

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JUNE 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in June 2021 was 1,460 metric tons (t), a 3% decrease from that in May 2021 and a 15% decrease from that in June 2020. Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin for the first half of 2021 was 9,360 t, a 9% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in June 2021 was 3,260 t, a 9% decrease from that in May 2021, and a 25% increase from that in June 2020. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 21,700 t, a slight 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 June 2021 was \$15.37 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in May 2021, and a 96% increase from that in June 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for June 2021 was \$14.82 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in May 2021, and a 94% increase from that in June 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). For the month of June, the New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages on record. High demand for electronics and reduced supply of tin caused by shipping container shortages continued to support high tin prices (Mining.com, 2021).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in June 2021 were 2,480 t, a 14% decrease from those in May 2021, but a 39% from those in June 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in June 2021 were Indonesia (27%), Bolivia (21%), Peru (19%), Malaysia (17%), and Brazil (9%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 17,200 t, a 5% decrease from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (30%), Bolivia (19%), Indonesia (19%), Malaysia (14%) and Brazil (10%). Total refined tin exports in June were 69 t, a decrease of 59 t from those in May 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 673 t, an increase of 439 t from those of the same period of 2020 (table 4).

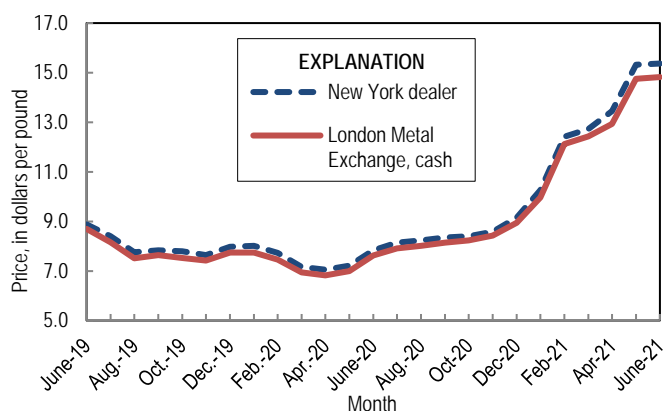


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from June 2019 through June 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

In June 2021, Malaysia Smelting Corp. Berhad suspended tin smelting and mining operations in compliance with Covid-19 pandemic related lock-down measures issued by the Malaysian Government. The company declared force majeure, suspending all contractual obligations to its customers (Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad, 2021). Operations remained suspended through June 28 (De Liz, 2021).

In June 2021, Yunnan Tin Company Ltd. temporarily ceased productions at its main smelter in Yunnan Province, China. The company will perform annual maintenance which is expected to last 45 days (International Tin Association Ltd., 2021).

References Cited

- De Liz, Anna, 2021, MSC confirms suspension of Malaysian tin smelting ops: Fastmarkets AMM., June 16. (Accessed June 18, 2021, via <https://amm.com/>)
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<http://ir2.chartnexus.com/msmelt/onenew.php?id=3165228&type=Announcement>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020 ^p	2021		
		May	June	January- June ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,300	858	858	5,150
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,510	1,460	9,360
Secondary	2,340	29	31	522
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	3,600	3,260	21,700
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,870	2,470	17,200
Exports, refined tin	519	128	69	673
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,540	4,500	4,500
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,531.50	1,536.78	1,325.79
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,475.28	1,482.24	1,283.51

^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:		
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
June	1,536.78	1,482.24
January–June	1,325.79	1,283.51

^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:				
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
June	40,000	448	11.2	80,800
January–June	245,000	2,710	11.1	502,000

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		
		May	June	January- June ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372	33	3	179
Bolivia	5,060	481	519	3,290
Brazil	3,080	382	231	1,800
Indonesia	9,170	566	671	3,230
Malaysia	3,740	375	431	2,410
Peru	8,850	853	465	5,230
Poland	1,080	157	112	719
Thailand	174	25	--	161
Other	111	(3)	42	230
Total	31,600	2,870	2,470	17,200
Other:				
Alloys	843	59	110	573
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	131	146	807
Flakes and powders	129	21	27	98
Foil	47	1	2	32
Plates, sheets, strip	58	(3)	1	16
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	(3)	4	26
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,330	1,800	9,810
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,250	110	136	640
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	128	69	673
Alloys	1,130	37	76	391

^pPreliminary. -- 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	2020 ^P	2021						
		May			June			January- June ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	160	--	160	158	--	158	959
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	8	W	8	45
Bronze and brass	1,620	46	21	67	46	24	70	540
Chemicals	4,030	237	--	237	197	--	197	1,600
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	752
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	116
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	455	W	455	448	W	448	2,710
Other ⁵	7,130	477	8	484	477	8	484	3,150
Total reported	23,100	1,510	29	1,540	1,460	31	1,490	9,880

^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.