

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN MARCH 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in March 2020 was 1,740 metric tons (t), a slight increase from the revised primary consumption in February 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in March 2020 was 4,210 t, an 18% increase from that in February 2020 (table 1).

**Prices**

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for March 2020 was \$7.16 per pound, a 7% decrease from \$7.73 per pound in February 2020. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for March 2020 was \$6.95 per pound, a 7% decrease from \$7.46 per pound in February 2020 (fig. 1, table 2).

**U.S. Trade**

Total refined tin imports in March 2020 were 3,380 t, a 25% increase from the 2,720 t of imports in February 2020 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in March 2020 were Peru (27%), Indonesia (26%), Bolivia (23%), and Malaysia (14%).

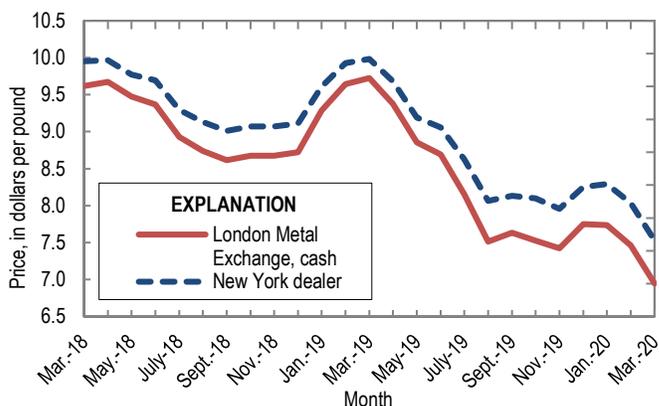


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from March 2018 through March 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020			
	2019 <sup>p</sup>	February	March	January– March <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e,3</sup>	8,940	858	858	2,570
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,710 <sup>r</sup>	1,740	5,190
Secondary	2,330	200 <sup>r</sup>	197	597
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	41,800	3,560	4,210	12,100
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	2,720	3,380	9,630
Exports, refined tin	1,300	10	29	119
Stocks at end of period	5,940	6,560 <sup>r</sup>	5,110	5,110
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	868.00	772.63	715.78	763.32
London Metal Exchange cash	846.43	746.03	694.68	738.21

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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:		
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
2019:		
January	801.56	773.91
February	772.63	746.03
March	715.78	694.68
January–March	763.32	738.21

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:				
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	10.7 <sup>r</sup>	890,000
2020:				
January	40,800 <sup>r</sup>	453 <sup>r</sup>	11.1 <sup>r</sup>	72,900
February	39,900 <sup>r</sup>	440 <sup>r</sup>	11.0 <sup>r</sup>	70,500
March	40,100	450	11.2	98,000
January–March	121,000	1,340	12.1	241,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

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		
		February	March	January– March <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	327	42	40	122
Bolivia	5,940	110	779	1,760
Brazil	3,020	291	150	817
Indonesia	5,230	395	875	2,000
Malaysia	7,120	775	475	1,800
Peru	7,930	945	905	2,690
Poland	1,080	113	134	359
Thailand	600	43	25	78
Other	2,910	(3)	--	(3)
Total	34,100	2,720	3,380	9,630
Other:				
Alloys	1,020	69	54	193
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,450	89	95	288
Flakes and powders	117	19	12	34
Foil	56	6	1	8
Plates, sheets, strip	58	5	7	16
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	196	--	(3)	3
Waste and scrap	30,400	2,610	2,370	8,020
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	970	77	74	264
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,300	10	29	119
Alloys	1,200	63	71	199

<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	2019 <sup>p</sup>	2020						January- March <sup>2</sup>
		February			March			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,330	206 <sup>r</sup>	--	206 <sup>r</sup>	207	--	207	620
Babbitt	218	8 <sup>r</sup>	--	8 <sup>r</sup>	8	--	8	26
Bronze and brass	1,660	56 <sup>r</sup>	83 <sup>r</sup>	139 <sup>r</sup>	56	80	136	414
Chemicals	3,980	335	--	335	346	W	346	1,030
Solder	3,440	169 <sup>r</sup>	W	169 <sup>r</sup>	174	W	174	860
Tinning	277	19 <sup>r</sup>	--	19 <sup>r</sup>	19	--	19	57
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,710	440 <sup>r</sup>	W	440 <sup>r</sup>	450	W	450	1,350
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,800	477 <sup>r</sup>	117 <sup>r</sup>	594 <sup>r</sup>	477	117	594	1,440
Total reported	22,400	1,710 <sup>r</sup>	200 <sup>r</sup>	1,910 <sup>r</sup>	1,740	197	1,930	5,790

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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>Includes ternary 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.