

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN AUGUST 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in August 2021 was 1,470 metric tons (t), a 4% decrease from that in July 2021 and a 16% decrease from that in August 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 12,300 t, an 11% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in August 2021 was 3,140 t, a 5% decrease from that in July 2021 and a 15% increase from that in August 2020. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 28,200 t, essentially unchanged 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 August 2021 was \$17.97 per pound, a 12% increase from that in July 2021, and more than double that in August 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for August 2021 was \$15.99 per pound, a 3% increase from that in July 2021, and almost double that in August 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). For the fourth consecutive month, New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages on record. Consumer demand remains high and supply shortages continue as smelters in Indonesia and China struggle to increase production (Home, 2021).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in August 2021 were 2,370 t, a 7% decrease from those in July 2021, and a 22% increase from those in August 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in August 2021 were Peru (37%), Bolivia (14%), Indonesia (14%), Malaysia (14%), and Brazil (10%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 22,200 t, a slight decrease from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (29%), Indonesia (19%), Bolivia (18%), Malaysia (14%) and Brazil (11%). Total refined tin exports in August were 92 t, a decrease of 4 t from those in July 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 862 t, an increase of 557 t from those of the same period of 2020 (table 4).

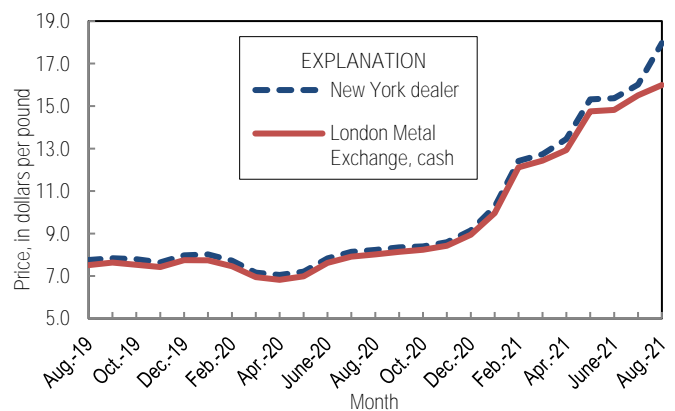


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from August 2019 through August 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Reference Cited

Home, Andy, 2021, Column—Tin hits record highs as global stocks shrink: Reuters, August 18. (Accessed August 19, 2021, at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-metals-tin-ahome-idUSKBN2FJ1BV>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020	2021		
		July	August	January– August ²
Production, secondary ^{6, 3}	10,300	858	858	6,860
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,530	1,470	12,300
Secondary	2,340	30	25	578
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	3,320	3,140	28,200
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,550	2,370	22,200
Exports, refined tin	519	96	92	862
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,460	4,440	4,440
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,601.22	1,796.78	1,419.09
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,550.51	1,599.03	1,356.33

⁶Estimated.

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:		
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
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
May	1,531.50	1,475.28
June	1,536.78	1,482.24
July	1,601.22	1,550.51
August	1,796.78	1,599.03
January–August	1,419.09	1,356.33

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:				
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
May	43,300	455	10.5	82,700
June	40,000	448	11.2	80,800
July	39,700	449	11.3	87,200
August	37,900	440	11.6	90,700
January–August	322,000	3,600	11.2	680,000

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	2020	2021		
		July	August	January– August ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372	20	20	219
Bolivia	5,060	405	321	4,010
Brazil	3,080	323	240	2,360
Indonesia	9,170	727	341	4,300
Malaysia	3,740	475	325	3,210
Peru	8,850	436	869	6,530
Poland	1,080	112	67	899
Thailand	174	--	50	211
Other	111	55	140	425
Total	31,600	2,550	2,370	22,200
Other:				
Alloys	843	80	82	735
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	86	270	1,160
Flakes and powders	129	15	35	149
Foil	47	20	1	52
Plates, sheets, strip	58	6	2	24
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	--	--	26
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,610	1,350	12,800
Miscellaneous ³	1,250	189	170	999
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	96	92	862
Alloys	1,130	48	29	467

-- 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	2021							
	2020	July			August			January– August ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	160	--	160	161	--	161	1,280
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	7	W	7	59
Bronze and brass	1,620	46	22	69	46	17	62	671
Chemicals	4,030	256	--	256	207	--	207	2,060
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	972
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	154
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	449	W	449	440	W	440	3,600
Other ⁵	7,130	477	8	485	477	9	485	4,120
Total reported	23,100	1,530	30	1,560	1,470	25	1,490	12,900

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 tinning chemical solutions.

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