

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## 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 JANUARY 2016

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in January 2016 was 2,000 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in December 2015. Total refined tin imports for January 2016 were 2,880 t, an increase of 24% from those in December 2015. Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru and Bolivia were, in descending order by tonnage, the leading sources of refined tin imports in January (table 4).

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January was \$6.50 per pound, a decrease of 6% from the December price of \$6.92 per pound, and a decrease of 29% from the January 2015 average price of \$9.12 per pound (table 2).

According to China's official customs statistics, in December 2015, China's imports of tin ore and concentrate from Burma reached a record-high 43,531 t. Burma supplied 98% of China's total tin ore imports for 2015. Most tin mines in Burma reportedly stopped production in January, owing to reduced consumption in China during its spring festival holiday (ITRI Ltd., 2016c).

In January, PT Timah, the state-owned tin mining company of Indonesia, stopped offshore dredging operations in Kelabat Bay. The governor of Bangka Belitung Province requested that dredging operations halt due to complaints from fishermen and non-governmental organizations concerned about environmental damage. Dredging operations in Kelabat Bay accounted for 10% of PT Timah's total mine production. Offshore mining accounted for 69% of PT Timah's total production in the first

three quarters of 2015, with a significant proportion coming from operations in Kundur Province (ITRI Ltd., 2016a).

On January 20, China's nine major tin producers, including Yunnan Tin Company, the world's leading supplier, announced that they would reduce their combined production of tin by 17,000 t in 2016 in response to declining prices. In 2015, these producers accounted for more than 80% of China's tin production and about 40% of world production (ITRI Ltd., 2016b).

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## References Cited

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- ITRI Ltd., 2016b, China tin producers announce co-ordinated production cuts: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, January 20. (Accessed March 8, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/china-tin-producers-announce-co-ordinated-production-cuts>.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2016c, Myanmar tin ore export boom continues: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, January 27. (Accessed March 8, 2016, at <https://www.itri.co.uk/market-analysis/news-2/myanmar-tin-ore-export-boom-continues>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2015		2016
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December	January
Production, secondary <sup>e,2</sup>	10,600	885	880
Reported consumption:			
Primary	23,700	1,950	2,000
Secondary	2,890	241	241
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,600	2,330	2,880
Exports, refined tin and tin alloys	3,350	112	73
Stocks at end of period	6,940	6,940	6,370
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	756.43	691.67	623.55
London Metal Exchange cash	729.18	666.51	649.63

<sup>e</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>Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2015:		
January	912.21	882.38
February	858.03	829.36
March	823.67	791.68
April	756.00	724.80
May	751.13	717.52
June	720.56	680.84
July	698.89	678.30
August	693.67	690.31
September	730.50	701.66
October	746.11	718.42
November	694.75	668.35
December	691.67	666.51
January–December	756.43	729.18
2016, January	649.63	623.55

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Production		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
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	3,260	75,900	513	6.8	95,400
September	3,250	71,600	501	7.0	95,400
October	3,140	74,700	504	6.7	97,400
November	2,930	47,000	422	9.0	62,100
December	3,010	59,100	466	7.9	74,900
January–December	43,800	828,000	5,840	7.2	1,120,000
2016, January	3,010	63,400	474	7.5	76,300

<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)

Country or product	2015		2016
	Year	December	January
<b>Imports:</b>			
<b>Metal (refined tin):</b>			
Belgium	920	--	--
Bolivia	6,280	465	539
Brazil	2,950	325	288
China	1,230	--	4
Indonesia	5,210	331	615
Malaysia	9,990	375	780
Peru	6,600	701	560
Singapore	225	100	50
Thailand	20	--	40
Other	199	37	7
Total	33,600	2,330	2,880
<b>Other (gross weight):</b>			
Alloys	2,720	298	99
Bars and rods	1,220	38	104
Foil, tubes, pipes	109	3	(2)
Plates, sheets, strip	90	9	7
Waste and scrap	32,700	1,060	1,880
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	1,440	94	70
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	3,350	112	73

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>Includes 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 PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2015				2016		
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December		Total	January		Total
		Primary	Secondary		Primary	Secondary	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,640	214	2	216	216	2	218
Babbitt	305	22	W	22	21	W	21
Bronze and brass	1,760	60	87	147	63	87	150
Chemicals	5,440	429	W	429	470	W	470
Solder	4,240	227	W	227	228	W	228
Tinning	392	34	--	34	35	--	35
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	5,840	466	W	466	474	W	474
Other <sup>4</sup>	6,020	495	151	646	495	152	647
Total reported	26,600	1,950	241	2,190	2,000	241	2,240

<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>Includes terne metal.

<sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>4</sup>Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.