

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in April 2020 was 1,750 metric tons (t), a slight increase from the primary consumption in March 2020, and a 6% increase from that in April 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in April 2020 was 3,840 t, a 9% decrease from that in March 2020, and a 6% increase from that in April 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for April 2020 was \$7.05 per pound, a slight decrease from \$7.16 per pound in March 2020, and a 26% decrease from that in April 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for April 2020 was \$6.82 per pound, a slight decrease from \$6.95 per pound in March 2020, and a 27% decrease from that in April 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in April 2020 were 3,050 t, a 10% decrease from the 3,380 t of imports in March 2020, and a 4% increase from those in April 2019 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in April 2020 were Bolivia (38%), Peru (23%), Indonesia (20%), and Brazil (15%).

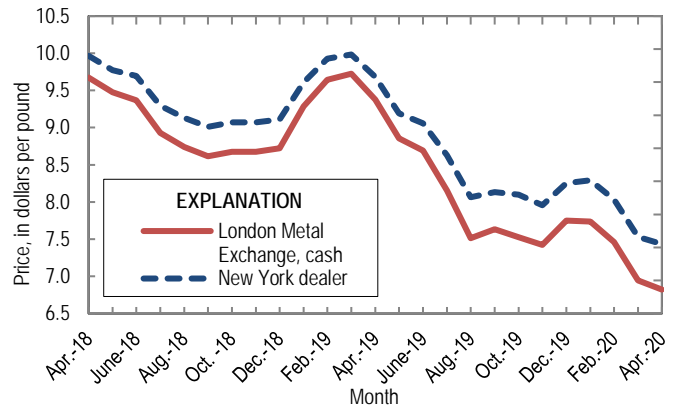


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from April 2018 through April 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019 ^p	2020		
		March	April	January–April ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	8,940	858	858	3,430
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,740	1,750	6,940
Secondary	2,330	197	201	798
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,800	4,210	3,840	15,900
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	3,380	3,050	12,700
Exports, refined tin	1,300	29	67	187
Stocks at end of period	5,940	5,110	5,110	5,110
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	868.00	715.78	705.11	748.77
London Metal Exchange cash	846.43	694.68	682.17	724.20

^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:		
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
March	715.78	694.68
April	705.11	682.17
January–April	748.77	724.20

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				
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	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
January–April	169,000	1,820	10.8	336,000

^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	2019 ^p	2020		
		March	April	January–April ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	327	40	42	164
Bolivia	5,940	779	1,160	2,920
Brazil	3,020	150	461	1,280
Indonesia	5,230	875	596	2,590
Malaysia	7,120	475	--	1,800
Peru	7,930	905	695	3,390
Poland	1,080	134	67	426
Thailand	600	25	25	103
Other	2,910	--	1	1
Total	34,100	3,380	3,050	12,700
Other:				
Alloys	1,020	54	42	235
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,450	95	69	357
Flakes and powders	117	12	9	43
Foil	56	1	(3)	8
Plates, sheets, strip	58	7	1	17
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	196	(3)	(3)	3
Waste and scrap	30,400	2,370	583	8,600
Miscellaneous ³	970	77 [†]	100	370
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,300	29	67	187
Alloys	1,200	71	76	275

^pPreliminary. [†]Revised. -- 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	2019 ^P	2020						January- April ²
		March			April			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,330	207	--	207	207	--	207	827
Babbitt	218	8	--	8	8	--	8	34
Bronze and brass	1,660	56	80	136	56	84	140	554
Chemicals	3,980	346	W	346	353	W	353	1,380
Solder	3,440	174	W	174	152	W	152	1,010
Tinning	277	19	--	19	19	--	19	76
Tinplate ⁴	4,710	450	W	450	477	W	477	1,830
Other ⁵	5,800	477	117	594	477	117	594	2,030
Total reported	22,400	1,740	197	1,930	1,750	201	1,950	7,740

^PPreliminary. ¹Revised. 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 ternary 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.