

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in April 2017 was 1,950 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in March 2017 (table 1). Total refined tin imports for April 2017 were 3,310 t, a 26% increase from those in the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in April were, in descending order, Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for April was \$9.30 per pound, a slight increase from the March price of \$9.19 per pound, and a 16% increase from the April 2016 average price of \$7.99 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

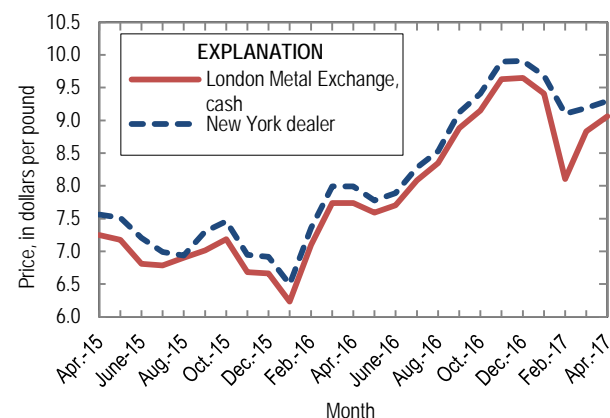


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from April 2015 through April 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

In China, two tin smelters, Gejiu Jinye and Gejiu Zili, suspended operations in early April for environmental checks related to sulfur dioxide emissions. The smelters produced about 1,400 metric tons per month of tin, equivalent to 5% of global

tin metal production in 2016. The inspections were expected to disrupt operations from 2 to 4 weeks, and upgrades to emission monitoring equipment were to be installed during the shutdown (ITRI Ltd., 2017b).

China's imports of tin concentrate (gross weight) from Burma increased to 22,808 t in April 2017 from 20,058 t in March, but imports in the first four months of 2017 were less than those in the same period in 2016. The year-to-date decline was likely owing to a higher tin content in the concentrate as a result of improved processing equipment in the Man Maw mining district in Burma. The tin content in concentrate from Burma in April 2017 averaged about 23%, as opposed to the 2016 average of 13% (ITRI Ltd., 2017a, Global Trade Information Services Inc., 2017).

References Cited

- Global Trade Information Services Inc., 2017, Global trade atlas: Global Trade Information Services Inc. (Accessed June 1, 2017, via <http://www.gtis.com/gta/>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2017a, Myanmar tin exports stabilize in April: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, June 9. (Accessed June 19, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/latest-official-china-customs-statistics-reveal-that-april-imports-of-tin-ore-and-concentrate-from-myanmar-totalled-20058-tonnes-gross-weight-up-14-from-march-but-down-51-year-on-year>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2017b, Temporary supply disruption in China: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, April 10. (Accessed June 1, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-supply-sees-short-term-disruption>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2016 ^p	2017		
		March	April	January–April
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	10,100	808	808	3,230
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,940 ^r	1,950	7,710
Secondary	2,600	215	215	883
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	2,640	3,310	10,200
Exports, refined tin	1,150	93	153	470
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,570 ^r	6,570	6,570
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	919.00	929.88	931.69
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	899.00	906.37	889.12

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. ^pPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

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

³Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2016:		
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
April	929.88	906.37
January–April	931.69	889.12

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)	
2016:					
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
April	2,310	44,100	481	10.9	75,600
January–April	9,230	171,000	1,830	10.8	284,000

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	2016	2017		
		March	April	January–April
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	309	--	7	16
Bolivia	6,170	376	457	1,550
Brazil	2,120	180	125	405
Canada	48	1	1	15
China	229	--	25	45
Indonesia	8,580	1,220	857	3,400
Malaysia	7,560	180	1,010	1,730
Netherlands	33	--	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	581	696	2,690
Singapore	176	--	--	--
Thailand	392	60	40	161
Other	5	34	96	173
Total	32,200	2,640	3,310	10,200
Other:				
Alloys	1,910	44 ^r	133	378
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	95	88	381
Flakes and powders	219 ^r	17	8	40
Foil	86	11	2	15
Plates, sheets, strip	94	12	6	28
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	(2)	1	1
Waste and scrap	27,200	4,830	4,890	17,100
Miscellaneous ³	921 ^r	22	62	195
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,150	93	153	470
Alloys	1,050	44	78	196

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes 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	2016 ^p	2017						
		March			April			January–April
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,680	222	--	222	220	--	220	882
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	21	W	21	94
Bronze and brass	1,760	32	87	119	32	87	119	593
Chemicals	3,190	443	W	443	449	W	449	1,810
Solder	3,640	211 ^r	W	211 ^r	190	W	190	1,240
Tinning	364	30	--	30	30	--	30	121
Tinplate ³	7,910	455	W	455	481	W	481	1,850
Other ⁴	6,060	530	127	657	530	127	657	2,000
Total reported	25,900	1,940^r	215	2,160^r	1,950	215	2,170	8,600

^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.

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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