

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in April 2019 was 1,650 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from the reported primary consumption in March 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in April 2019 was 3,660 t, 23% less than that in March 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for April 2019 was \$9.58 per pound, a 3% decrease from \$9.92 per pound in March 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for April 2019 was \$9.38 per pound, a 4% decrease from \$9.72 per pound in March 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in April 2019 were 2,920 t, a 26% decrease from 3,930 t of imports in March 2019 (table 4). This decrease was primarily driven by decreased imports from, in descending order, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Russia, but offset somewhat by increased imports from, in descending order, Estonia and Bolivia. The leading sources of refined tin in April were, in descending order, Bolivia (20%), Malaysia and Peru (19% each), and China and Estonia (11% each).

Update

On June 12, StoreDot Ltd. demonstrated that its electric scooter battery could be fully charged in 5 minutes, compared to the normal charging time of 4 hours. The new battery had a modified anode and cathode. The anode was made of germanium, silicon, tin, and other elements, instead of graphite; the cathode was made from organic materials. The International Tin Association estimated that if tin anodes were adopted by industry, tin consumption in the new end use could reach between 10 and 20 metric tons per year by 2030 (International Tin Association Ltd., 2019, StoreDot Ltd., 2019).

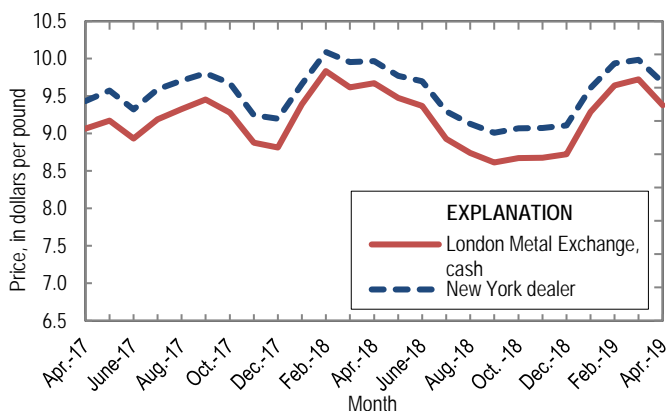


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from April 2017 through April 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

References Cited

International Tin Association Ltd., 2019, StoreDot tin anode battery charges e-scooter in just five minutes: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, July 19. (Accessed July 16, 2019, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/storedot-tin-anode-battery-charges-e-scooter-in-just-five-minutes/>)
 StoreDot Ltd., 2019, Electric scooter revs up in five minutes with StoreDot battery: Herzeliya, Israel, StoreDot Ltd. news release, June 12. (Accessed July 16, 2019, at <https://www.store-dot.com/post/electric-scooter-revs-up-in-five-minutes-with-storedot-battery/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019			
	2018 ^p	March	April	January- April
Production, secondary ^{6, 2}	10,300	900	900	3,560
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100 ^r	1,660	1,650	6,670
Secondary	2,400	197	184	770
Consumption, apparent ³	46,100	4,760	3,660	17,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	3,930	2,920	14,100
Exports, refined tin	962	70 ^r	162	331
Stocks at end of period	5,570 ^r	4,700 ^r	5,580	5,580
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	991.88	958.11	971.37
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	972.21	937.61	950.84

⁶Estimated. ^pPreliminary. ^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:		
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	928.81
February	986.63	964.47
March	991.88	972.45
April	958.11	937.61
January–April	971.63	950.84

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:				
April	43,100	388	9.2 ^r	76,500
May	42,400	388	9.2	83,500
June	43,800	385	8.8	83,800
July	41,900	387	9.3	80,100
August	44,800	387	8.6	91,600
September	39,800	381	9.6	79,000
October	31,200 ^r	381 ^r	12.2 ^r	100,000
November	40,100 ^r	384 ^r	9.6 ^r	88,000
December	42,700 ^r	389 ^r	9.1 ^r	88,900
January–December	487,000 ^r	4,600 ^r	9.7 ^r	985,000
2019:				
January	30,600	399	13.0	76,100
February	45,100	432	9.6 ^r	81,500
March	42,000 ^r	390 ^r	9.3 ^r	81,500
April	42,600	383	9.0	78,100
January–April	160,000	1,600	10.2	317,000

^rRevised.

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		
		March	April	January – April
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	112	24	22	106
Bolivia	6,310	365	580	2,440
Brazil	2,740	230	226	873
China	1,310	228	323	762
Estonia	--	80	320	480
Hong Kong	100	25	25	100
Indonesia	10,500	1,110	50	1,830
Malaysia	7,590	837	555	3,400
Peru	6,660	612	541	2,900
Poland	731	112	157	426
Russia	--	261	101	643
Thailand	422	45	25	161
Other	301 ^r	(2) ^r	--	21
Total	36,800	3,930	2,920	14,100
Other:				
Alloys	1,430 ^r	108 ^r	87	369
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	112	139	499
Flakes and powders	189	4	21	43
Foil	91 ^r	1	1	2
Plates, sheets, strip	89	2	(2)	14
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	22	1	37
Waste and scrap	47,700	2,670	3,220	12,400
Miscellaneous ³	1,060	66	60	290
Exports:				
Refined tin	962	70 ^r	162	331
Alloys	885	112	78	287

^pPreliminary. ^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 PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2019							
	2018 ^p	March			April			January– April
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,230 ^r	169	--	169	170	--	170	681
Babbitt	231	15	W	15	16	W	16	64
Bronze and brass	1,720	65	81	146	59	68	127	561
Chemicals	3,850 ^r	325	W	325	322	--	322	1,330
Solder	3,630 ^r	192	W	192	198	W	198	1,070
Tinning	269 ^r	22	--	22	23	--	23	91
Tinplate ³	4,680 ^r	390	W	390	383	W	383	1,610
Other ⁴	5,900	478	116	594	478	116	594	2,040
Total reported	22,500 ^r	1,660	197	1,850	1,650	184	1,830	7,440

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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.

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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