

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in September 2018 was 1,640 metric tons (t), slightly less than that in August 2018. Domestic reported consumption for the first three quarters of 2018 was 14,800 t, a decrease of 15% from the same time period in 2017. Apparent consumption of refined tin in September was 4,760 t, an increase of 29% from August's 2018 apparent consumption figure of 3,690 t (table 1). This increase was owing to a 1,100-t increase in imports of refined tin. Apparent consumption of refined tin for the first three quarters of 2018 were 34,400 t, an increase of 7% from the same time period of 2017.

### Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for September 2018 was \$8.82 per pound, slightly less than August's average price of \$8.96 per pound. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for September 2018 was \$8.61 per pound, a slight decrease from that of the previous month (fig. 1, table 2).

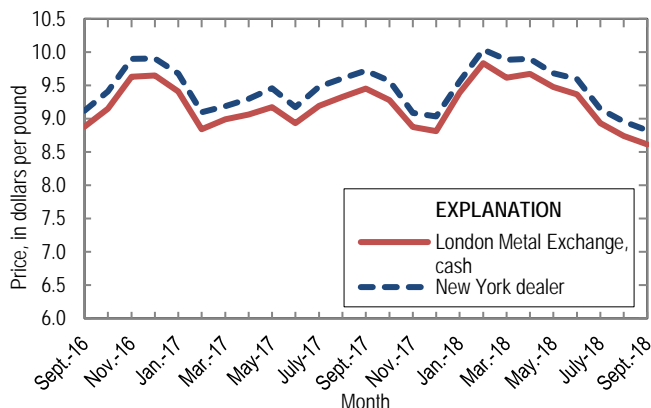


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from September 2016 through September 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

### U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in September 2018 were 3,980 t, an increase of 38% from the 2,890 t of imports in August 2018

(table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in September were Indonesia (26%), Malaysia (25%), Bolivia (20%), and Peru (12%). Imports from Indonesia, Bolivia, and Malaysia increased by 440 t, 297 t, and 251 t, respectively. Total refined tin imports for the first three quarters of 2018 were 27,500 t, an increase of 8% from imports in the same time period of 2017. The leading sources of refined tin in the first three quarters of the year were Indonesia (27%), Malaysia (23%), Peru (18%), and Bolivia (17%).

### Update

On November 20, W Resources Plc began production of tin concentrate at the La Parrilla Mine in Spain. Full-scale production was expected in the first half of 2019. At full production, the mine is expected to produce about 500 metric tons per year (t/yr) of concentrate, or an estimated 300 t/yr of tin in concentrate (International Tin Association Ltd., 2018; W Resources Plc, 2018a, b, c).

On December 5, Alphamin Resources Corp. announced that it had commissioned the crushing circuit at the Bisie tin project in North Kivu Province, Congo (Kinshasa). Construction of the gravity concentration building and tailings storage facility was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2019. The first ore throughput from the concentrator was expected in late March 2019 (Alphamin Resources Corp., 2016, 2018).

### References Cited

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

|  | 2018              |        |           |                       |
|--|-------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
|  | 2017 <sup>P</sup> | August | September | January–<br>September |
| Production, secondary <sup>6, 2</sup>          | 10,300            | 858    | 858       | 7,720                 |
| Consumption, reported:                         |                   |        |           |                       |
| Primary  | 22,100            | 1,660  | 1,640     | 14,800                |
| Secondary                                      | 2,640             | 199    | 198       | 1,800                 |
| Consumption, apparent <sup>3</sup>             | 43,000            | 3,690  | 4,760     | 34,400                |
| Imports for consumption, refined tin           | 34,300            | 2,890  | 3,980     | 27,500                |
| Exports, refined tin                           | 1,560             | 59     | 76        | 794                   |
| Stocks at end of period                        | 6,570             | 6,310  | 6,400     | 6,400                 |
| Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup> |                   |        |           |                       |
| Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A           | 936.65            | 895.89 | 882.38    | 950.95                |
| London Metal Exchange cash                     | 911.24            | 873.96 | 861.35    | 929.37                |

