

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

Linda M. Barnes (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7986
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: lwhite@usgs.gov

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

TIN IN NOVEMBER 2015

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in November 2015 was 1,920 metric tons (t), 4% less than that in October 2015 and slightly less than that in November 2014. Total refined tin imports for November were 2,800 t, a decrease of 5% from October 2015. Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in November (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for November was \$6.95 per pound, a decrease of 7% from the October price of \$7.46 per pound and a decrease of 26% from the November 2014 average price of \$9.36 per pound (table 2).

The Mawchi tin and tungsten mines in Burma restarted in November after heavy rains caused a landslide in the surrounding residential areas in October killing 28 people. Operations at the mines were suspended to look for survivors and as a precautionary measure against other landslides (Dragomanovich, 2015a).

Based on a survey of 148 companies that accounted for approximately 50% of the world's consumption of refined tin, ITRI Ltd. estimated that refined tin use declined by 3% in 2015 owing mostly to a 6% decrease in consumption by solder

manufacturers in China. Production was estimated to have decreased by 8%, resulting in a production-to-consumption deficit of 6,000 t (Dragomanovich, 2015b; ITRI Ltd., 2015).

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References Cited

- Dragomanovich, Vanya, 2015a, Mawchi tin and tungsten mines restart work after landslides: Metal-Pages, November 3. (Accessed January 8, 2016, via <http://www.metal-pages.com/>.)
- Dragomanovich, Vanya, 2015b, Tin market short of supply in 2015-16: Metal-Pages, November 26. (Accessed January 8, 2016, via <http://www.metal-pages.com/>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2015, ITRI forecasts market deficit despite drop in tin demand, ITRI Ltd. news release, November 26. (Accessed January 8, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/itri-forecasts-market-deficit-despite-drop-in-tin-demand>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2014 ^p	2015		
		October	November	January– November ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	11,100	880	880	9,680
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,300	1,990 ^r	1,920	21,800
Secondary	2,920	241	241	2,650
Imports for consumption, refined tin	35,600	2,930	2,800	31,300
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	5,700	299	133	3,230
Stocks at end of period	6,970	7,510 ^r	6,930	6,910
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,023.05	746.11	694.75	762.32
London Metal Exchange cash	993.75	718.42	668.35	734.87
Kuala Lumpur	992.53	NA	NA	NA

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash	Kuala Lumpur
2014:			
November	936.11	905.46	903.36
December	930.88	899.03	896.34
January–December	1,023.05	993.75	992.53
2015:			
January	912.21	882.38	NA
February	858.03	829.36	NA
March	823.67	791.68	NA
April	756.00	724.80	NA
May	751.13	717.52	NA
June	720.56	680.84	NA
July	698.89	678.30	NA
August	693.67	690.31	NA
September	730.50	701.66	NA
October	746.11	718.42	NA
November	694.75	668.35	NA
January–November	762.32	734.87	NA

NA Not available.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)				Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Production			Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
		Gross weight	Tin content			
2014:						
November	3,270	65,600	386	5.9	78,500	
December	3,110	65,800	384	5.8	85,000	
January–December	29,300	831,000	4,710	5.7	1,300,000	
2015:						
January	4,600	78,500	467	5.9	110,000	
February	3,800	57,900	463	8.0	85,600	
March	4,450	67,000	483	7.2	103,000	
April	4,210	75,400	507	6.7	106,000	
May	4,210	68,800	499	7.3	95,100	
June	3,510	76,000	501	6.6	97,000	
July	3,450	76,200	516	6.8	101,000	
August	3,270 ^r	79,900 ^r	513 ^r	6.8 ^r	95,400	
September	3,250 ^r	71,600 ^r	501 ^r	7.0 ^r	95,400	
October	3,140 ^r	74,700 ^r	504 ^r	6.7 ^r	97,400	
November	2,930 ^r	47,000 ^r	422 ^r	9.0 ^r	62,100	
January–November	40,800	773,000	5,380	7.1	1,050,000	

^rRevised.

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)

Country or product	2014	2015		
		October	November	January– November ²
Imports:				
Metal (refined tin):				
Belgium	219	--	2	920
Bolivia	4,550	594	430	5,820
Brazil	3,030	296	157	2,620
China	3,470	5	40	1,230
Indonesia	8,140	3	766	4,880
Malaysia	6,050	1,520	877	9,610
Peru	9,260	501	520	5,900
Singapore	375	--	--	125
Thailand	291	--	--	20
Other	218	14	4	163
Total	35,600	2,930	2,800	31,300
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,570	199	337	2,430
Bars and rods	1,890	92	97	1,190
Foil, tubes, pipes	90	18	2	106
Plates, sheets, strip	116	9	3	81
Waste and scrap	49,700	2,040	1,480	31,600
Miscellaneous ³	2,240	153	90	1,350
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,700	299	133	3,230

-- 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 tin powders and flakes (HTS code 8007.00.3200) and 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	2014 ^p	2015						
		October			November			January– November ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	3,560	219	2	221	216	2	218	2,420
Babbitt	340	22	W	22	22	W	22	280
Bronze and brass	1,710	65	87	152	59	87	146	1,610
Chemicals	5,440	455	W	455	446	W	446	5,010
Solder	4,160	198 ^r	W	198 ^r	227	W	227	3,870
Tinning	584	33	--	33	31	--	31	358
Tinplate ⁴	5,680	503	W	503	422	W	422	5,380
Other ⁵	4,740	495	152	647	495	151	646	5,520
Total reported	26,200	1,990^r	241	2,230^r	1,920	241	2,160	24,400

^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 tinning chemical solutions.

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