

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in April 2021 was 1,540 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in March 2021 and a 12% decrease from that in April 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 6,380 t, a 7% decrease from that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in April 2021 was 3,350 t, a 35% decrease from that in March 2021, and a 30% decrease from that in April 2020. The decrease in apparent consumption was driven by decreased imports. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 14,800 t, a 12% 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 April 2021 was \$13.45 per pound, a 6% increase from that in March 2021, and a 91% increase from that in April 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for April 2021 was \$12.93 per pound, a 4% increase from that in March 2021, and a 90% increase from that in April 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). The New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages since April and May 2011, respectively.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in April 2021 were 2,640 t, a 40% decrease from those in March 2021, and a 33% decrease from those in April 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in April 2021 were Peru (29%), Indonesia (23%), Malaysia (23%), Brazil (12%), and Bolivia (7%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 11,900 t, a 12% decrease from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (33%), Bolivia (19%), Indonesia (17%), Malaysia (13%) and Brazil (10%). Total refined tin exports in April were 150 t, an increase of 27 t from those in March 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 476 t, an increase of 290 t from that of the same period of 2020 (table 4).

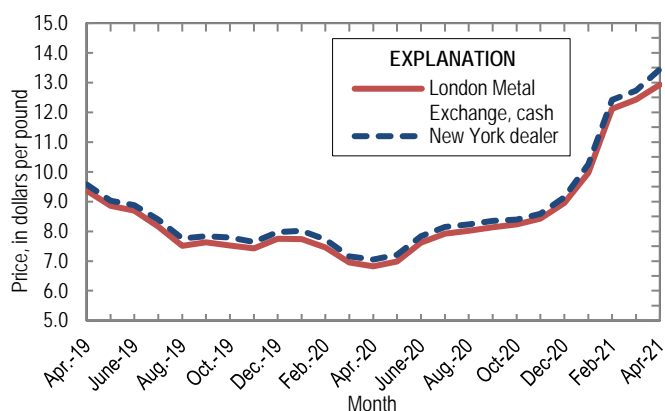


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from April 2019 through April 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

The Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials announced that during March, that it had sold 40 t of stock-piled tin to an undisclosed buyer for \$1.09 million. In April 14, the agency will offer an additional 40 t of stock-piled tin for sale. (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021; O'Sullivan, 2021).

In April, Malaysia Smelting Corp. BHD cancelled tin shipments to some of its customers due to furnace failures at its smelter in Penang, Malaysia. The company is doubling its impurity penalties and hopes to resume operations to normal by the end of 2021 (Hunter and de Liz, 2021).

References Cited

- Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021, DLA Strategic Materials Announces BOA sales for March 2021: Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, April 6. (Accessed May 14, 2021, via <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3191%20BOA%20All%20March%202021%20Sales.pdf?ver=alTR4y0R3S2zCp5YhfN5uw%3d%3d>.)
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- O'Sullivan, 2021, US DLA makes 2nd tin offer to eager market: Fastmarkets AMM., April 13. (Accessed April 13, 2021, via <https://amm.com/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2021			
	2020 ^p	March	April	January- April ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,300	858	858	3,430
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,510	1,540	6,380
Secondary	2,340	31	24	462
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	5,140	3,350	14,800
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	4,400	2,640	11,900
Exports, refined tin	519	123	150	476
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,540	4,550	4,550
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,272.33	1,345.22	1,221.61
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,242.68	1,293.11	1,185.89

^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:		
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	1,026.00	995.88
February	1,241.88	1,211.88
March	1,273.33	1,242.68
April	1,345.22	1,293.11
January–April	1,221.61	1,185.89

^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:				
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
March	39,200	447	11.4	85,200
April	40,600	455	11.2	82,400
January–April	162,000	1,810	11.2	338,000

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	March	April	January- April ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372 ^r	60	20	143
Bolivia	5,060	967	194	2,290
Brazil	3,080	216	304	1,180
Indonesia	9,170	801	611	1,990
Malaysia	3,740	855	595	1,600
Peru	8,850	1,180	774	3,910
Poland	1,080	134	67	450
Thailand	174	50	50	136
Other	111	133	25	188
Total	31,600	4,400	2,640	11,900
Other:				
Alloys	843	116	67	404
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160 ^r	111	130	530
Flakes and powders	129	15	19	50
Foil	47	12	3	29
Plates, sheets, strip	58	8	1	16
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	--	21	22
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,940	1,410	6,680
Miscellaneous ³	1,250 ^r	142	93	393
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	123	150	476
Alloys	1,130	81	74	277

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- 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						
		March			April			January– April ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	158	--	158	159	--	159	641
Babbitt	102	8	W	8	7	W	7	30
Bronze and brass	1,620	46	23	69	45	17	62	403
Chemicals	4,030	247	--	247	249	--	249	1,160
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	532
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	78
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	447	W	447	455	W	455	1,810
Other ⁵	7,130	477	8	484	492	8	500	2,180
Total reported	23,100	1,510	31	1,540	1,540	24	1,560	6,840

^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.

³Includesterne 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.