

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN JULY 2017

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in July 2017 was 1,950 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in June 2017 (table 1). The calculated apparent consumption of refined tin in July was 3,810 t, an 8% decrease from the June calculated apparent consumption of 3,210 t. Total refined tin imports for July 2017 were 3,090 t, a 9% decrease from those in the previous month (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in July were, in descending order, Indonesia, Bolivia, Peru, Malaysia, and Brazil.

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for July was \$9.48 per pound, slightly more than the June price of \$9.17 per pound and a 14% increase from the July 2016 average price of \$8.28 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

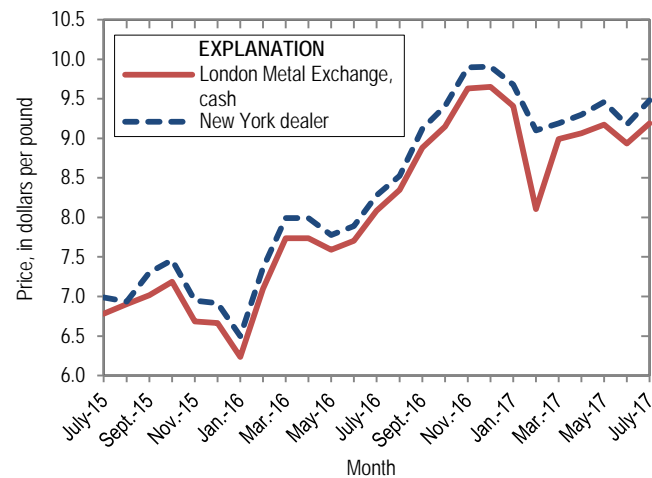


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from July 2015 through July 2017. Source: Platts Metals Week.

In April, China granted Yunnan Tin Company Group Ltd., the world’s leading producer of refined tin, the first tolling license to process imported tin ores and concentrates under the country’s new tin concentrate processing trade policy. The policy would allow tin smelters in China to import tin concentrates and reexport metal without paying import or export taxes, with the short-term aim to reduce the oversupply of metal in the domestic market and the long-term aim of increasing China’s influence on international tin prices. Yunnan Tin’s production capacity was 80,000 metric tons per year, and the company produced 76,000 t in 2016, accounting for nearly 23% of global production, according to company data. The tin metal shortage outside of China was estimated to be about 19,000 t in 2016, while the surplus within China was 6,000 t in the same year (Kang and Ma, 2017; Ma, 2017).

**References Cited**

Kang, Kiki, and Ma, Echo, 2017, FOCUS—China launches offensive on global tin pricing balance: Metal Bulletin, June 16. (Accessed July 6, 2017, via <http://www.metalbulletin.com/>)  
 Ma, Echo, 2017, Yunnan Tin receives tolling license to export tin metal tax-free: Metal Bulletin, June 7. (Accessed October 10, 2017, via <http://www.metalbulletin.com/>)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

|  | 2017              |        |        |                               |
|--|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------|
|  | 2016 <sup>p</sup> | June   | July   | January–<br>July <sup>2</sup> |
| Production, secondary <sup>c,3</sup>           | 10,300            | 858    | 858    | 6,010                         |
| Reported consumption:                          |                   |        |        |                               |
| Primary  | 25,900            | 1,960  | 1,950  | 13,600                        |
| Secondary                                      | 2,600             | 216    | 216    | 1,540                         |
| Imports for consumption, refined tin           | 32,200            | 3,400  | 3,090  | 19,600                        |
| Exports, refined tin                           | 1,150             | 189    | 122    | 919                           |
| Stocks at end of period                        | 6,510             | 6,540  | 6,520  | 6,520                         |
| Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup> |                   |        |        |                               |
| Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A           | 838.76            | 917.44 | 948.00 | 934.01                        |
| London Metal Exchange cash                     | 815.41            | 893.42 | 919.02 | 898.03                        |

<sup>c</sup>Estimated, <sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>4</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

| Period           | Metals Week<br>New York<br>dealer, Grade A | London<br>Metal<br>Exchange<br>cash |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2016:            |  |                                     |
| 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                              |
| June             | 917.44                                     | 893.42                              |
| July             | 948.00                                     | 919.02                              |
| January–July     | 934.01                                     | 898.03                              |

