

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in May 2018 was 1,650 metric tons (t), slightly less than the reported consumption of 1,670 t in April 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in May was 4,000 t, an increase of 19% from the April 2018 apparent consumption of 3,350 t (table 1).

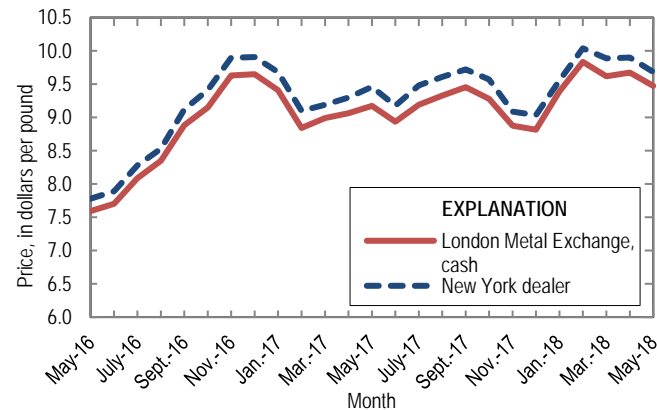


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from May 2016 through May 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May 2018 was \$9.68 per pound, slightly less than the April 2018 price of \$9.90 per pound. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for May 2018 was \$9.47 per pound, slightly less than the April 2018 price of \$9.67 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in May 2018 were 3,230 t, an increase of 27% from the 2,540 t of imports in April 2018 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in May were, in descending order, Bolivia (28%), Malaysia (19%), Indonesia and Peru (18% each), and Brazil (10%).

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2018			
	2017 ^P	April	May	January– May
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	10,300	858	858	4,290
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,670	1,650	8,250
Secondary	2,640	204	206	1,010
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000	3,350	4,000	17,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	2,540	3,230	13,600
Exports, refined tin	1,560	47	90	517
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,430	6,280	6,280
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	990.00	968.22	981.24
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	967.44	947.44	959.83

^eEstimated. ^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.

³Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2017:		
May	945.89	917.26
June	917.44	893.42
July	948.00	919.02
August	960.78	932.57
September	972.00	945.44
October	956.89	928.02
November	908.67	887.55
December	903.43	881.43
January–December	936.65	911.24
2018:		
January	955.56	939.09
February	1,003.75	983.43
March	988.67	961.75
April	990.00	967.44
May	968.22	947.44
January–May	981.24	959.83

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		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2017:					
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
August	2,310	41,000	435	10.6	97,300
September	2,310	38,400	448	11.7	94,200
October	2,310	46,200	470	10.2	84,800
November	2,310	41,700	448	10.7	79,600
December	2,310	36,200	352	9.7	90,300
January–December	27,700	496,000	5,340	10.8	978,000
2018:					
January	NA	42,400	390	9.2	74,400
February	NA	35,200	357	10.1	66,600
March	NA	40,100	382	9.5	72,700
April	NA	43,100	388	9.0	76,500
May	NA	42,400	388	9.2	83,500
January–May	NA	203,000	1,910	9.4	374,000

NA Not available.

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/locality, or product	2017	2018		
		April	May	January– May
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	40	3	47
Bolivia	6,450	69	896	2,340
Brazil	1,720	231	314	919
Canada	17	--	1	2
China	510	96	135	586
Indonesia	9,910	768	596	3,580
Malaysia	7,050	708	601	2,860
Peru	7,350	500	575	2,820
Singapore	40	--	--	--
Thailand	449	25	25	146
Other	790	107	82	345
Total	34,300	2,540	3,230	13,600
Other:				
Alloys	1,550	128	118	567
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	105	112	545
Flakes and powders	172	20	18	74
Foil	98	14	3	19
Plates, sheets, strip	74	19	5	39
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	--	--	32
Waste and scrap	52,100	3,790	4,640	20,300
Miscellaneous ²	729	43	76	308
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	47	90	517
Alloys	965	65	37	379

-- Zero.

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

²Includes 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	2018							
	2017 ^p	April			May			January– May ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,580	183	--	183	181	--	181	910
Babbitt	285	22	W	22	15	W	15	114
Bronze and brass	2,110	57	82	139	57	84	141	689
Chemicals	5,350	338	W	338	331	W	331	1,640
Solder	3,690	163	W	163	164	W	164	1,370
Tinning	312	23	--	23	22	--	22	112
Tinplate ⁴	4,380	388	W	388	388	W	388	1,940
Other ⁵	6,010	493	122	615	493	122	615	2,480
Total reported	24,700	1,670	204	1,870	1,650	206	1,860	9,250

^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.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes terne metal.

⁴Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁵Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.