<sup>6</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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<br>New York<br>dealer, Grade A | London<br>Metal<br>Exchange<br>cash |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2017:             |  |                                     |
| 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                              |
| September         | 882.38                                     | 861.35                              |
| January–September | 950.95                                     | 929.37                              |

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<br>production<br>(strips, cobbles, etc.)<br>(gross weight) | Production      |                | Tin per<br>metric ton<br>of plate<br>(kilograms) | Shipments <sup>2</sup><br>(gross weight) |
|                   |   | Gross<br>weight | Tin<br>content |  |  |
| 2017:             |   |                 |                |  |  |
| 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                                   |
| September         | NA  | 39,800          | 381            | 9.6  | 79,000                                   |
| January–September | NA  | 373,000         | 3,450          | 9.3  | 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   |           |                       |
|--|--------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
|  |        | August | September | January–<br>September |
| <b>Imports:</b>                          |        |        |           |                       |
| Refined tin:                             |        |        |           |                       |
| Belgium                                  | 26     | --     | 20        | 112                   |
| Bolivia                                  | 6,450  | 481    | 778       | 4,580                 |
| Brazil                                   | 1,720  | 292    | 281       | 1,790                 |
| Canada                                   | 17     | 2      | 1         | 10                    |
| China                                    | 510    | 100    | 175       | 1,110                 |
| Indonesia                                | 9,910  | 587    | 1,030     | 7,460                 |
| Malaysia                                 | 7,050  | 727    | 978       | 6,210                 |
| Peru                                     | 7,350  | 501    | 465       | 5,020                 |
| Singapore                                | 40     | --     | 50        | 50                    |
| Thailand                                 | 449    | 43     | 45        | 326                   |
| Other                                    | 790    | 154    | 160       | 794                   |
| Total                                    | 34,300 | 2,890  | 3,980     | 27,500                |
| Other:                                   |        |        |           |                       |
| Alloys                                   | 1,550  | 122    | 79        | 989                   |
| Bars, rods, profiles, and wire           | 1,130  | 132    | 111       | 1,000                 |
| Flakes and powders                       | 172    | 31     | 13        | 152                   |
| Foil                                     | 98     | 2      | 2         | 45                    |
| Plates, sheets, strip                    | 74     | 6      | 7         | 63                    |
| Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings | 11     | 1      | --        | 63                    |
| Waste and scrap                          | 52,100 | 4,220  | 3,860     | 36,300                |
| Miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>               | 729    | 139    | 997       | 787                   |
| <b>Exports:</b>                          |        |        |           |                       |
| Refined tin                              | 1,560  | 59     | 76        | 794                   |
| Alloys                                   | 965    | 65     | 55        | 688                   |

-- 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                             | 2017 <sup>P</sup> | 2018    |           |       |           |           |       |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|------------------------------------|
|                                     |                   | August  |           |       | September |           |       | January–<br>September <sup>2</sup> |
|                                     |                   | Primary | Secondary | Total | Primary   | Secondary | Total |                                    |
| Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup> | 2,580             | 181     | --        | 181   | 196       | --        | 196   | 1,650                              |
| Babbitt                             | 285               | 15      | W         | 15    | 15        | W         | 15    | 177                                |
| Bronze and brass                    | 2,110             | 73      | 76        | 149   | 84        | 75        | 159   | 1,280                              |
| Chemicals                           | 5,350             | 329     | W         | 329   | 303       | W         | 303   | 2,900                              |
| Solder                              | 3,690             | 138     | W         | 138   | 139       | W         | 139   | 2,360                              |
| Tinning                             | 312               | 48      | --        | 48    | 47        | --        | 47    | 301                                |
| Tinplate <sup>4</sup>               | 4,380             | 387     | W         | 387   | 381       | W         | 381   | 3,500                              |
| Other <sup>5</sup>                  | 6,010             | 493     | 123       | 616   | 478       | 123       | 601   | 4,450                              |
| Total reported                      | 24,700            | 1,660   | 199       | 1,860 | 1,640     | 198       | 1,840 | 16,600                             |

<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>Includes terne 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.