

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN MARCH 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in March 2017 was 810 metric tons (t), unchanged from that in February 2017 (table 1). Total refined tin imports for March 2017 were 2,640 t, a 57% increase from those in the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in March were, in descending order, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and Malaysia.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for March was \$9.19 per pound, essentially unchanged from the February price of \$9.10 per pound, and a 15% increase from the March 2016 average price of \$7.99 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

Peace talks between the Government of Burma and armed ethnic organizations, which had been scheduled for February, were postponed until mid-March. Seven main groups announced they would not sign an existing peace agreement with the Government of Burma in its current form. The United Wa State Army (UWSA), a major armed ethnic group, controlled an area of Burma where a significant amount of tin was mined. In 2016, China imported 57,000 t of tin in concentrate from the area controlled by the UWSA (ITRI Ltd., 2017).

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### Reference Cited

ITRI Ltd., 2017, Myanmar peace process meeting delayed: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, March 1. (Accessed March 15, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/uwsa-lead-proposals-for-alternative-peace-process-for-ethnic-armed-groups.>)

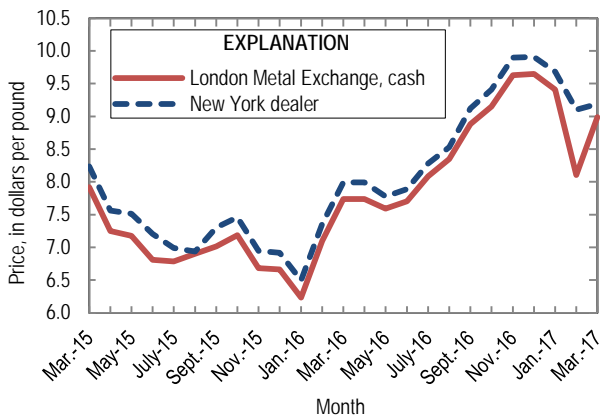


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from March 2015 through March 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017			
	2016 <sup>p</sup>	February	March	January– March
Production, secondary <sup>e,2</sup>	10,100	808	808	2,420
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,900	1,920	5,740
Secondary	2,600	227	215	668
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	1,680	2,640	6,870
Exports, refined tin	1,150	93	93	317
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,550	6,580	6,580
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	909.88	919.00	932.29
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	810.32	899.00	883.38

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

<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:		
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
February	909.88	810.32
March	919.00	899.00
January–March	932.29	883.38

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		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2016:					
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	41,100	454	11.0	78,600
January–December	29,800	623,000	7,840	12.9	1,010,000
2017:					
January	2,310	41,600	444	10.7	62,500
February	2,310	45,500	449	9.9	67,800
March	2,310	39,800	455	11.5	78,200
January–March	6,920	127,000	1,350	10.7	209,000

<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		January– March
		February	March	
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	309	4	--	10
Bolivia	6,170	266	376	1,090
Brazil	2,120	25	180	280
Canada	48	1	1	13
China	229	20	--	20
Indonesia	8,580	250	1,220	2,540
Malaysia	7,560	320	180	725
Netherlands	33	(2)	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	729	581	1,990
Singapore	176	--	--	--
Thailand	392	20	60	121
Other	5	41	34	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>6,870</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,910	83	84	246
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	81	95	293
Flakes and powders	202	14	17	32
Foil	86	1	11	22
Plates, sheets, strip	94	3	12	22
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	--	(2)	-2
Waste and scrap	27,200	3,720	4,830	12,200
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	927	59	22	132
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,150	93	93	317
Alloys	1,050	44	44	119

-- 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	2017							
	2016 <sup>p</sup>	February			March			January- March
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,680	220	--	220	222	--	222	662
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	21	W	21	71
Bronze and brass	1,760	55	87	142	32	87	119	439
Chemicals	3,190	448	W	448	443	W	443	1,360
Solder	3,640	187	W	187	187	W	187	918
Tinning	364	30	--	30	30	--	30	91
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	7,910	449	W	449	455	W	455	1,370
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,060	495	139	634	530	127	657	1,500
Total reported	25,900	1,900	227	2,130	1,920	215	2,130	6,400

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. 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>Includesterne metal.

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

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