

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in May 2017 was 1,970 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in April 2017 (table 1). Total refined tin imports for May 2017 were 2,930 t, an 11% decrease from those in the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in May were, in descending order, Indonesia, Bolivia, Peru, Malaysia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May was \$9.46 per pound, a slight increase from the April price of \$9.30 per pound and a 22% increase from the May 2016 average price of \$7.78 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

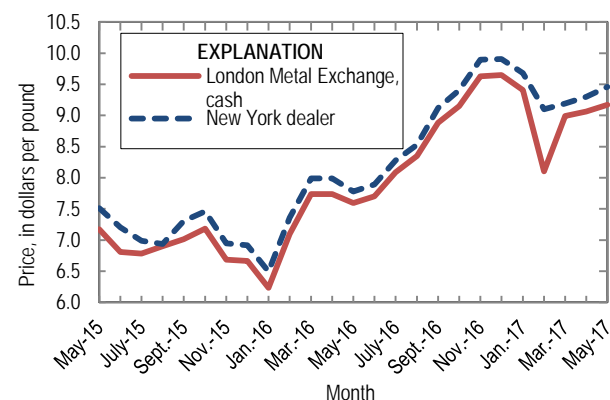


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from May 2015 through May 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

On May 23, the Public Procurement Service (PPS) of the Republic of Korea purchased 200 t of 99.9%-pure tin from Indonesia, its first tin purchase in 2017. In 2016, the PPS purchased 700 t of refined tin (ITRI Ltd., 2017).

Global London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) stocks of tin fell throughout May, starting at 2,865 t and decreasing to 1,910 t by monthend. This represented a 20-year low in the inventory of tin at the LME (Home, 2017; London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2017a, b).

References Cited

- Home, Andy, 2017, Is it just the London Metal Exchange that's short of tin?: London, United Kingdom, Thomson Reuters, May 12. (Accessed June 19, 2017, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-tin-stocks-ahome-idUSKBN18900Y>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2017, Korea stockpile makes first purchase of 2017: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, May 24. (Accessed June 19, 2017, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/korea-stockpile-makes-first-purchase-of-2017>.)
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2017a, Tin stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., May 2, 3 p.
- London Metal Exchange Ltd., 2017b, Tin stocks: London, United Kingdom, London Metal Exchange Ltd., May 31, 3 p.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017			
	2016 ^p	April	May	January– May
Production, secondary ^{c, 2}	10,100	808	808	4,040
Reported consumption:				
Primary	25,900	1,950	1,970	9,680
Secondary	2,600	215	225	1,110
Imports for consumption, refined tin	32,200	3,310	2,930	13,100
Exports, refined tin	1,150	153	138	608
Stocks at end of period	6,510	6,580 ^r	6,480	6,480
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	838.76	929.88	945.89	934.53
London Metal Exchange cash	815.41	906.37	917.26	894.75

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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:		
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
May	945.89	917.26
January–May	934.53	894.75

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:					
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
May	2,310	40,900	465	11.4	85,400
January–May	11,500	212,000	2,290	10.9	370,000

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		
		April	May	January– May
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	309	7	--	16
Bolivia	6,170	457	700	2,250
Brazil	2,120	125	150	555
Canada	48	1	--	15
China	229	25	26	72
Indonesia	8,580	857	962	4,360
Malaysia	7,560	1,010	470	2,200
Netherlands	33	--	--	(2)
Peru	6,590	696	538	3,220
Singapore	176	--	40	40
Thailand	392	40	46	207
Other	5	97 [†]	--	171
Total	32,200	3,310	2,930	13,100
Other:				
Alloys	1,910	133	118	497
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,200	88	117	499
Flakes and powders	219	8	26	67
Foil	86	2	10	25
Plates, sheets, strip	94	6	11	39
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	1	1	--	1
Waste and scrap	27,200	4,890	5,530	22,600
Miscellaneous ³	921	62	86	280
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,150	153	138	608
Alloys	1,040	78	95	291

[†]Revised. -- 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						January– May
		April			May			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,680	220	--	220	219	--	219	1,100
Babbitt	306	21	W	21	21	W	21	118
Bronze and brass	1,760	32	87	119	32	96	128	765
Chemicals	3,190	449	W	449	458	W	458	2,270
Solder	3,640	190	W	190	202	W	202	1,560
Tinning	364	30	--	30	30	--	30	151
Tinplate ³	7,910	481	W	481	465	W	465	2,320
Other ⁴	6,060	530	127	657	540	127	667	2,500
Total reported	25,900	1,950	215	2,170	1,970	224	2,190	10,800

^pPreliminary. 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.