

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN JANUARY 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in January 2021 was 1,680 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in December 2020 and essentially unchanged from that in January 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in January 2021 was 3,000 t, a 3% decrease from that in December 2020, and a 30% decrease from that in January 2020 (table 1).

### Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January 2021 was \$10.26 per pound, a 12% increase from that in December 2020, and a 28% increase from that in January 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for January 2021 was \$9.96 per pound, a 11% increase from that in December 2020, and a 29% increase from that in January 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). The monthly price average for tin is at its highest since August 2014. This is due to high demand, insufficient supply of spot tin, and shipping constraints (Butt and O'Sullivan, 2021).

### U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in January 2021 were 2,270 t, essentially unchanged from those in December 2020, and a 36% decrease from those in January 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in January 2021 were Peru (50%), Brazil (17%), Indonesia (17%), Bolivia (9%), and Poland (5%). Total refined tin exports in January were 126 t, an increase of 142% from those in December 2020, due largely to a doubling of exports to Mexico.

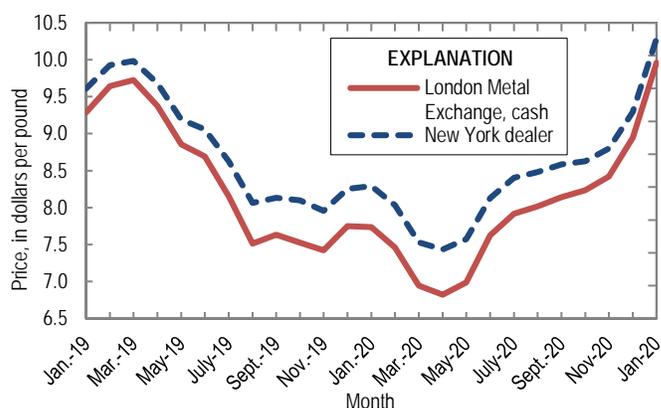


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from January 2019 through January 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

### Reference Cited

Butt, Hassan and O'Sullivan, Orla, 2021, Global tin: Double-digit premium jumps logged in US: Fastmarkets American Metals Market, January 27. (Accessed March 12, 2020, via <https://www.amm.com/>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020		2021
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December	January
Production, secondary <sup>e, 3</sup>	10,300	858	858
Consumption, reported:			
Primary	20,800	1,710	1,680
Secondary	2,340	194	198
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	41,400	3,080	3,000
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,280	2,270
Exports, refined tin	519	52	126
Stocks at end of period	5,150 <sup>r</sup>	5,150 <sup>r</sup>	5,240
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	914.57	1,030.00
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	894.82	995.88

<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: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
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
June	783.22	762.32
July	814.22	791.65
August	822.89	801.58
September	834.75	814.01
October	839.56	823.46
November	858.75	842.23
December	914.57	894.82
January–December <sup>p</sup>	798.65	777.15
2021, January	1,030.00	995.88

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

Source: S&P Global 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)	
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
June	47,500	478	10.1	108,000
July	44,200	469	10.6	101,000
August	43,600	466	10.7	99,800
September	39,200	457	11.7	94,700
October	46,200	482	10.4	99,400
November	41,400	457	11.0	93,300
December	39,300	446	11.4	102,000
January–December	518,000	5,550	10.8	1,130,000
2021, January	42,200	459	10.9	90,700

<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	2020		2021
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December	January
<b>Imports:</b>			
Refined tin:			
Belgium	374	20	20
Bolivia	5,060	337	205
Brazil	3,080	241	397
Indonesia	9,170	696	375
Malaysia	3,740	135	10
Peru	8,850	755	1,140
Poland	1,080	90	112
Thailand	174	--	10
Other	111	2	--
Total	31,600	2,280	2,270
Other:			
Alloys	843	129	68
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,150	116	177
Flakes and powders	129	8	8
Foil	47	12	2
Plates, sheets, strip	58	2	7
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	3	--
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,020	1,780
Miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>	1,260	90	55
<b>Exports:</b>			
Refined tin	519	52	126
Alloys	1,130	100	33

<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>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	2020			2021			
	Year <sup>p</sup>	December		January			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	2,470	204	--	204	162	--	162
Babbitt	102	8	W	8	8	W	8
Bronze and brass	1,620	56	77	133	55	81	136
Chemicals	4,030	327	--	327	341	--	341
Solder	2,010	173	W	173	157	W	157
Tinning	228	19	--	19	20	--	20
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	5,530	446	W	446	459	W	459
Other <sup>4</sup>	7,130	477	117	594	477	117	594
Total reported	23,100	1,710	194	1,900	1,680	198	1,880

<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>Includes terne metal.

<sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>4</sup>Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal, and white metal.