

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN FEBRUARY 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in February 2020 was 1,640 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in January 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in February 2020 was 3,560 t, 17% less than that in January 2020 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for February 2020 was \$7.73 per pound, a 4% decrease from \$8.02 per pound in January 2020. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for February 2020 was \$7.46 per pound, a 3% decrease from \$7.74 per pound in January 2020 (fig. 1, table 2).

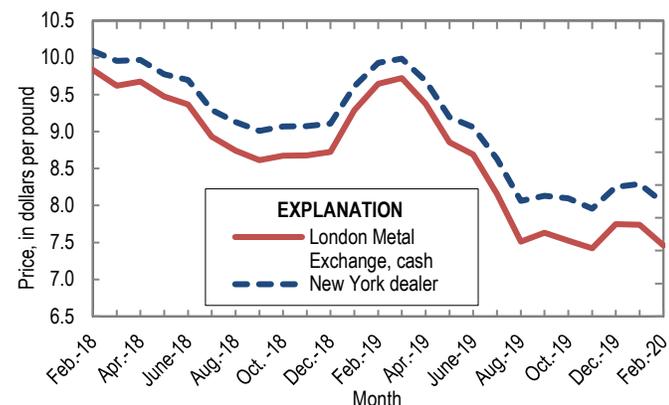


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from February 2018 through February 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in February 2020 were 2,720 t, a 23% decrease from the 3,530 t of imports in January 2020 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in February 2020 were Peru (35%), Malaysia (29%), Indonesia (15%), and Brazil (11%).

Update

PT Timah Tbk. has lowered its 2020 refined tin sales target to 55,000 t from 67,700 t in 2019 due to the impacts of the coronavirus global pandemic and weakening tin prices. In 2019, the company was the world's leading producer of refined tin, with an output of 76,400 t (Slade, 2020).

Reference Cited

Slade, Adam, 2020, Tin—PT Timah lowers sales target after COVID-19 cuts: Roskill Information Services Ltd., June 18. (Accessed June 24, 2020 at <https://roskill.com/news/tin-pt-timah-lowers-sales-target-after-covid-19-cuts/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

| | 2019 ^p | 2020 | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | January | February | January– February |
| Production, secondary ^{e,3} | 8,940 | 858 | 858 | 1,720 |
| Consumption, reported: | | | | |
| Primary | 20,100 | 1,680 | 1,640 | 3,320 |
| Secondary | 2,330 | 200 | 202 | 403 |
| Consumption, apparent ⁴ | 41,800 | 4,300 | 3,560 | 7,870 |
| Imports for consumption, refined tin | 34,100 | 3,530 | 2,720 | 6,240 |
| Exports, refined tin | 1,300 | 80 | 10 | 90 |
| Stocks at end of period | 5,940 | 6,540 ^r | 6,600 | 6,600 |
| Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵ | | | | |
| Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A | 868.00 | 801.56 | 772.63 | 787.10 |
| London Metal Exchange cash | 846.43 | 773.91 | 746.03 | 759.97 |

^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: | | |
| 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 |
| February | 772.63 | 746.03 |
| January–February | 787.10 | 759.97 |

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: | | | | |
| 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 |
| February | 40,000 | 369 | 9.2 | 70,500 |
| January–February | 80,900 | 758 | 11.7 | 143,000 |

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 ^p | 2020 | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|----------|----------------------|
| | | January | February | January– February |
| Imports: | | | | |
| Refined tin: | | | | |
| Belgium | 327 | 40 | 42 | 82 |
| Bolivia | 5,940 | 873 | 110 | 983 |
| Brazil | 3,020 | 375 | 291 | 666 |
| Indonesia | 5,230 | 725 | 395 | 1,120 |
| Malaysia | 7,120 | 550 | 775 | 1,330 |
| Peru | 7,930 | 840 | 945 | 1,790 |
| Poland | 1,080 | 112 | 113 | 225 |
| Thailand | 600 | 10 | 43 | 53 |
| Other | 2,910 ^r | -- | (2) | (2) |
| Total | 34,100 | 3,530 | 2,720 | 6,240 |
| Other: | | | | |
| Alloys | 1,020 | 70 | 69 | 139 |
| Bars, rods, profiles, and wire | 1,450 | 103 | 89 | 193 |
| Flakes and powders | 117 | 3 | 19 | 22 |
| Foil | 56 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Plates, sheets, strip | 58 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings | 196 | 3 | -- | 3 |
| Waste and scrap | 30,400 | 3,040 | 2,610 | 5,650 |
| Miscellaneous ³ | 970 | 114 | 77 | 191 |
| Exports: | | | | |
| Refined tin | 1,300 | 80 | 10 | 90 |
| Alloys | 1,200 | 65 | 63 | 129 |

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

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 ^p | 2020 | | | | | | January- February |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|-------|----------------------|
| | | January | | | February | | | |
| | | Primary | Secondary | Total | Primary | Secondary | Total | |
| Alloys (miscellaneous) ² | 2,330 | 196 | -- | 196 | 178 | -- | 178 | 375 |
| Babbitt | 218 | 15 | W | 15 | 21 | W | 21 | 36 |
| Bronze and brass | 1,660 | 57 | 83 | 141 | 57 | 84 | 142 | 283 |
| Chemicals | 3,980 | 346 | -- | 346 | 335 | W | 335 | 681 |
| Solder | 3,440 | 176 | W | 176 | 164 | W | 164 | 340 |
| Tinning | 277 | 22 | -- | 22 | 22 | -- | 22 | 44 |
| Tinplate ³ | 4,710 | 389 | W | 389 | 369 | W | 369 | 758 |
| Other ⁴ | 5,800 | 478 | 117 | 594 | 493 | 118 | 610 | 1,200 |
| Total reported | 22,400 | 1,680 | 200 | 1,880 | 1,640 | 202 | 1,840 | 3,720 |

^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.

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.