

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).

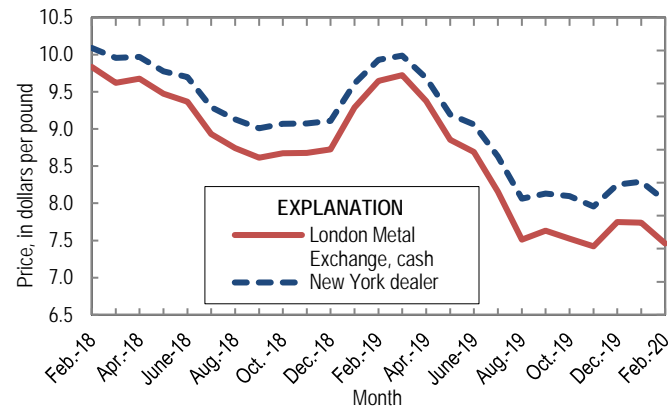


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from February 2018 through February 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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.