

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN MAY 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in May 2020 was 1,730 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from the primary consumption in April 2020, and a 3% increase from that in May 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in May 2020 was 3,380 t, a 12% decrease from that in April 2020, and a 10% increase from that in May 2019 (table 1).

**Prices**

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May 2020 was \$7.21 per pound, a slight increase from \$7.05 per pound in April 2020, and a 20% decrease from that in May 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for May 2020 was \$6.99 per pound, a slight increase from \$6.82 per pound in April 2020, and a 21% decrease from that in May 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

**U.S. Trade**

Total refined tin imports in May 2020 were 2,540 t, a 17% decrease from the 3,050 t of imports in April 2020, and a 3% increase from those in May 2019 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in May 2020 were Indonesia (43%), Bolivia (32%), Malaysia (7%), Brazil (6%), and Peru (5%).

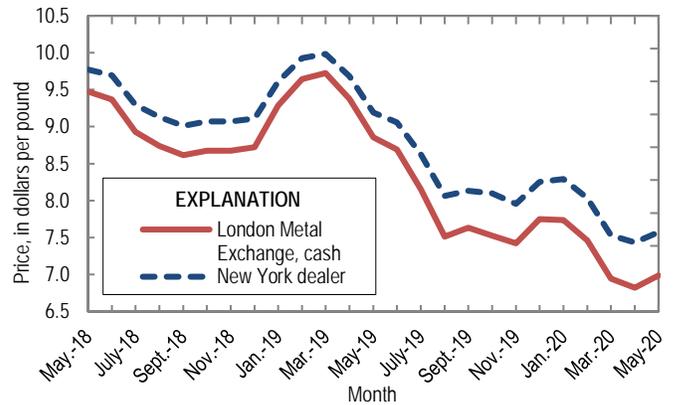


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from May 2018 through May 2020. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019 <sup>p</sup>	2020		
		April	May	January– May <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e, 3</sup>	8,940	858	858	4,290
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,750	1,730	8,670
Secondary	2,330	201	195	993
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	41,800	3,840	3,380	21,200
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	3,050	2,540	17,100
Exports, refined tin	1,300	67	19	205
Stocks at end of period	5,940	5,110	5,090	5,090
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	868.00	705.11	720.75	743.17
London Metal Exchange cash	846.43	682.17	698.92	719.14

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

<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:		
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
May	720.75	698.92
January–May	743.17	719.14

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: <sup>p</sup>				
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
May	47,600	470	9.9	94,500
January–May	217,000	2,290	10.6	430,000

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

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

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

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		
		April	May	January– May <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	327	42	22	186
Bolivia	5,940	1,160	801	3,720
Brazil	3,020	461	151	1,430
Indonesia	5,230	596	1,100	5,590
Malaysia	7,120	--	175	1,980
Peru	7,930	695	125	3,510
Poland	1,080	67	89	515
Thailand	600	25	25	128
Other	2,910	1	50	52
Total	34,100	3,050	2,540	17,100
Other:				
Alloys	1,020	42	36	271
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,450	69	77	433
Flakes and powders	117	9	21	63
Foil	56	(3)	12	20
Plates, sheets, strip	58	1	--	17
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	196	(3)	--	3
Waste and scrap	30,400	583	1,180	9,790
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	970	100	132	501
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,300	67	19	205
Alloys	1,200	76	47	322

<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- May <sup>2</sup>
		April			May			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,330	207	--	207	207	--	207	1,030
Babbitt	218	8	--	8	8	--	8	42
Bronze and brass	1,660	56	84	140	56	78	134	688
Chemicals	3,980	353	W	353	323	W	323	1,700
Solder	3,440	152	W	152	169	W	169	1,180
Tinning	277	19	--	19	19	--	19	95
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,710	477	W	477	470	W	470	2,300
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,800	477	117	594	477	117	594	2,630
Total reported	22,400	1,750	201	1,950	1,730	195	1,920	9,670

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. 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.