

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN DECEMBER 2018

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in December 2018 was 1,740 metric tons (t), 6% more than that in November 2018. Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin for 2018 was 19,800 t, 10% less than that in 2017. Apparent consumption of refined tin in December 2018 was 4,100 t, slightly less than that in November 2018 (table 1). Apparent consumption of refined tin in 2018 was 46,100 t, an increase of 7% from that in 2017.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for December 2018 was \$8.94 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month. The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for 2018 was \$9.36 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous year. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for December 2018 was \$8.72 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for 2018 was \$9.14 per pound, essentially unchanged from that of the previous year (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in December 2018 were 3,300 t, a slight decrease from the 3,360 t of imports in November 2018. Total refined tin imports in 2018 were 36,800 t, an increase of 7% from the previous year (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in December were, in descending order, Indonesia

(29%), Peru (19%), Malaysia (17%), Bolivia (15%), and Brazil (13%). The leading sources of refined tin in 2018 were, in descending order, Indonesia (29%), Malaysia (21%), Peru (18%), and Bolivia (17%). Imports in 2018 from Brazil and China increased by 1,020 t and 796 t, respectively. Imports in 2018 from Peru decreased by about 690 t.

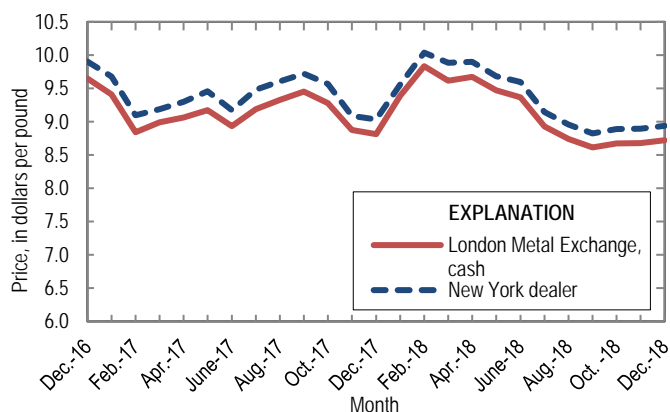


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from December 2016 through December 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2017	2018		
		November	December	January– December
Production, secondary ^{6, 2}	10,300	858	858	10,300
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	22,100	1,640	1,740	19,800
Secondary	2,640	187	209	2,400
Consumption, apparent ³	43,000	4,170	4,100	46,100
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,300	3,360	3,300	36,800
Exports, refined tin	1,560	47	51	962
Stocks at end of period	6,570	5,610	5,610	5,610
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	936.65	889.38	893.57	935.87
London Metal Exchange cash	911.24	867.72	872.33	914.31

⁶Estimated.

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:		
December	903.43	881.43
January–December	936.65	911.24
2018:		
January	955.56	939.09
February	1003.75	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
December	893.57	872.33
January–December	935.87	914.31

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:					
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	90,700
November	NA	40,100	384	9.6	79,900
December	NA	42,700	389	9.1	80,600
January–December	NA	488,000	4,600	9.3	959,000

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		
		November	December	January– December
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	26	--	--	112
Bolivia	6,450	762	493	6,310
Brazil	1,720	185	414	2,740
Canada	17	(2)	--	60
China	510	74	101	1,310
Indonesia	9,910	1,210	950	10,500
Malaysia	7,050	531	571	7,590
Peru	7,350	483	626	6,660
Singapore	40	--	--	50
Thailand	449	45	25	422
Other	790	67	115	1,040
Total	34,300	3,360	3,300	36,800
Other:				
Alloys	1,550	262	80	1,440
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,130	197	112	1,460
Flakes and powders	172	8	18	189
Foil	98	24	23	92
Plates, sheets, strip	74	1	19	89
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	11	7	66	143
Waste and scrap	52,100	3,930	4,030	47,700
Miscellaneous ³	729	65	138	1,060
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,560	47 ^r	51	962
Alloys	965	50 ^r	67	885

^rRevised. -- 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 PRODUCT^{1,2}

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2018								
	2017	November			December			January– December	
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total		
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,580	198	--	198	193	--	193	2,240	
Babbitt	285	14	W	14	23	W	23	231	
Bronze and brass	2,110	73	70	143	59	91	150	1,720	
Chemicals	5,350	306	W	306	315	W	315	3,840	
Solder	3,690	138	W	138	207	W	207	3,180	
Tinning	312	48	--	48	70	--	70	442	
Tinplate ⁴	4,380	384	W	384	389	W	389	4,660	
Other ⁵	6,010	478	117	595	484	118	602	5,900	
Total reported	24,700	1,640	187	1,830	1,740	209	1,950	22,200	

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.