

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JULY 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in July 2018 was 1,630 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in June 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in July was 4,050 t, a decrease of 10% from June's 2018 apparent consumption figure of 4,490 t (table 1). This decrease was driven by a 461 t decrease in imports of refined tin.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for July 2018 was \$9.14 per pound, a decrease of 5% from June's average price of \$9.60 per pound. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for July 2018 was \$8.93 per pound, a 5% decrease from that of the previous month (fig. 1, table 2).

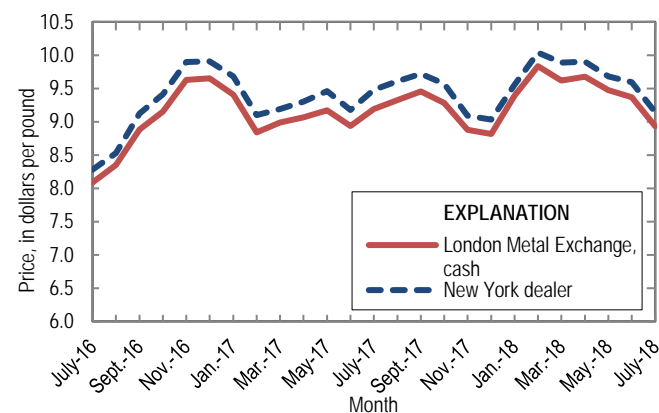


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from July 2016 through July 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in July 2018 were 3,250 t, a decrease of 12% from the 3,710 t of imports in June 2018 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in July were, in descending order, Indonesia (41%), Malaysia (25%), and Peru (22%). Imports from Bolivia decreased by 900 t (96%) in July 2018.

Update

On September 18, the Office of the United States Trade Representative released a list of imports from China that will be subject to additional tariffs. Tinplate (Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States [HTS] code 7326.90.10), which is used to manufacture containers for foods and beverages, was included on the list. A new HTS code was created, 9903.88.01, to represent the new tariffs. Imports of tinplate from China became subject to an additional duty of 10% ad valorem on September 24, 2018. On January 1, 2019, the additional duty will increase to 25% ad valorem (Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2018).

Reference Cited

Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2018, USTR finalizes tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports in response to China's unfair trade practices: Office of the United States Trade Representative press release, September 18, 1 p. (Accessed October 10, 2018, at <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/september/ustr-finalizes-tariffs-200>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017 ^p	2018		
		June	July	January– July
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	10,300	858	858	6,010
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,640	1,630	11,500
Secondary	2,640	203	193	1,400
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000	4,490	4,050	26,000
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	3,710	3,250	20,600
Exports, refined tin	1,560	80	62	658
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,360 ^r	6,380	6,380
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	959.63	914.44	968.61
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	936.76	893.09	947.00

^eEstimated. ^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.

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:		
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
June	959.63	936.76
July	914.44	893.09
January–July	968.61	947.00

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)		
2017:						
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	
June	NA	43,800 ^r	385 ^r	8.8	83,800	
July	NA	41,900	387	9.3	80,100	
January–July	NA	289,000	2,680	9.3	538,000	

NA Not available. ^rRevised.

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		
		June	July	January– July
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	45	--	92
Bolivia	6,450	940	40	3,320
Brazil	1,720	140	160	1,220
Canada	17	--	3	3
China	510	176	76	837
Indonesia	9,910	923	1,340	5,850
Malaysia	7,050	839	814	4,510
Peru	7,350	540	701	4,060
Singapore	40	--	--	--
Thailand	449	45	45	237
Other	790	66	70	482
Total	34,300	3,710	3,250	20,600
Other:				
Alloys	1,550	93	127	788
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	69	145	759
Flakes and powders	172	6	29	109
Foil	98	(2)	21	41
Plates, sheets, strip	74	5	6	51
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	3	27	62
Waste and scrap	52,100	3,940	3,960	28,200
Miscellaneous ³	729	91	152	551
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	80	62	658
Alloys	965	114	75	568

-- 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	2018							
	2017 ^p	June			July			January– July ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,580	181	--	181	179	--	179	1,270
Babbitt	285	15	W	15	16	W	16	145
Bronze and brass	2,110	62	81	143	70	70	140	972
Chemicals	5,350	321	W	321	297	W	297	2,260
Solder	3,690	138	W	138	138	W	138	1,870
Tinning	312	47	--	47	47	--	47	206
Tinplate ⁴	4,380	384	W	384	387	W	387	2,720
Other ⁵	6,010	493	122	615	493	123	616	3,480
Total reported	24,700	1,640	203	1,850	1,630	193	1,820	12,900

^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.