

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN OCTOBER 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in October 2018 was 1,600 metric tons (t), slightly less than that in September 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in October was 3,450 t, a decrease of 28% from September's 2018 apparent consumption figure of 4,760 t (table 1). This decrease was owing to a 1,320-t decrease in imports of refined tin, primarily driven by decreases in imports from Malaysia and Bolivia.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for October 2018 was \$8.89 per pound, slightly greater than September's average price of \$8.82 per pound. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for October 2018 was \$8.67 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in October 2018 were 2,660 t, a decrease of 33% from the 3,980 t of imports in September 2018 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in October were, in descending order, Indonesia (34%), Peru (20%), Bolivia (18%), and Brazil (13%). Imports in October from Malaysia and Bolivia decreased by more than 700 t and 300 t, respectively.

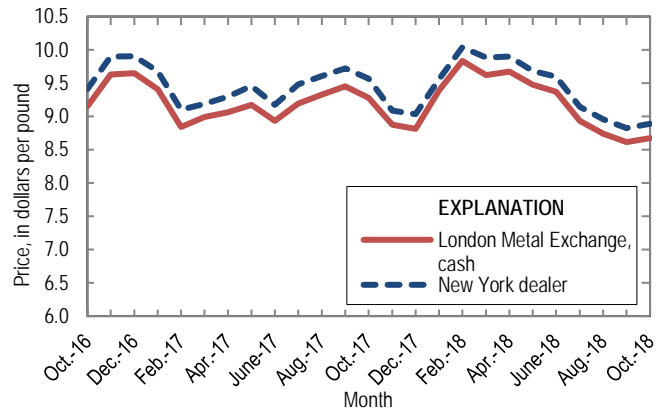


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from October 2016 through October 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017 ^p	2018		
		September	October	January– October
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	10,300	858	858	8,580
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,640	1,600	16,400
Secondary	2,640	198 ^r	209	2,010
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000	4,760	3,450	37,900
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	3,980	2,660	30,100
Exports, refined tin	1,560	76	70	864
Stocks at end of period	6,570	6,400	5,180	5,180
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	882.38	889.00	944.75
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	861.35	867.37	923.17

^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:		
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
October	889.00	867.37
January–October	944.75	923.17

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(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 ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2017:					
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
October	NA	31,200	381	12.2	94,800
January–October	NA	405,000	3,830	8.5	803,000

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		January– October
		September	October	
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	20	--	112
Bolivia	6,450	778	475	5,050
Brazil	1,720	281	352	2,140
Canada	17	1	50	60
China	510	175	20	1,130
Indonesia	9,910	1,030	892	8,360
Malaysia	7,050	978	276	6,490
Peru	7,350	465	525	5,550
Singapore	40	50	--	50
Thailand	449	45	25	351
Other	791	160	45	839
Total	34,300	3,980	2,660	30,100
Other:				
Alloys	1,550	79	105	1,090
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	111	144	1,150
Flakes and powders	172	13	11	163
Foil	98	2	1	45
Plates, sheets, strip	74	7	6	69
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	--	7	70
Waste and scrap	52,100	3,860	3,410	39,700
Miscellaneous ²	729	97 ^r	72	859
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	76	70	864
Alloys	965	55	79	767

^rRevised. -- 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	September			October			January– October
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,580	196	--	196	196	--	196	1,840
Babbitt	285	15	W	15	15	W	15	192
Bronze and brass	2,110	84	75	159	59	91	150	1,430
Chemicals	5,350	303	W	303	313	W	313	3,210
Solder	3,690	139	W	139	139	W	139	2,610
Tinning	312	47	--	47	23	--	23	324
Tinplate ⁴	4,380	381	W	381	381	W	383	3,890
Other ⁵	6,010	478	123	601	477	118	595	4,930
Total reported	24,700	1,640	198 ^r	1,840	1,600	209	1,810	18,400

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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.