

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN MAY 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in May 2019 was 1,690 metric tons (t), slightly more than the reported primary consumption in April 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in May 2019 was 3,080 t, 15% less than the revised apparent consumption in April 2019 (table 1).

**Prices**

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May 2019 was \$9.03 per pound, a 6% decrease from \$9.58 per pound in April 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for May 2019 was \$8.85 per pound, a 6% decrease from \$9.38 per pound in April 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

**U.S. Trade**

Total refined tin imports in May 2019 were 2,470 t, a 16% decrease from the 2,920 t of imports in April 2019 (table 4). This decrease was primarily driven by decreased imports from, in descending order, Estonia, Malaysia, and Poland, but offset somewhat by increased imports from, in descending order, Peru, Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand. The leading sources of refined tin in May 2019 were Peru (26%), Bolivia (23%), Malaysia (13%), China (12%), and Brazil (11%).

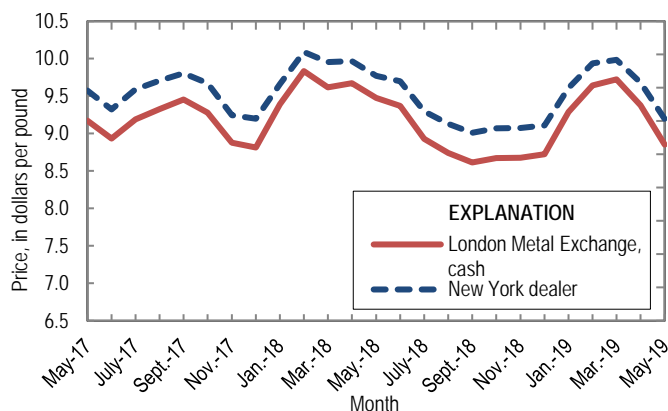


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from May 2017 through May 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2018 <sup>p</sup>	2019		
		April	May	January- May
Production, secondary <sup>6, 2</sup>	10,300	858 <sup>r</sup>	858	4,290
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,650	1,690	8,360
Secondary	2,400	184	185	954
Consumption, apparent <sup>3</sup>	46,100	3,620 <sup>r</sup>	3,080	20,300
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	2,920	2,470	16,600
Exports, refined tin	962	162	248	579
Stocks at end of period	5,570	5,580	5,510	5,510
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>4</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	958.11	902.88	957.68
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	937.61	885.42	937.75

<sup>6</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>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>3</sup>Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

<sup>4</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2018:		
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	985.63	964.47
March	991.88	972.45
April	958.11	937.61
May	902.88	885.42
January–May	957.68	937.75

Source: 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)	
2018:				
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	381	12.2	100,000
November	40,100	384	9.6	88,000
December	42,100	389	9.1	88,900
January–December	487,000	4,600	9.7	985,000
2019:				
January	30,600	399	13.0	76,100
February	45,100	432	9.6	81,500
March	42,000	390	9.3	72,800 <sup>†</sup>
April	42,600	383	9.0	70,900 <sup>†</sup>
May	44,800	392	8.7	86,000
January–May	205,000	2,000	9.9	387,000

<sup>†</sup>Revised.

<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	2018 <sup>p</sup>	2019		
		April	May	January– May
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	112	22	42	149
Bolivia	6,310	580	579	3,020
Brazil	2,740	226	282	1,150
China	1,310	323	300	1,060
Estonia	--	320	--	480
Hong Kong	100	25	--	100
Indonesia	10,500	50	100	1,930
Malaysia	7,590	555	315	3,710
Peru	6,660	541	635	3,540
Poland	731	157	45	471
Russia	--	101	101	744
Thailand	422	25	71	231
Other	301	--	(2)	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>16,600</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,430	87	54	422
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	139	132	631
Flakes and powders	189	21	12	56
Foil	91	1	12	15
Plates, sheets, strip	89	(2)	7	21
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	1	44	81
Waste and scrap	47,700	3,220	3,460	15,800
Miscellaneous <sup>3</sup>	1,060	60	84	374
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	962	162	248	579
Alloys	885	78	75	363

<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>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</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>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2018 <sup>p</sup>	2019						
		April			May			January– May
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,230	170	--	170	170	--	170	851
Babbitt	231	16	W	16	15	W	15	81
Bronze and brass	1,720	59	68	127	59	68	127	688
Chemicals	3,850	322	--	322	353	W	353	1,680
Solder	3,630	198	W	198	198	W	198	1,490
Tinning	269	23	--	23	23	--	23	114
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,680	383	W	383	390	W	390	2,000
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,900	478	116	594	478	117	595	2,410
Total reported	22,500	1,650	184	1,830	1,690	185	1,870	9,310

<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>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includesterne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>5</sup>Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.