

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN FEBRUARY 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in February 2019 was 1,710 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in January 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in February 2019 was 4,020 t, 19% less than that in January 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for February 2019 was \$9.87 per pound, 4% more than that in the previous month. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for February 2019 was \$9.64 per pound, 4% more than that in the previous month (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in February 2019 were 3,170 t, a 23% decrease from the 4,120 t of imports in January 2019 (table 4). The leading sources of refined tin in February were, in descending order, Bolivia (28%), Malaysia (26%), and Peru (17%). Imports from Peru decreased by 650 t, or 54% in February.

Update

On May 19, the Executive Office of the President announced the imports of steel products from Canada and Mexico would be exempted from the 25% tariffs that had been in place since June 1, 2018. Canada and Mexico agreed to remove retaliatory measures that they had imposed on exports from the United States. Tariffs now apply to steel products from countries apart from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and South Korea. Tinplate is a thin layer of tin that is deposited on steel and is often used to manufacture containers for foods and beverages. Tinplate imports in 2018 were 690 t, with the

exempted countries providing 31% of tinplate imports. (Executive Office of the President, 2019).

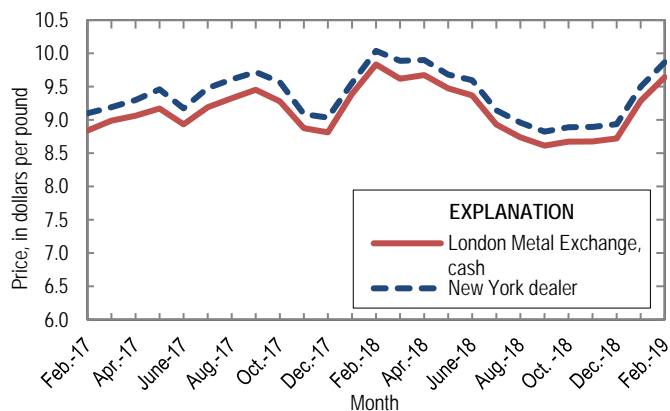


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from February 2016 through February 2018. Source: Platts Metals Week.

Reference Cited

Executive Office of the President, 2019, Adjusting imports of steel into the United States: Federal Register, v. 84, no. 100, May 23, p. 23987 – 23989 (Accessed May 29, 2019 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/23/2019-11002/adjusting-imports-of-steel-into-the-united-states>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019			
	2018 ^b	January	February	January– February
Production, secondary ^{c,2}	10,300	858	900	1,760
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	19,800	1,670	1,710	3,370
Secondary	2,400	204	243	447
Consumption, apparent ³	46,100	4,930	4,020	8,950
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	4,120	3,170	7,300
Exports, refined tin	962	45	55	99
Stocks at end of period	5,610	5,140 ^r	4,850	4,850
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	949.88	986.63	968.26
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	928.55	964.19	946.37

^cEstimated. ^bPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

³Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2018:		
February	1003.75	983.43
March	988.67	961.75
April	990.00	967.44
May	968.22	947.44
June	959.63	936.76
July	914.44	893.09
August	895.89	873.96
September	882.38	861.35
October	889.00	867.37
November	889.38	867.72
December	893.57	872.33
January–December	935.87	914.31
2019:		
January	949.88	928.55
February	986.63	964.19
January–February	968.26	946.37

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)	
2018:				
February	35,200	357	10.0	66,600
March	40,100	382	10.0	72,700
April	43,100	388	9.0	76,500
May	42,400	388	9.0	83,500
June	43,800	385	9.0	83,800
July	41,900	387	9.0	80,100
August	44,800	387	9.0	91,600
September	39,800	381	10.0	79,000
October	45,400	383	9.0	94,800
November	39,800	386	10.0	88,000
December	40,900	391	10.0	57,900
January–December	500,000	4,610	9.0	949,000
2019:				
January	30,600	399	13.0	76,100
February	45,100	432	10.0	72,800
January–February	75,700	831	11.0	149,000

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	2018 ^p	2019		January– February
		January	February	
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	112	20	40	60
Bolivia	6,310	594	902	1,500
Brazil	2,740	256	160	416
China	1,310	20	191	211
Estonia	--	--	80	80
Indonesia	10,500	390	285	675
Malaysia	7,590	1,180	830	2,010
Peru	6,660	1,200	550	1,750
Poland	731	112	45	157
Russia	--	281	--	281
Thailand	422	20	71	91
Other	400 ^r	51 ^r	20	71
Total	36,800	4,120	3,170	7,300
Other:				
Alloys	1,440	116	56	172
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	126	121	247
Flakes and powders	189	10	9	19
Foil	92	(2)	1	1
Plates, sheets, strip	89	6	6	12
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	12	1	13
Waste and scrap	47,700	3,830	2,661	6,490
Miscellaneous ³	1,060	67	97	164
Exports:				
Refined tin	962	45	55	99
Alloys	885	31	67	98

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes 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^{1,2}

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2019								
	2018 ^p	January			February			January– February	
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total		
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,240	169	--	169	172	--	172	341	
Babbitt	231	18	W	18	14	W	14	34	
Bronze and brass	1,720	61	87	147	77	127	203	351	
Chemicals	3,840	343	W	343	335	--	335	678	
Solder	3,180	176	W	176	175	W	175	351	
Tinning	442	24	--	24	23	--	23	46	
Tinplate ⁴	4,660	399	W	399	432	W	432	831	
Other ⁵	5,900	478	117	594	477	118	594	1,190	
Total reported	22,200	1,670	204	1,870	1,710	243	1,950	3,820	

^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 previously published data.

³Includes terre metal.

⁴Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinning chemical solutions.

⁵Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and ball metal.