

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN NOVEMBER 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in November 2020 was 1,730 metric tons (t), a 3% decrease from that in October 2020 and a 4% increase from that in November 2019. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 19,100 t, a 3% increase from that of the same period of 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in November 2020 was 3,410 t, a 19% increase from that in October 2020, and a 16% increase from that in November 2019. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 38,300 t, essentially unchanged 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 November 2020 was \$8.59 per pound, a slight increase from that in October 2020, and a 12% increase from that in November 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for November 2020 was \$8.42 per pound, a slight increase from that in October 2020, and a 13% increase from that in November 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in November 2020 were 2,600 t, a 24% increase from October 2020, and a 21% increase from those in November 2019. The leading sources of refined tin in November 2020 were Indonesia (35%), Peru (27%), Bolivia (11%), Brazil (11%), and Malaysia (9%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 29,400 t, a 5% decrease from those in the same period of 2019 (table 4). Year to date leading sources of refined tin were Indonesia (29%), Peru (28%), Bolivia (16%), Malaysia (12%), and Brazil (10%).

Update

In November, the Bolivian state mining company Corporación Minera de Bolivia (Comibol), announced that the Vinto tin smelter, located in Oruro Department, Bolivia, had restarted after signing a contract for a three-month supply of tin concentrates with the Huanuni tin mine in Bolivia. The interim

Bolivian government shuttered the smelter earlier in the year due to profitability concerns (Emery, 2020).

In November, Yunnan Tin Co. Ltd. announced that operations would begin at its new smelter in Yunnan Province, China. The smelter replaces a soon-to-be decommissioned facility in the same Province. The maximum annual capacity of the smelter is 70,000 t of refined tin (International Tin Association Ltd., 2020).

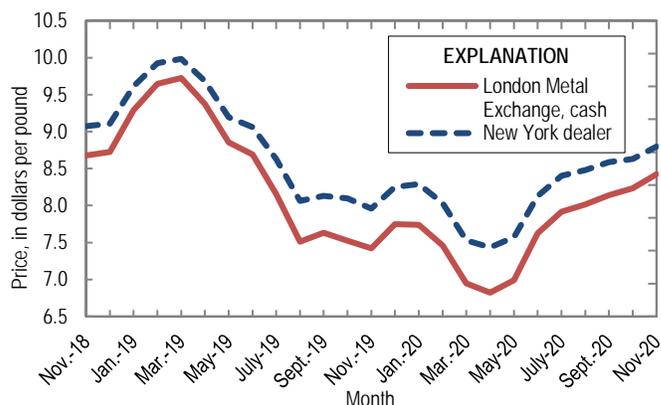


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from November 2018 through November 2020. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

References Cited

Emery, Alex, 2020, Bolivia restarts Vinto tin smelter and concentrator project—Comibol: S&P Global Platts Metals Daily, v. 9, no. 236, November 30, p. 9.
 International Tin Association Ltd., 2020, Fires lit at Yunnan Tin's new smelter: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, November 30. (Accessed December 9, 2020, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/fires-lit-at-yunnan-tins-new-smelter/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

| | 2019 ^p | 2020 | | |
|--|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| | | October | November | January– November ² |
| Production, secondary ^{e, 3} | 8,940 | 858 | 858 | 9,440 |
| Consumption, reported: | | | | |
| Primary | 20,100 | 1,780 | 1,730 | 19,100 |
| Secondary | 2,330 | 192 | 194 | 2,150 |
| Consumption, apparent ⁴ | 41,800 | 2,870 | 3,410 | 38,300 |
| Imports for consumption, refined tin | 34,100 | 2,090 | 2,600 | 29,400 |
| Exports, refined tin | 1,300 | 81 | 47 | 466 |
| Stocks at end of period | 5,940 | 5,060 | 5,100 | 5,100 |
| Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵ | | | | |
| Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A | 868.00 | 839.56 | 858.75 | 788.11 |
| London Metal Exchange cash | 846.43 | 823.46 | 842.23 | 766.45 |

^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 |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2019: | | |
| 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 | 801.58 |
| September | 834.75 | 814.01 |
| October | 839.56 | 823.46 |
| November | 858.75 | 842.23 |
| January–November | 788.11 | 766.45 |

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) | |
| 2019: ^P | | | | |
| 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 | 44,200 | 469 | 10.6 | 101,000 |
| August | 43,600 | 466 | 10.7 | 99,800 |
| September | 39,200 | 457 | 11.7 | 94,700 |
| October | 46,200 | 482 | 10.4 | 99,400 |
| November | 41,400 | 457 | 11.0 | 93,300 |
| January–November | 479,000 | 5,100 | 10.7 | 1,030,000 |

^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 | 2020 | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 2019 ^p | October | November | January– November ² |
| Imports: | | | | |
| Refined tin: | | | | |
| Belgium | 327 | 20 | 22 | 354 |
| Bolivia | 5,940 | 215 | 298 | 4,720 |
| Brazil | 3,020 | 276 | 296 | 2,840 |
| Indonesia | 5,230 | 321 | 917 | 8,480 |
| Malaysia | 7,120 | 300 | 225 | 3,600 |
| Peru | 7,930 | 890 | 709 | 8,100 |
| Poland | 1,080 | 67 | 135 | 986 |
| Thailand | 600 | -- | -- | 174 |
| Other | 2,910 | 1 | (3) | 109 |
| Total | 34,100 | 2,090 | 2,600 | 29,400 |
| Other: | | | | |
| Alloys | 1,020 | 102 | 96 | 713 |
| Bars, rods, profiles, and wire | 1,450 | 131 | 86 | 1,040 |
| Flakes and powders | 117 | 13 | 7 | 120 |
| Foil | 56 | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Plates, sheets, strip | 58 | 1 | 7 | 57 |
| Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings | 196 | -- | -- | 7 |
| Waste and scrap | 30,400 | 2,220 | 784 | 19,700 |
| Miscellaneous ⁴ | 970 | 147 | 121 | 1,170 |
| Exports: | | | | |
| Refined tin | 1,300 | 81 | 47 | 466 |
| Alloys | 1,200 | 89 | 125 | 1,030 |

^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).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

| Product | 2020 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| | 2019 ^P | October | | | November | | | January– November ² |
| | | Primary | Secondary | Total | Primary | Secondary | Total | |
| Alloys (miscellaneous) ³ | 2,330 | 207 | -- | 207 | 207 | -- | 207 | 2,270 |
| Babbitt | 218 | 8 | W | 8 | 8 | W | 8 | 94 |
| Bronze and brass | 1,660 | 56 | 75 | 131 | 56 | 77 | 133 | 1,490 |
| Chemicals | 3,980 | 358 | -- | 358 | 332 | -- | 332 | 3,700 |
| Solder | 3,440 | 170 | W | 170 | 170 | W | 170 | 1,840 |
| Tinning | 277 | 19 | -- | 19 | 19 | -- | 19 | 209 |
| Tinplate ⁴ | 4,710 | 482 | W | 482 | 457 | W | 457 | 5,080 |
| Other ⁵ | 5,800 | 477 | 117 | 594 | 477 | 117 | 594 | 6,540 |
| Total reported | 22,400 | 1,780 | 192 | 1,970 | 1,730 | 194 | 1,920 | 21,200 |

^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.

³Includes terne 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.