

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN FEBRUARY 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in February 2021 was 1,650 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in January 2021 and a 3% decrease from that in February 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 3,330 t, a slight decrease from that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in February 2021 was 3,350 t, a 12% increase from that in January 2021, and a 6% decrease from that in February 2020. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 6,360 t, a 19% 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 February 2021 was \$12.42 per pound, a 21% increase from that in January 2021, and a 61% increase from that in February 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for February 2021 was \$12.12 per pound, a 22% increase from that in January 2021, and a 62% increase from that in February 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). Monthly tin price averages for both exchanges are at their highest since May 2011. Tin prices continue to increase due to insufficient supply, low stocks, and resurgent demand for consumer electronics (Keen, 2021; Slade, 2021).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in February 2021 were 2,570 t, a 13% increase from those in January 2021, and a 5% decrease from those in February 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in February 2021 were Bolivia (36%), Peru (32%), Brazil (10%), Indonesia (8%), Malaysia (5%) and Poland (5%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 4,840 t, a 22% decrease from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date leading sources of refined tin were Peru (40%), Bolivia (23%), Brazil (14%), Indonesia (12%), and Poland (5%). Total refined tin exports in February were 78 t, a decrease of 38% from those in January 2021 and an increase of 68 t from that in February 2020. Year to date, refined tin exports were 203 t, a 126% increase from that of the same period of 2020 (table 4).

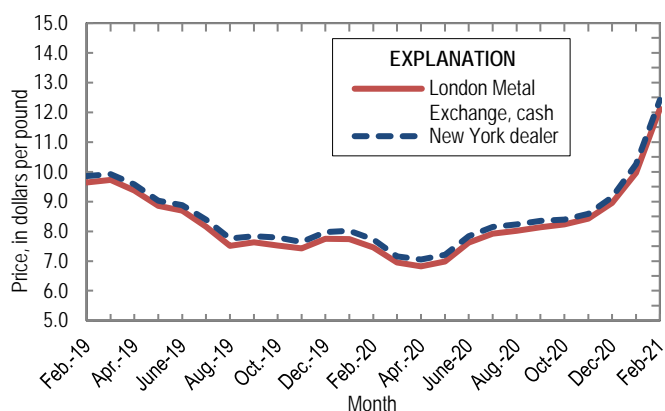


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from February 2019 through February 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

Burma exports to China decreased nearly 27% during January and February from that of the same period in 2020. Border restrictions due to the COVID-19 global pandemic are likely responsible for decreased shipments. A military coup in Burma in February has resulted in the arrest of civilian leaders and protests were unlikely the cause of the trade disruption. Most of Burma's tin production comes from Wa Self-Administered Division of Shan State and operations there have not been significantly impacted (Hu, 2021; International Tin Association, 2021).

References Cited

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Slade, Adam, 2021, Tin-Prices hit 10-year highs: Roskill Information Services Ltd., February 16. (Accessed February 19, 2020, at <https://roskill.com/news/tin-prices-hit-10-year-high/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020 ^p	2021		
		January	February	January– February ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,300	858	858	1,720
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,680	1,650	3,330
Secondary	2,340	198	209	407
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	3,000	3,350	6,360
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,270	2,570	4,840
Exports, refined tin	519	126	78	203
Stocks at end of period	5,150	5,240	5,910	5,910
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,030.00	1,240.00	1,130.00
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	995.88	1,210.00	1,100.00

^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:		
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 ^p	798.65	777.15
2021:		
January	1,030.00	995.88
February	1,240.00	1,210.00
January-February	1,130.00	1,100.00

^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:				
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
2021:				
January	42,200	459	10.9	90,700
February	39,600	447	11.3	79,800
January-February	81,800	906	11.1	170,000

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	2021			
	2020 ^p	January	February	January-February ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	374	20	43	63
Bolivia	5,060	205	918	1,120
Brazil	3,080	397	265	662
Indonesia	9,170	375	205	581
Malaysia	3,740	10	140	150
Peru	8,850	1140	811	1,950
Poland	1,080	112	137	249
Thailand	174	10	25	35
Other	111	--	26	26
Total	31,600	2,270	2,570	4,840
Other:				
Alloys	843	68	153	221
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,150	177	111	288
Flakes and powders	129	8	8	15
Foil	47	2	13	14
Plates, sheets, strip	58	7	--	7
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	--	1	1
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,780	1,550	3,330
Miscellaneous ³	1,260	55	103	158
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	126	78	203
Alloys	1,130	33	89	122

^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.

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	2020 ^b	2021						
		January			February			January- February ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	162	--	162	162	--	162	324
Babbitt	102	8	W	8	7	W	7	15
Bronze and brass	1,620	55	81	136	56	80	136	272
Chemicals	4,030	341	--	341	327	--	327	668
Solder	2,010	157	W	157	155	W	155	312
Tinning	228	20	--	20	20	--	20	40
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	459	W	459	447	W	447	906
Other ⁵	7,130	477	117	594	477	129	606	1,200
Total reported	23,100	1,680	198	1,880	1,650	209	1,860	3,740

^bPreliminary. 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.

³Includes terne 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.