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<br>production<br>(strips, cobbles, etc.)<br>(gross weight) | Tinplate (all forms) |                |  |  |  |
|------------------|---|----------------------|----------------|--|--|--|
|                  |   | Production           |                |  | Shipments <sup>2</sup><br>(gross weight) |  |
|                  |   | Gross<br>weight      | Tin<br>content | Tin per<br>metric ton<br>of plate<br>(kilograms) |  |  |
| <b>2016:</b>     |   |                      |                |  |  |  |
| 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          | 12.6   | 1,010,000                                |  |
| <b>2017:</b>     |   |                      |                |  |  |  |
| 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                                   |  |
| June             | 2,310   | 41,200               | 455            | 11.0   | 82,400                                   |  |
| July             | 2,310   | 39,800               | 438            | 11.0   | 80,100                                   |  |
| January–July     | 16,200  | 293,000              | 3,190          | 10.9   | 532,000                                  |  |

<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         |              |                  |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
|  |               | June         | July         | January–<br>July |
| <b>Imports:</b>                          |               |              |              |                  |
| <b>Refined tin:</b>                      |               |              |              |                  |
| Belgium                                  | 309           | 2            | --           | 18               |
| Bolivia                                  | 6,170         | 672          | 626          | 3,550            |
| Brazil                                   | 2,120         | 123          | 246          | 925              |
| Canada                                   | 48            | --           | 1            | 15               |
| China                                    | 229           | 45           | 100          | 217              |
| Indonesia                                | 8,580         | 864          | 978          | 6,200            |
| Malaysia                                 | 7,560         | 970          | 400          | 3,570            |
| Netherlands                              | 33            | --           | --           | (2)              |
| Peru                                     | 6,590         | 618          | 580          | 4,420            |
| Singapore                                | 176           | --           | --           | 40               |
| Thailand                                 | 392           | 41           | 61           | 308              |
| Other                                    | 5             | 62           | 95           | 327              |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>32,200</b> | <b>3,400</b> | <b>3,090</b> | <b>19,600</b>    |
| <b>Other:</b>                            |               |              |              |                  |
| Alloys                                   | 1,910         | 198          | 134          | 829              |
| Bars, rods, profiles, and wire           | 1,200         | 86           | 67           | 652              |
| Flakes and powders                       | 219           | 9            | 13           | 89               |
| Foil                                     | 86            | 1            | 22           | 47               |
| Plates, sheets, strip                    | 94            | (2)          | 2            | 41               |
| Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings | 1             | --           | --           | 1                |
| Waste and scrap                          | 27,200        | 5,900        | 5,590        | 34,100           |
| Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>               | 921           | 79           | 32           | 391              |
| <b>Exports:</b>                          |               |              |              |                  |
| Refined tin                              | 1,150         | 189          | 122          | 919              |
| Alloys                                   | 1,040         | 141          | 46           | 478              |

-- 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 <sup>p</sup> | 2017         |            |              |              |            |              |                  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
|                                     |                   | June         |            |              | July         |            |              | January–<br>July |
|                                     |                   | Primary      | Secondary  | Total        | Primary      | Secondary  | Total        |                  |
| Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup> | 2,680             | 220          | --         | 220          | 222          | --         | 222          | 1,540            |
| Babbitt                             | 306               | 21           | W          | 21           | 21           | W          | 21           | 165              |
| Bronze and brass                    | 1,760             | 32           | 89         | 121          | 32           | 89         | 121          | 1,090            |
| Chemicals                           | 3,190             | 456          | W          | 456          | 468          | W          | 468          | 3,200            |
| Solder                              | 3,640             | 202          | W          | 202          | 202          | W          | 202          | 2,190            |
| Tinning                             | 364               | 31           | --         | 31           | 29           | --         | 29           | 211              |
| Tinplate <sup>3</sup>               | 7,910             | 455          | W          | 455          | 438          | W          | 438          | 3,230            |
| Other <sup>4</sup>                  | 6,060             | 546          | 127        | 673          | 535          | 127        | 662          | 3,500            |
| <b>Total reported</b>               | <b>25,900</b>     | <b>1,960</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>2,180</b> | <b>1,950</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>2,160</b> | <b>15,100</b>    |

<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>Includes terne 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.