

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in May 2021 was 1,510 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in April 2021 and a 13% decrease from that in May 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 7,890 t, an 8% decrease from that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in May 2021 was 3,600 t, a 7% increase from that in April 2021, and a slight increase from that in May 2020. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 18,400 t, a 5% decrease from that of the same period of 2020 (table 1).

Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May 2021 was \$15.32 per pound, a 14% increase from that in April 2021, and a 112% increase from that in May 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for May 2021 was \$14.75 per pound, a 14% increase from that in April 2021, and a 111% increase from that in May 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). For the month of May, the New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages on record. The London Metal Exchange's highest daily price for tin was recorded on May 6 at \$34,462 per metric ton (\$15.63 per pound). Shipping constraints and low availability have led to record tin prices (Ng and others, 2021).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in May 2021 were 2,870 t, a 9% increase from those in April 2021, and a slight increase from those in May 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in April 2021 were Peru (30%), Indonesia (20%), Bolivia (17%), Brazil (13%), and Malaysia (13%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 14,800 t, a 10% decrease from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (32%), Bolivia (19%), Indonesia (17%), Malaysia (13%) and Brazil (11%). Total refined tin exports in May were 128 t, a decrease of 22 t from those in April 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 605 t, an increase of 400 t from those of the same period of 2020 (table 4).

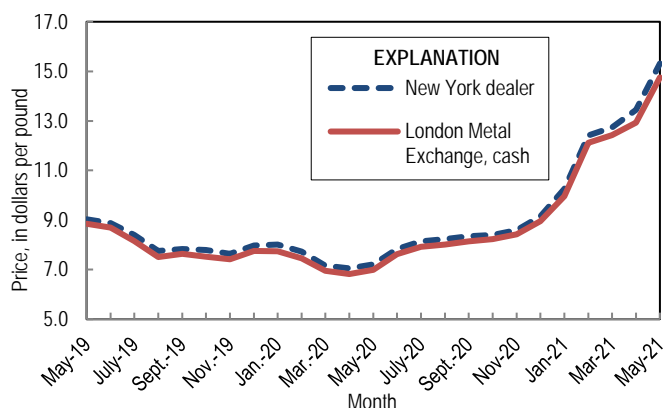


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from May 2019 through May 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

In May, the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials sold 160 t of stock-piled tin for \$5.41 million to Greenwich Metal, Inc.; Phoenixx, L.P.; and thyssenkrupp Materials NA. (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021b). May's sale follows April's successful sale of 120 t of stockpiled tin for \$3.44 million to Greenwich Metal, Inc., Nathan Trotter & Co. Inc., and Phoenixx, L.P. (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021a).

References Cited

- Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021a, DLA Strategic Materials Announces BOA sales for April 2021: Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, May 5. (Accessed July 16, 2021, at <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3192%20BOA%20All%20April%202021%20Sales.pdf?ver=uWJk10uoTgbBOZIHb8jgAg%3d%3d>.)
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Ng, Karen, O'Sullivan, Orla, and de Liz, Anna, 2021, Global tin—Europe, US premiums rise again: Fastmarkets AMM., May 19. (Accessed May 21, 2021, via <https://amm.com/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020 ^p	2021		
		April	May	January- May ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,300	858	858	4,290
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,540	1,510	7,890
Secondary	2,340	24	29	491
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	3,350	3,600	18,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,640	2,870	14,800
Exports, refined tin	519	150	128	605
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,550	4,540	4,540
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,345.22	1,531.50	1,283.59
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,293.11	1,475.28	1,243.77

^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: 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:		
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 ^p	798.65	777.15
2021:		
January	1,026.00	995.88
February	1,241.88	1,211.88
March	1,273.33	1,242.68
April	1,345.22	1,293.11
May	1,531.50	1,475.28
January–May	1,283.59	1,243.77

^pPreliminary.

Source: S&P Global 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)	
2020:				
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
February	39,600	447	11.3	79,800
March	39,200	447	11.4	85,200
April	40,600	455	11.2	82,400
May	43,300	455	10.5	82,700
January–May	205,000	2,260	11.1	421,000

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	2020 ^p	2021		
		April	May	January- May ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372	20	33	176
Bolivia	5,060	194	481	2,770
Brazil	3,080	304	382	1,560
Indonesia	9,170	611	566	2,560
Malaysia	3,740	595	375	1,980
Peru	8,850	774	853	4,760
Poland	1,080	67	157	607
Thailand	174	50	25	161
Other	111	28 ³	(3)	188
Total	31,600	2,640	2,870	14,800
Other:				
Alloys	843	67	59	464
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	130	131	661
Flakes and powders	129	19	21	71
Foil	47	3	1	30
Plates, sheets, strip	58	1	(3)	16
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	21	(3)	22
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,410	1,330	8,010
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,250	93	110	504
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	150	128	605
Alloys	1,130	74	37	314

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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	2020 ^p	2021						
		April			May			January– May ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	159	--	159	160	--	160	801
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	7	W	7	37
Bronze and brass	1,620	45	17	62	46	21	67	470
Chemicals	4,030	249	--	249	237	--	237	1,400
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	642
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	97
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	455	W	455	455	W	455	2,260
Other ⁵	7,130	492	8	500	477	8	484	2,670
Total reported	23,100	1,540	24	1,560	1,510	29	1,540	8,390

^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.

²May include revisions to previous published data.

³Includesterne 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.