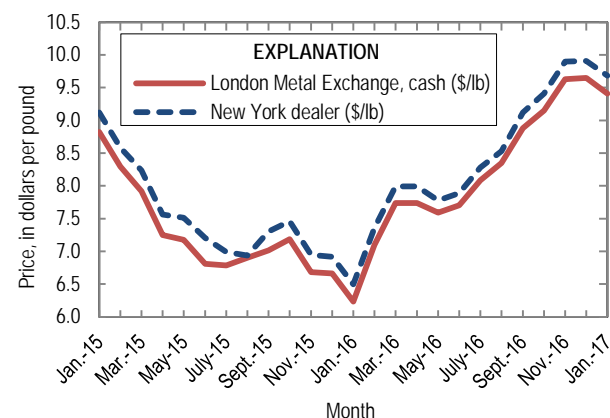


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for tin from January 2015 through January 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

The International Tin Research Institute Ltd. (ITRI) released its list of the top 10 refined tin producers of 2016. According to ITRI, only four producers increased production in 2016 from that of 2015: Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A., Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd., Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd., and Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (ITRI Ltd., 2017). The world's leading refined tin producers and their production in 2016 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

1.	Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	76,000
2.	Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	26,802
3.	PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	23,756
4.	Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	20,100
5.	Minsur S.A. (Peru)	19,573
6.	Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. (EM Vinto) (Bolivia)	13,111
7.	Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thailand)	11,088
8.	Guangxi China Tin Group. Co. Ltd. (China)	10,984
9.	Metallo Chimique N.V. (Belgium)	8,541
10.	Gejiu Zi-Li Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. (China)	8,200

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## Reference Cited

ITRI Ltd., 2017, The top ten refined tin producers of 2016: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, January 25. (Accessed January 25, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/the-top-10-refined-tin-producers-of-2016.>)

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2016		2017
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December	January
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	10,100	835	808
Reported consumption:			
Primary	25,900 <sup>r</sup>	1,900 <sup>r</sup>	1,910
Secondary	2,600	227	227
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	2,290	2,560
Exports, refined tin	1,150	115	132
Stocks at end of period	6,510 <sup>r</sup>	6,510 <sup>r</sup>	6,490
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	990.63	968.00
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	964.98	940.81

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

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

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
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
December	990.63	964.98
January–December	838.76	815.41
2017, January	968.00	940.81

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Production			Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
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	691	13.6	96,200
July	2,310	52,300	701	13.4	85,100
August	2,310	51,400	705	13.7	89,400
September	2,310	44,200	684	15.5	80,600
October	2,310	39,900	676	16.9	74,700
November	2,310	46,700	695	14.9	73,700
December	2,310 <sup>r</sup>	41,100 <sup>r</sup>	454 <sup>r</sup>	11.0 <sup>r</sup>	78,600
January–December	29,800 <sup>r</sup>	623,000 <sup>r</sup>	7,840 <sup>r</sup>	12.9 <sup>r</sup>	1,010,000
2017, January	2,310	41,600	444	10.7	62,500

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Country or product	2016		2017
	Year	December	January
<b>Imports:</b>			
<b>Refined tin:</b>			
Belgium	309	-2	6
Bolivia	6,170	235	452
Brazil	2,120	163	75
Canada	48	2	11
China	229	10	--
Hong Kong	--	--	--
Indonesia	8,580	902	1,070
Malaysia	7,560	475	225
Netherlands	33	--	--
Peru	6,590	443	679
Singapore	176	--	--
Thailand	392	61	40
Other	4	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,560</b>
<b>Other:</b>			
Alloys	1,910	177	119
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	64	117
Flakes and powders	202	10	2
Foil	86	18	1
Plates, sheets, strip	94	9	7
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	--	(2)
Waste and scrap	27,200	2,390	3,650
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	925	59	52
<b>Exports:</b>			
Refined tin	1,150	115	132
Alloys	1,050	116	31

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>Includes 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 PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2016				2017		
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December			January		
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,680	218	--	218	220	--	220
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	21	W	21
Bronze and brass	1,760	55	87	142	55	87	142
Chemicals	3,190	420	W	420	439	W	439
Solder	3,640 <sup>r</sup>	207 <sup>r</sup>	W	207 <sup>r</sup>	208	W	208
Tinning	364	30	--	30	31	--	31
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	7,910	454 <sup>r</sup>	W	454 <sup>r</sup>	444	W	444
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,060	495	139	634	495	139	634
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>1,900<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>227</b>	<b>2,130<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>2,140</b>

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes terne metal.

<sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinning chemical solutions.

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