

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN OCTOBER 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in October 2019 was 1,690 metric tons (t), 4% more than the primary consumption in September 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in October 2019 was 2,930 t, 28% less than the revised apparent consumption in September 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for October 2019 was \$7.80 per pound, a slight decrease from \$7.84 per pound in September 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for October 2019 was \$7.53 per pound, a slight decrease from \$7.63 per pound in September 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in October 2019 were 2,250 t, a 34% decrease from the 3,390 t of imports in September 2019 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in October 2019 were Peru (29%), Indonesia (24%), Malaysia (16%), Brazil (15%), and Bolivia (11%).

Update

On January 9, 2020, W Resources Plc announced the first shipment of tin and tungsten concentrates from its La Parrilla concentrator plant in southwestern Spain. The fourth quarter of 2019 tin concentrate production totalled 7.9 t. In December 2019, the operation began 24-hour production and the company expected production to increase in the first quarter of 2020. The La Parrilla Mine was Europe’s only active producer of tin concentrate (International Tin Association Ltd., 2020; W Resources Plc, 2020).

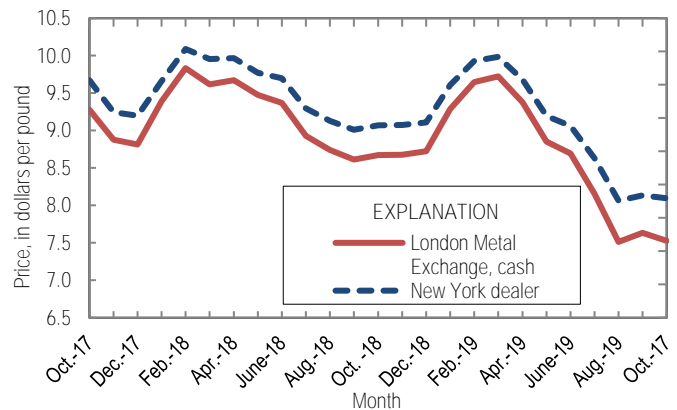


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from October 2017 through October 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

References Cited

International Tin Association Ltd., 2020, La Parrilla celebrates first tin shipment: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, January 9. (Accessed January 28, 2020, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/la-parrilla-first-tin-shipment/>.)
 W Resources Plc, 2020, First shipment from new concentrator plant: London, United Kingdom, W Resources Plc news release, January 8. (Accessed January 28, 2020 at https://polaris.brighterir.com/public/w_resources/news/rms/story/xjoy51w/.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2018 ^p	2019		
		September	October	January– October ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,300	858	858	7,720
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,630	1,690	16,800
Secondary	2,400	196 ^r	185	1,930
Consumption, apparent ⁴	46,100	4,050 ^r	2,930	33,900
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	3,390	2,250	28,900
Exports, refined tin	962	200 ^r	178	2,370
Stocks at end of period	5,570	5,910 ^r	5,920	5,920
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	783.67	779.56	883.57
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	763.33	752.58	864.08

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²May include revisions to previous published data.

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

⁴Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

⁵Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2018:		
October	889.00	867.37
November	889.38	867.72
December	893.57	872.33
January–December	935.87	914.31
2019:		
January	949.88	928.81
February	985.63	964.47
March	991.88	972.45
April	958.11	937.61
May	902.88	885.42
June	888.00	869.23
July	839.50	815.60
August	775.89	751.27
September	783.67	763.33
October	779.56	752.58
January–October	883.57	864.08

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate (all forms)			
	Production			Shipments ² (gross weight)
	Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2018:				
October	45,400	383	8.5	100,000
November	40,100	384	9.6	88,000
December	42,100	389	9.1	88,900
January–December	487,000	4,600	9.3	985,000
2019: ^P				
January	30,600	399	13.0	76,100
February	45,100	432	9.6	81,500
March	42,000	390	9.3	72,800
April	42,600	383	9.0	70,900
May	44,800	390	8.7	86,000
June	47,200	413	8.7	75,500
July	37,100	384	10.3	75,500
August	40,200	405	10.1	78,800
September	22,400	362	16.1	73,000
October	25,800	381	14.7	90,700
January–October	378,000	3,940	11.0	781,000

^PPreliminary. ¹Revised.

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	2018 ^P	2019		
		September	October	January – October ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	112	22	20	272
Bolivia	6,310	776	236	5,230
Brazil	2,740	301	344	2,520
Canada	61	1	1	5
China	1,310	--	--	1,340
Indonesia	10,500	740	550	3,930
Malaysia	7,590	728	365	5,840
Peru	6,660	620	658	6,840
Poland	731	135	46	941
Thailand	422	65	25	469
Other	340	--	(3)	1,520
Total	36,800	3,390	2,250	28,900
Other:				
Alloys	1,430	79	108	840
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	78	186	1,230
Flakes and powders	189	8	13	104
Foil	91	10	(3)	41
Plates, sheets, strip	89	9	6	52
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	--	25	171
Waste and scrap	47,700	2,050	1,060	26,400
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,060	79	64	793
Exports:				
Refined tin	962	200	178	2,370
Alloys	885	102	173	947

^PPreliminary. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previous published data.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes other articles of tin not elsewhere specified or included (HTS code 8007.00.5000).

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2018 ^p	2019						
		September			October			January– October ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,230	196	--	196	196	--	196	1,940
Babbitt	231	14	W	14	16	W	16	189
Bronze and brass	1,720	57	82	140	57	67	124	1,380
Chemicals	3,850	315	--	315	352	--	352	3,350
Solder	3,630	188	W	188	190	W	190	2,890
Tinning	269	22	--	22	23	--	23	232
Tinplate ⁴	4,680	362	W	362	381	W	381	3,960
Other ⁵	5,900	480	114	594	479	118	597	4,840
Total reported	22,500	1,630	196	1,830	1,690	185	1,880	18,800

^pPreliminary. 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 previous published data.

³Includesterne 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.