

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JANUARY 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in January 2020 was 1,680 metric tons (t), a 4% increase from the primary consumption in December 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in January 2020 was 4,300 t, 10% greater than the apparent consumption in December 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January 2020 was \$8.02 per pound, a slight increase from \$7.97 per pound in December 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for January 2020 was \$7.74 per pound, essentially unchanged from the revised price of \$7.75 per pound in December 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

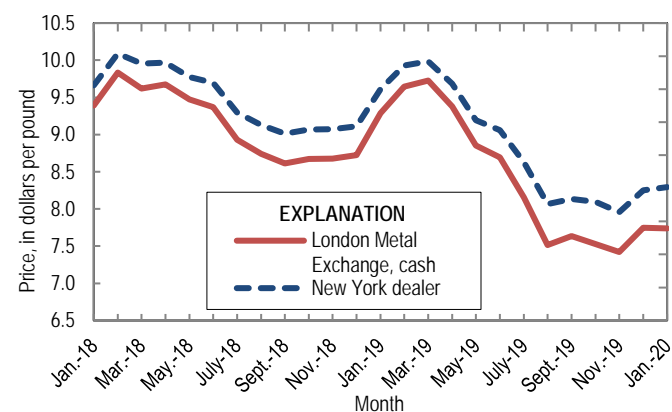


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from January 2018 through January 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in January 2020 were 3,530 t, a 14% increase from the 3,100 t of imports in December 2019 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in January 2020 were Bolivia (25%), Peru (24%), Indonesia (21%), Malaysia (16%), and Brazil (11%).

Update

On June 2, Aurubis AG announced that the acquisition of the recycling company Metallo Group Holding was completed. The acquisition was approved by the European Union competition authorities on May 4. Metallo specializes in recycling materials with low metal content, including tin. (Aurubis AG, 2020). Aurubis and Metallo are Europe's foremost copper scrap refiners (International Tin Association Ltd., 2019).

References Cited

- Aurubis AG, 2020, Acquisition of Metallo Group fully completed: Hamburg, Germany, Aurubis AG press release, June 2. (Access June 11, 2020, at <https://www.aurubis.com/en/public-relations/press-releases--news/news/2020/02.06.2020-aurubis-ag-acquisition-of-metallo-group-fully-completed>.)
- International Tin Association Ltd., 2019, EU to probe Metallo/Aurubis merger: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, November 20. (Accessed June 15, 2020, <https://www.internationaltin.org/eu-to-probe-metallo-aurubis-merger/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019		2020
	Year ^p	December	January
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	8,940	858	858
Consumption, reported:			
Primary	20,100	1,610	1,680
Secondary	2,330	195	200
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,800	3,910	4,300
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	3,100	3,530
Exports, refined tin	1,300	53	80
Stocks at end of period	5,940 ^r	5,940 ^r	5,920
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	868.00	797.13	801.56
London Metal Exchange cash	846.43 ^r	774.85 ^r	773.91

^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
2019:		
January	949.88	928.55
February	985.63	964.19
March	991.88	972.21
April	958.11	937.61
May	902.88	885.41
June	888.00	869.23
July	839.50	815.61
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

[†]Revised.

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:				
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
2020, January	40,900	389	9.5	72,900

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	2019		2020
	Year	December	January
Imports:			
Refined tin:			
Belgium	327	28	40
Bolivia	5,940	530	873
Brazil	3,020	451	375
Canada	25	1	--
China	1,340	--	--
Indonesia	5,230	650	725
Malaysia	7,120	550	550
Peru	7,930	670	840
Poland	1,080	135	112
Thailand	600	86	10
Other	1,550	--	--
Total	34,100	3,100	3,530
Other:			
Alloys	1,020	73 ^r	70
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,450	115	103
Flakes and powders	117	6	3
Foil	56	3	1
Plates, sheets, strip	58	3	4
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	196	25	3
Waste and scrap	30,400	2,030	3,040
Miscellaneous ²	970	99	114
Exports:			
Refined tin	1,300	53	80
Alloys	1,200	161	65

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Includes 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			2020			
	Year ^p	December		January			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,330	196	--	196	196	--	196
Babbitt	218	14	W	14	15	W	15
Bronze and brass	1,660	61	79	139	57	83	141
Chemicals	3,980	296	--	296	346	--	346
Solder	3,440	169	W	169	176	W	176
Tinning	277	22	--	22	22	--	22
Tinplate ³	4,710	371	W	371	389	W	389
Other ⁴	5,800 ^r	478	117 ^r	594 ^r	478	117	594
Total reported	22,400	1,610	195	1,800	1,680	200	1,880

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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.

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁴Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.