

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN AUGUST 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in August 2020 was 1,730 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in July 2020 and August 2019. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 13,800 t, a slight increase from that of the same period of 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in August 2020 was 2,740 t, a 16% decrease from that in July 2020, and a 21% increase from that in August 2019. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 29,100 t, an 8% increase from that of the same period of 2019 (table 1).

**Prices**

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for August 2020 was \$8.23 per pound, a slight increase from that in July 2020, and a 6% increase from that in August 2019. Year to date, the average New York dealer price of Grade A tin was \$7.67 per pound, a 16% decrease than that of the same period in 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for August 2020 was \$8.02 per pound, a slight increase from July 2020, and a 7% increase from that in August 2019. Year to date, the average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin was \$7.44 per pound, a 16% decrease than that of the same period in 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

**U.S. Trade**

Total refined tin imports in August 2020 were 1,940 t, a 20% decrease from July 2020, and a 22% increase from those in August 2019. The leading sources of refined tin in August 2020 were Peru (37%), Malaysia (26%), Indonesia (14%), Bolivia (11%), and Brazil (8%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 22,600 t, a 3% decrease from those in the same period of 2019 (table 4).

**Update**

Second quarter results for Minsur S.A, published on July 31, reported production declines due to COVID-19 related mine and smelter shutdowns. The company’s Brazil and Peru production of tin concentrates declined by 37% and 31% respectively,

during the first half of 2020 from the first half of 2019 (International Tin Association Ltd., 2020).

On August 5, AfriTin Mining Ltd. announced that July production at its Uis mine, increased to 35 t of tin concentrate, a 79% increase over June. Located in Namibia, the company’s phase one target is 60 t of tin concentrate per month (AfriTin Mining Limited, 2020).

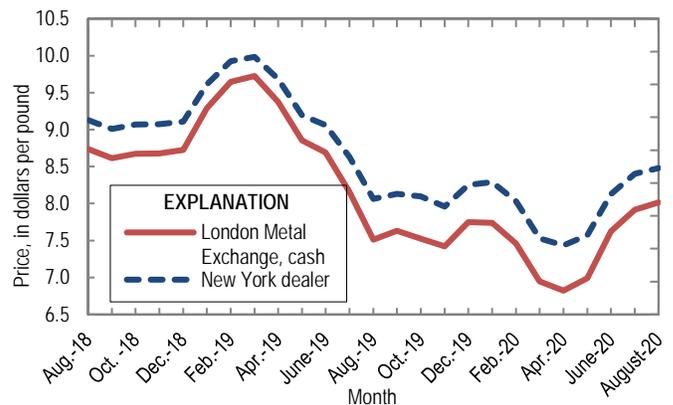


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from August 2018 through August 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

**References Cited**

AfriTin Mining Ltd., 2020, Operational Update: Johannesburg, South Africa, AfriTin Mining Ltd. news release, August 5. (Accessed October 26, 2020, at [https://polaris.brighterir.com/public/afritin\\_mining/news/rns/story/wkv86yr.](https://polaris.brighterir.com/public/afritin_mining/news/rns/story/wkv86yr.))  
 International Tin Association Ltd., 2020, Minsur reveals extent of COVID impact: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, August 21. (Accessed August 27, 2020, at [https://www.internationaltin.org/minsur-covid-tin-impact/.](https://www.internationaltin.org/minsur-covid-tin-impact/))

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020			
	2019 <sup>p</sup>	July	August	January– August <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e,3</sup>	8,940	858	858	6,860
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,720	1,730	13,800
Secondary	2,330	193	182	1,560
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	41,800	3,270	2,740	29,100
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	2,430	1,940	22,600
Exports, refined tin	1,300	11	60	305
Stocks at end of period	5,940	5,070	5,080	5,080
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	868.00	814.22	822.89	767.02
London Metal Exchange cash	846.43	791.65	801.59	743.91

<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>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
2019:		
August	775.89	751.48
September	783.67	763.33
October	779.56	752.58
November	763.86	742.06
December	797.13	774.85
January–December	868.00	846.43
2020:		
January	801.56	773.91
February	772.63	746.03
March	715.78	694.68
April	705.11	682.17
May	720.75	698.92
June	783.22	762.32
July	814.22	791.65
August	822.89	801.59
January–August	767.02	743.91

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)	
2019: <sup>P</sup>				
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	10.7	890,000
2020:				
January	40,800	453	11.1	72,900
February	39,900	440	11.0	70,500
March	40,100	450	11.2	98,000
April	48,000	477	9.9	94,400
May	47,600	470	9.9	94,500
June	47,500	478	10.1	108,000
July	46,400	467	10.1	101,000
August	43,000	433	10.1	99,800
January–August	354,000	3,670	10.4	739,000

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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	2019 <sup>p</sup>	2020		
		July	August	January– August <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	327	20	22	270
Bolivia	5,940	184	214	4,120
Brazil	3,020	96	149	1,830
Indonesia	5,230	806	275	6,840
Malaysia	7,120	265	500	2,840
Peru	7,930	975	710	5,700
Poland	1,080	45	45	717
Thailand	600	25	--	153
Other	2,910	11	22	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,100</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>22,600</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,020	35	52	438
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,450	97	82	692
Flakes and powders	117	6	15	95
Foil	56	<sup>(3)</sup>	12	33
Plates, sheets, strip	58	1	1	24
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	196	1	--	7
Waste and scrap	30,400	2,210	1,850	14,900
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	970	114	97	790
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,300	11	60	305
Alloys	1,200	202	98	721

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. -- 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	2020							
	2019 <sup>p</sup>	July			August			January– August <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,330	204	--	204	204	--	204	1,650
Babbitt	218	8	--	8	9	W	9	69
Bronze and brass	1,660	56	76	132	73	65	138	1,090
Chemicals	3,980	324	W	324	324	--	324	2,680
Solder	3,440	156	W	156	156	W	156	1,310
Tinning	277	19	--	19	19	--	19	152
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,710	471	W	471	466	W	466	3,710
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,800	477	117	594	477	117	594	4,750
Total reported	22,400	1,720	193	1,910	1,730	182	1,910	15,400

<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.