

# Mineral Industry Surveys

## For information, contact:

Adam Merrill, Tin Commodity Specialist  
 National Minerals Information Center  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 989 National Center  
 Reston, VA 20192  
 Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
 Email: amerrill@usgs.gov

Sidney Deloach-Overton (Data)  
 Telephone: (703) 648-4927  
 Fax: (703) 648-7975  
 Email: sdeloach-overton@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

## TIN IN DECEMBER 2020

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in December 2020 was 1,710 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in November 2020 and a 6% increase from that in December 2019. For 2020, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 20,800 t, a 3% increase from that in 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in December 2020 was 3,080 t, a 10% decrease from that in November 2020, and a 21% decrease from that in December 2019. For 2020, apparent consumption of refined tin was 41,400 t, a slight decrease from that in 2019 (table 1).

### Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for December 2020 was \$9.15 per pound, a 7% increase from that in November 2020, and a 15% increase from that in December 2019. For 2020, the Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin was \$7.99 per pound, an 8% decrease from that in 2019. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for December 2020 was \$8.95 per pound, a 6% increase from that in November 2020, and a 15% increase from that in December 2019. For 2020, the average LME cash price of Grade A tin was \$7.77 per pound, an 8% decrease from that in 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

### U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in December 2020 were 2,280 t, a 12% decrease from those in November 2020, and a 27% decrease from those in December 2019. The leading sources of refined tin in December 2020 were Peru (33%), Indonesia (31%), Bolivia (15%), Brazil (11%), and Malaysia (6%). For 2020, refined tin imports were 31,600 t, a 7% decrease from those in 2019. For 2020, leading sources of refined tin were Indonesia (29%), Peru (28%), Bolivia (16%), Malaysia (12%), and Brazil (10%) (table 4).

### Update

According to the International Tin Association Ltd. (2021), global production by refined tin producers decreased by 8% in

2020 from that of 2019. The world's leading refined tin producers and their production in 2020 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

Company	Production
1. Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	74,800
2. PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	45,700
3. Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	22,400
4. Minsur S.A. (Peru)	19,600
5. Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	16,500
6. Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thailand)	11,300
7. Guangxi China Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	10,100
8. Jiangxi New Nanshan Technology Ltd. (China)	10,100
9. Metallo Chimique N.V. (Belgium)	8,100
10. Gejiu Zili Mining and Metallurgy Co. Ltd (China)	7,000

Despite a slight decrease in production owing to global pandemic related supply shortages, the Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. was the top producer in 2020. PT Timah (Persero) Tbk had the largest production decrease of 40%, to 45,700 t in 2020 from 76,400 t in 2019, a near return to pre 2019 production levels. In 2019, production had increased by 129% from 2018, due to export regulation enforcement by the Indonesian government which led to the closure of private smelters. In 2020, private smelters ended their leases with PT Timah Tbk and resumed independent production. Bolivian producer Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto S.A. dropped out of the top 10 due to prolonged closures attributed to the global pandemic (International Tin Association Ltd., 2021).

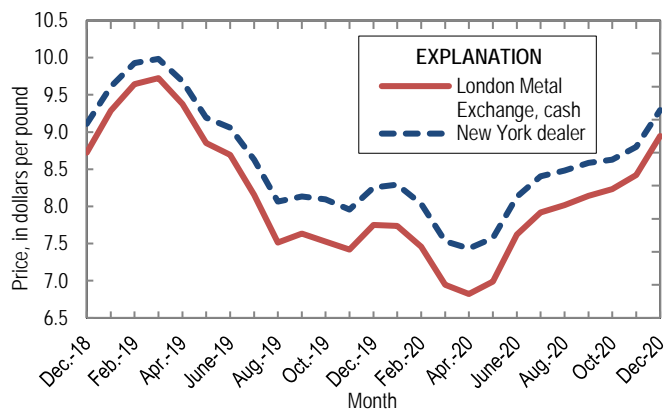


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from December 2018 through December 2020. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

## Reference Cited

International Tin Association Ltd., 2021, YTC comes out top in difficult year for tin producers: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, February 11. (Accessed February 12, 2021, <https://www.internationaltin.org/ytccomesouttopindifficultyearfortinproducers/>.)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020			
	2019 <sup>p</sup>	November	December	January– December <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e, 3</sup>	8,940	858	858	10,300
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,730	1,710	20,800
Secondary	2,330	194	194	2,340
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	41,800	3,410	3,080	41,400
Imports for consumption, refined tin	34,100	2,600	2,280	31,600
Exports, refined tin	1,300	47	52	519
Stocks at end of period	5,940	5,100	5,050	5,050
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	868.00	858.75	914.57	798.65
London Metal Exchange cash	846.43	842.23	894.82	777.15

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previous published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>4</sup>Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

<sup>5</sup>Source: 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
2019:		
December	797.13	774.85
January–December	868.00	846.43
2020:		
January	801.56	773.91
February	772.63	746.03
March	715.78	694.68
April	705.11	682.17
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	798.65	777.15

Source: S&P Global 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)	
2019: <sup>P</sup>				
December	38,100	371	9.7	61,400
January–December	437,000	4,690	10.7	890,000
2020:				
January	40,800	453	11.1	72,900
February	39,900	440	11.0	70,500
March	40,100	450	11.2	98,000
April	48,000	477	9.9	94,400
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

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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	2020			
	2019 <sup>p</sup>	November	December	January– December <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	327	22	20	374
Bolivia	5,940	298	337	5,060
Brazil	3,020	296	241	3,080
Indonesia	5,230	917	696	9,170
Malaysia	7,120	225	135	3,740
Peru	7,930	709	755	8,850
Poland	1,080	135	90	1,080
Thailand	600	--	--	174
Other	2,910	(3)	2	111
Total	34,100	2,600	2,280	31,600
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,020	96	129	843
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,450	86	116	1,150
Flakes and powders	117	7	8	129
Foil	56	1	12	47
Plates, sheets, strip	58	7	2	58
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	196	--	3	10
Waste and scrap	30,400	784	1,020	20,700
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	970	121	90	1,260
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,300	47	52	519
Alloys	1,200	125	100	1,130

<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>May include revisions to previous published data.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>4</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</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2020							
	2019 <sup>P</sup>	November			December			January– December <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,330	207	--	207	204	--	204	2,470
Babbitt	218	8	W	8	8	W	8	102
Bronze and brass	1,660	56	77	133	56	77	133	1,620
Chemicals	3,980	332	--	332	327	--	327	4,030
Solder	3,440	170	W	170	173	W	173	2,010
Tinning	277	19	--	19	19	--	19	228
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	4,710	457	W	457	446	W	446	5,530
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,800	477	117	594	477	117	594	7,130
Total reported	22,400	1,730	194	1,920	1,710	194	1,900	23,100

<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 previous published data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes terne 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.