

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

C. Schuyler Anderson, Tin Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: csanderson@usgs.gov

Robin Kaiser (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7948
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: rkaiser@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

TIN IN NOVEMBER 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in November was 1,640 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in October. Apparent consumption of refined tin in November was 4,170 t, an increase of 21% from that in October (table 1). This increase was owing to a 700-t increase in imports of refined tin, primarily driven by increases in imports from Indonesia and Bolivia.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin in November 2018 was \$8.89 per pound, essentially unchanged from October's average price and slightly less than the November 2017 average price of \$9.09 per pound. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin in November 2018 was \$8.68 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month and slightly less than the November 2017 average price of \$8.88 per pound (fig. 1, table 2).

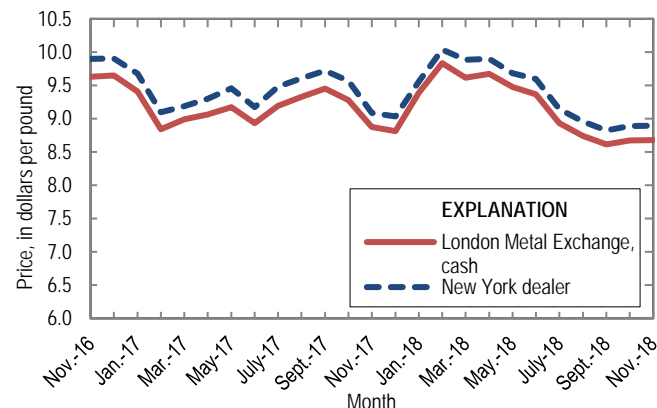


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from November 2016 through November 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in November 2018 were 3,360 t, an increase of 26% from the 2,660 t of imports in October 2018

(table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in November were, in descending order, Indonesia (36%), Bolivia (23%), Malaysia (16%), and Peru (14%).

Update

According to the International Tin Association, overall production by the top ten refined tin producers increased slightly in 2018 from that of 2017. The world's leading refined tin producers and their production in 2018 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

Company	Production
1. Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	77,789
2. PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	33,444
3. Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	27,086
4. Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	22,900
5. Minsur S.A. (Peru)	18,345
6. Jiangxi New Nanshan Tin (China)	12,220
7. Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. (EM Vinto) (Bolivia)	11,369
8. Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thailand)	10,544
9. Metallo Chimique N.V. (Belgium)	9,328
10. Guangxi China Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	9,219

Jiangxi New Nanshan Tin, previously Jiangxi Nanshan Tin, had the largest production increase in 2018, to 12,220 t in 2018 from 5,500 t in 2017, a 122% increase in production (International Tin Association Ltd., 2019).

Aus Tin Mining Ltd. (Australia) announced the commencement of mining at its Granville tin project in Tasmania, Australia, on February 18, 2019. The processing facility would transition from using low-grade stockpiled ore to using the high-grade mined material to produce tin concentrates. In March, Aus Tin Mining terminated its contract with its civil engineering and mining services contractor, and Aus Tin Mining was to take over the mining operations at Granville (Aus Tin Mining, 2019a, p. 1; b, p. 1; c, p. 20).

References Cited

- Aus Tin Mining Limited, 2019a, Financial report for the half year ended 31 December 2018: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Aus Tin Mining Ltd., March 15, 23 p. (Accessed March 18, 2019, at http://www.austinmining.com.au/site/PDF/1732_2/HalfYearlyReportandAccounts/.)
- Aus Tin Mining Ltd., 2019b, Mining of initial ore block at Granville Tin Project: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Aus Tin Mining Ltd. press release, February 18. (Accessed March 18, 2019, at http://www.austinmining.com.au/site/PDF/1728_2/MiningofFirstOreBlockatGranvilleTinProject/.)
- Aus Tin Mining Ltd., 2019c, Owner mining commences at Granville: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Aus Tin Mining Ltd. press release, March 13. (Accessed March 18, 2019, at

http://www.austinmining.com.au/site/PDF/1729_2/OwnerMiningCommencesatGranville/.)

- International Tin Association Ltd., 2019, The top 10 refined tin producers of 2017: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, January 25. (Accessed January 31, 2019, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/top-10-refined-tin-producers-2018/>.)

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017 ^p	2018		
		October	November	January– November
Production, secondary ^{6, 2}	10,300	858	858	9,440
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,600	1,640	18,100
Secondary	2,640	209	187	2,200
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000	3,450	4,170	42,000
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	2,660	3,360	33,500
Exports, refined tin	1,560	70	47	911
Stocks at end of period	6,570	5,180	5,610	5,610
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	889.00	889.38	939.72
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	867.37	867.72	918.13

^cEstimated. ^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:		
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
November	889.38	867.72
January–November	939.72	918.13

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate (all forms)					Shipments ² (gross weight)
	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Production		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)		
		Gross weight	Tin content			
2017:						
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	45,400	383	8.5	90,700	
November	NA	39,800	386	9.7	79,900	
January–November	NA	459,000	4,210	9.2	879,000	

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		
		October	November	January– November
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	--	--	112
Bolivia	6,450	475	762	5,810
Brazil	1,720	352	186	2,330
Canada	17	50	-2	60
China	510	20	74	1,210
Indonesia	9,910	892	1,210	9,560
Malaysia	7,050	276	531	7,020
Peru	7,350	525	483	6,030
Singapore	40	--	--	50
Thailand	449	25	45	397
Other	790	45	67	906
Total	34,300	2,660	3,360	33,500
Other:				
Alloys	1,550	105	262	1,360
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	144	197	1,340
Flakes and powders	172	11	8	172
Foil	98	1	24	69
Plates, sheets, strip	74	6	1	69
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	7	7	77
Waste and scrap	52,100	3,410	3,930	43,700
Miscellaneous ³	729	72	65	924
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	71	47	911
Alloys	966	79	50	818

-- 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	October			November			January– November
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,580	196	--	196	198	--	198	2,040
Babbitt	285	15	W	15	14	W	15	207
Bronze and brass	2,110	59	91	150	73	70	143	1,570
Chemicals	5,350	313	W	313	306	W	307	3,520
Solder	3,690	139	W	139	138	110	248	2,860
Tinning	312	23	--	23	48	--	48	372
Tinplate ⁴	4,380	381	W	383	384	W	386	4,270
Other ⁵	6,010	477	118	595	478	7	482	5,420
Total reported	24,700	1,600	209	1,810	1,640	187	1,830	20,300

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 tinning chemical solutions.

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