

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN NOVEMBER 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in November 2019 was 1,670 metric tons (t), a slight decrease than the primary consumption in October 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in November 2019 was 2,930 t, 3% less than the revised apparent consumption in October 2019 (table 1).

**Prices**

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for November 2019 was \$7.64 per pound, a slight decrease from \$7.80 per pound in October 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for November 2019 was \$7.42 per pound, a slight decrease from \$7.53 per pound in October 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

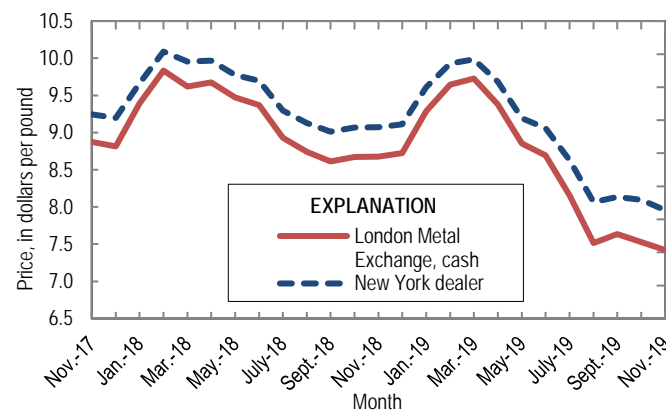


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from November 2017 through November 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

**U.S. Trade**

Total refined tin imports in November 2019 were 2,140 t, a 4% decrease from the 2,250 t of imports in October 2019 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in November 2019 were Malaysia (34%), Indonesia (30%), Peru (20%), and Bolivia (9%).

**Update**

On January 30, 2020, PT Timah Tbk started construction on an additional smelter in Mentok, Banka Belitung, Indonesia. Employing Ausmelt technology, the new smelter will accept hard rock feedstock rather than exclusively alluvial soil feedstock. The smelter will have a capacity of 40,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) and was expected to be operational by mid-year 2021. Current capacity of PT Timah Tbk’s existing smelters in Kundur and Mentok is 54,000 t/yr (Slade, 2020).

**Reference Cited**

Slade, Adam, 2020, Tin—PT Timah starts construction of new US\$80M smelter: London, United Kingdom, Roskill Information Services Ltd. February 10. (Accessed May 4, 2020, at <https://roskill.com/news/tin-pt-timah-starts-construction-of-new-us80m-smelter/>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019			
	2018 <sup>P</sup>	October	November	January– November <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e, 3</sup>	10,300	858	858	8,580
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,690	1,670	18,500
Secondary	2,400	185	185	2,120
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	46,100	3,020 <sup>r</sup>	2,930	38,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	2,250	2,140	31,000
Exports, refined tin	962	80 <sup>r</sup>	71	1,250
Stocks at end of period	5,570	4,840 <sup>r</sup>	4,820	4,820
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	779.56	763.86	874.44
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	752.58	742.06	852.98

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previous published data.

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

<sup>4</sup>Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

<sup>5</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
2018:		
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
November	763.86	742.06
January–November	874.44	852.98

Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate (all forms)			
	Production			Shipments <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
	Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2018:				
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: <sup>p</sup>				
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	79,100 <sup>r</sup>
November	20,800	377	11.6	59,300
January–November	399,000	4,320	11.0	829,000

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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, gross weight)

Country/locality, or product	2018 <sup>p</sup>	2019		
		October	November	January– November <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	112	20	27	299
Bolivia	6,310	236	185	5,410
Brazil	2,740	344	50	2,570
Canada	61	1	19	24
China	1,310	--	--	1,340
Indonesia	10,500	550	645	4,580
Malaysia	7,590	365	730	6,570
Peru	6,660	658	421	7,260
Poland	731	46	--	941
Thailand	422	25	45	514
Other	340	(3)	22	1,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>31,000</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,440	108	105	945
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	186	99	1,330
Flakes and powders	189	13	7	111
Foil	91	(3)	12	53
Plates, sheets, strip	89	6	3	55
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	25	--	171
Waste and scrap	47,700	1,060	1,990	28,400
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	1,060	64	77	870
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	962	80 <sup>r</sup>	71	1,250
Alloys	885	171 <sup>r</sup>	116	1,040

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previous published data.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>4</sup>Includes 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	2019							
	2018 <sup>P</sup>	October			November			January– November <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,230	196	--	196	196	--	196	2,130
Babbitt	231	16	W	16	14	W	14	203
Bronze and brass	1,720	57	67	124	57	67	124	1,510
Chemicals	3,850	352	--	352	333	--	333	3,690
Solder	3,630	190	W	190	187	W	187	3,190
Tinning	269	23	--	23	23	--	23	255
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,680	381	W	381	377	W	377	4,340
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,900	479	118	597	478	118	594	5,320
Total reported	22,500	1,690	185	1,880	1,670	185	1,850	20,600

<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>May include revisions to previous published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includesterne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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