

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Adam Merrill, Tin Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: amerrill@usgs.gov

Robin Kaiser (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7948
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: rkaiser@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

TIN IN DECEMBER 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in December 2019 was 1,610 metric tons (t), a 3% decrease from the primary consumption in November 2019. Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin for 2019 was 20,100 t, unchanged from 2018. Apparent consumption of refined tin in December 2019 was 3,910 t, 33% greater than the apparent consumption in November 2019 (table 1). Apparent consumption of refined tin in 2019 was 41,800 t, a decrease of 9% from 2018.

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for December 2019 was \$7.97 per pound, a 4% increase from \$7.64 per pound in November 2019. The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for 2019 was \$8.68 per pound, a 7% decrease from 2018. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for December 2019 was \$7.75 per pound, a 4% increase from \$7.42 per pound in November 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for 2019 was \$8.46 per pound, a 7% decrease from 2018 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in December 2019 were 3,100 t, a 45% increase from the 2,140 t of imports in November 2019 (table 4). Total refined tin imports in 2019 were 34,100 t, a decrease of 7% from the previous year. The leading sources of refined tin in December 2019 were Peru (22%), Indonesia (21%), Malaysia (18%), Bolivia (17%), and Brazil (15%). The leading sources of refined tin in 2019 were, in descending order, Peru (23%), Malaysia (21%), Bolivia (17%), Indonesia (15%), and Brazil (9%). Imports in 2019 from Indonesia decreased by 5,290 t. Imports in 2019 from Peru increased by 1,270 t (table 4).

Update

According to the International Tin Association Ltd. (2020b), overall production by the top ten refined tin producers increased by 14% in 2019 from that of 2018. The world’s leading refined tin producers and their production in 2019 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

Company	Production
1. PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	76,400
2. Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	72,000
3. Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	24,300
4. Minsur S.A. (Peru)	19,600
5. Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	19,100
6. Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. (EM Vinto) (Bolivia)	11,500
7. Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thailand)	10,900
8. Metallo Chimique N.V. (Belgium)	9,300
9. Guangxi China Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	8,200
10. Gejiu Zili Mining and Metallurgy Co. Ltd (China)	8,000

PT Timah (Persero) Tbk had the largest production increase to 76,400 t in 2019 from 33,400 t in 2018, a more than double increase in production. The production increase was attributed to increased concentrate availability in Indonesia due to the stringent enforcement of Indonesia export restrictions (International Tin Association Ltd., 2020b).

During March and April 2020, several tin producers have reduced or suspended operations to comply with governmental orders to reduce the affects of the novel coronavirus (COVID-

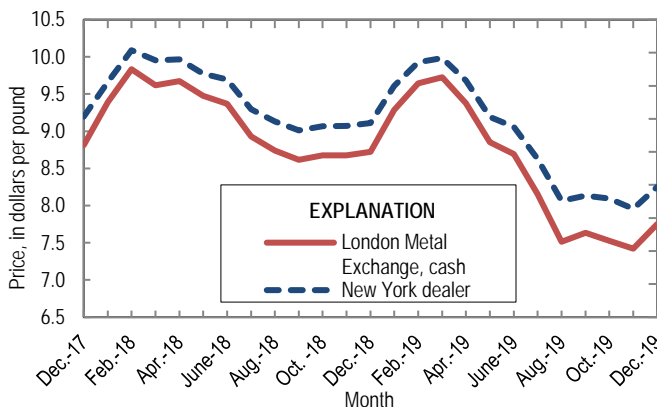


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from December 2017 through December 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

19) global pandemic. Minsur S.A. and Malaysian Smelting Corp. have announced temporary suspension of operations (International Tin Association Ltd., 2020a). P.T. Timah Tbk plans to temporarily reduce production by 20 to 30% at its facilities, while Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. and P.T. Timah Tbk expects to reduce exports (Slade, 2020; O' Sullivan 2020).

On April 26, China's Yunnan province announced a \$141 million initiative to stockpile nonferrous metals including tin. Stockpiling may help smelters experiencing lower demand and prices that may have been caused largely by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argus Media International, 2020).

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2018 ^p	2019		
		November	December	January– December ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,300	858	858	8,940
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,670	1,610	20,100
Secondary	2,400	185	195	2,330
Consumption, apparent ⁴	46,100	2,930	3,910	41,800
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	2,140	3,100	34,100
Exports, refined tin	962	71	53	1,300
Stocks at end of period	5,570	4,820	4,780	4,780
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	763.86	797.13	868.00
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	742.06	775.10	846.49

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary.

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:		
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
December	797.13	775.10
January–December	868.00	846.49

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate (all forms)			
	Production			
	Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ² (gross weight)
2018:				
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	79,100
November	20,800	377	11.6	59,300
December	38,100	371	9.7	61,400
January–December	437,000	4,690	10.9	890,000

^pPreliminary.

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		
		November	December	January– December ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	112	27	28	327
Bolivia	6,310	185	530	5,940
Brazil	2,740	50	451	3,020
Canada	61	19	1	25
China	1,310	--	--	1,340
Indonesia	10,500	645	650	5,230
Malaysia	7,590	730	550	7,120
Peru	6,660	421	670	7,930
Poland	731	--	135	1,080
Thailand	422	45	86	600
Other	340	22	--	1,550
Total	36,800	2,140	3,100	34,100
Other:				
Alloys	1,440	106	74	1,020
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	99	115	1,450
Flakes and powders	189	7	6	117
Foil	91	12	3	56
Plates, sheets, strip	89	3	3	58
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	--	25	196
Waste and scrap	47,700	1,990	2,030	30,400
Miscellaneous ³	1,060	77	99	970
Exports:				
Refined tin	962	71	53	1,300
Alloys	885	116	161	1,200

^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.

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 PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2019							
	2018 ^p	November			December			January– December ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,230	196	--	196	196	--	196	2,330
Babbitt	231	14	W	14	14	W	14	218
Bronze and brass	1,720	57	67	124	61	79	139	1,660
Chemicals	3,850	333	--	333	296	--	296	3,980
Solder	3,630	187	W	187	169	W	169	3,440
Tinning	269	23	--	23	22	--	22	277
Tinplate ⁴	4,680	377	W	377	371	W	371	4,710
Other ⁵	5,900	478	118	594	478	116	595	5,800
Total reported	22,500	1,670	185	1,850	1,610	195	1,800	22,400

^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 includes 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.