

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN AUGUST 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in August 2018 was 1,660 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in July 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in August was 3,690 t, a decrease of 9% from July's 2018 apparent consumption figure of 4,050 t (table 1). This decrease was owing to a 365-t decrease in imports of refined tin.

### Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for August 2018 was \$8.96 per pound, slightly less than July's average price of \$9.14 per pound. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for August 2018 was \$8.74 per pound, a slight decrease from that of the previous month (fig. 1, table 2).

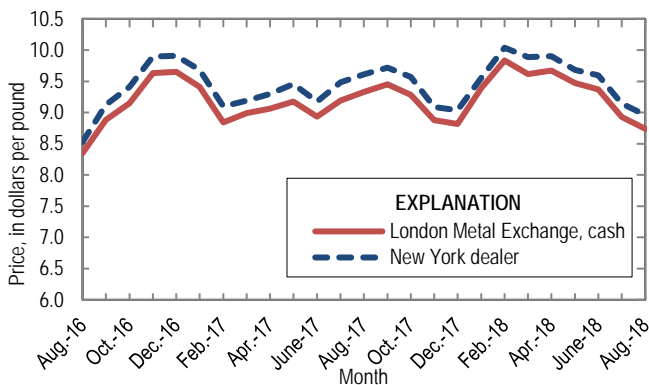


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from August 2016 through August 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

### U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in August 2018 were 2,890 t, a decrease of 11% from the 3,250 t of imports in July 2018 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in August were, in descending order, Malaysia (25%), Indonesia (20%), Bolivia and Peru (17% each). Imports from Bolivia increased by 441 t, and imports from Indonesia decreased by 757 t in August 2018.

### Update

On September 30, China's Ministry of Finance announced reductions in import tariff rates on more than 1,500 products, effective November 1. The average import tariff rate for these products would decrease to 7.8% from 10.5%. The import tariff rate on tin ore (cassiterite) would be reduced to 5% from 5.5% (Argus Metals International, 2018; Ministry of Finance, 2018; Yao, 2018).

On October 24, the government of Gejiu City, China, issued an announcement that requested that approximately 50 ore processing plants be decommissioned by the end of October and relocated to a new industrial park by April 2019. Around 30 companies were without plans to move and would be shut down by the end of November, unless they voluntarily shut down by the end of October. According to the International Tin Association, this shutdown was expected to reduce tin concentrate production by 1,000 metric tons per month (International Tin Association Ltd., 2018).

### References Cited

- Argus Metals International, 2018, China cuts import duty on metals, stainless steel: Argus Media group, Argus Metals International, October 1. (Accessed November 1, 2018, via <http://www.argusmedia.com/metals/>.)
- International Tin Association Ltd, 2018, China tin processing capacity to be impacted by closures: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, October 24. (Accessed November 1, 2018, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/china-tin-processing-capacity-to-be-impacted-by-closures/>.)
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- Yao, Kevin, 2018, China to cut import tariffs on wide range of products: Reuters, September 30. (Accessed November 1, 2018, at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-economy-tariffs/china-to-cut-import-tariffs-on-wide-range-of-products-idUSKCN1MA0HJ>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017 <sup>p</sup>	2018		
		July	August	January– August
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	10,300	858	858	6,860
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,630	1,660	13,200
Secondary	2,640	193	199	1,600
Consumption, apparent <sup>3</sup>	43,000	4,050	3,690	29,600
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	3,250	2,890	23,500
Exports, refined tin	1,560	62	59	717
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,400 <sup>r</sup>	6,310	6,310
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	914.44	895.89	959.52
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	893.09	873.96	937.87

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

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

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2017:		
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
August	895.89	873.96
January–August	959.52	937.87

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate (all forms)				
	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Production		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2017:					
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	385	8.8	83,800
July	NA	41,900	387	9.3	80,100
August	NA	44,800	387	8.6	91,600
January–August	NA	334,000	3,060	9.2	538,000

NA Not available.

<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/locality, or product	2017	2018		January– August
		July	August	
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	26	--	--	92
Bolivia	6,450	40	481	3,800
Brazil	1,720	160	292	1,510
Canada	17	3	2	8
China	510	76	100	937
Indonesia	9,910	1,340	587	6,440
Malaysia	7,050	814	727	5,240
Peru	7,350	701	501	4,560
Singapore	40	--	--	--
Thailand	449	45	43	281
Other	790	70 <sup>r</sup>	154	633
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,300</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>23,500</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,550	127	122	910
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	145	132	892
Flakes and powders	172	29	31	139
Foil	98	21	2	43
Plates, sheets, strip	74	6	6	56
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	27	1	63
Waste and scrap	52,100	3,960	4,220	32,500
Miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>	729	152	139	690
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,560	62	59	717
Alloys	965	75	65	633

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</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	2018							
	2017 <sup>p</sup>	July			August			January- August <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,580	179	--	179	181	--	181	1,450
Babbitt	285	16	W	16	15	W	15	161
Bronze and brass	2,110	70	70	140	73	76	149	1,120
Chemicals	5,350	297	W	297	329	W	329	2,590
Solder	3,690	138	W	138	138	W	138	2,110
Tinning	312	47	--	47	48	--	48	254
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,380	387	W	387	387	W	387	3,120
Other <sup>5</sup>	6,010	493	123	616	493	123	616	3,970
Total reported	24,700	1,630	193	1,820	1,660	199	1,860	14,800

<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>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includesterne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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