

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in September 2021 was 1,480 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in August 2021 and a 14% decrease from that in September 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 13,800 t, an 11% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in September 2021 was 5,810 t, an 85% increase from that in August 2021 and nearly double that in September 2020 largely due to a significant increase in imports. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 34,000 t, a 9% increase 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 September 2021 was \$17.88 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in August 2021, and more than double that in September 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for September 2021 was \$15.89 per pound, a slight decrease from that in August 2021, and almost double the price in September 2020 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in September 2021 were 5,150 t, more than double those in August 2021 and September 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in September 2021 were Peru (30%), Indonesia (25%), Bolivia (23%), China (9%), and Brazil (5%). The largest monthly increases of refined tin imports came from Indonesia (963 t), Bolivia (862 t), Peru (685 t), and China (371 t). Year to date, refined tin imports were 27,300 t, an 11% increase from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (30%), Indonesia (21%), Bolivia (19%), Malaysia (13%) and Brazil (10%). Total refined tin exports in September were 199 t, a decrease of 107 t from those in August 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 1,060 t, an increase of 722 t from those of the same period of 2020 (table 4).

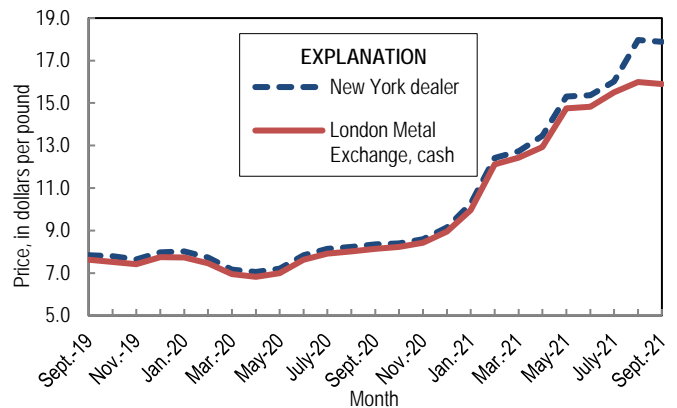


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from September 2019 through September 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

In September 2021, the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials announced that in August, the agency had sold 13 t of stock-piled tin to an undisclosed buyer for \$458,000 (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021).

Reference Cited

Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021, DLA Strategic Materials Announces BOA sales for August 2021: Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, July 1. (Accessed October 21, 2021, at <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3198%20BOA%20All%20Aug%202021%20Sales.pdf?ver=J4QLI2E1hUqC3wXVAnTVBQ%3d%3d>).

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020	2021		
		August	September	January– September ²
Production, secondary ^{6, 3}	10,300	858	858	7,720
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,470	1,480	13,800
Secondary	2,340	25	29	607
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	3,140	5,810	34,000
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,370	5,150	27,300
Exports, refined tin	519	92	199	1,060
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,440	4,530	4,530
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,796.78	1,788.22	1,460.10
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,599.03	1,589.13	1,382.19

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:		
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
September	1,788.22	1,589.13
January–September	1,460.10	1,382.19

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:				
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
September	36,300	433	11.9	90,900
January–September	359,000	4,030	11.3	771,000

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		
		August	September	January–September ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372	20	18	237
Bolivia	5,060	321	1,180	5,190
Brazil	3,080	240	250	2,610
China	(3)	75	446	611
Indonesia	9,170	341	1,300	5,600
Malaysia	3,740	325	225	3,430
Peru	8,850	869	1,550	8,090
Poland	1,080	67	67	966
Thailand	174	50	50	261
Other	111	65 ^r	52	315
Total	31,600	2,370	5,150	27,300
Other:				
Alloys	843	82	47	782
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	270	95	1,260
Flakes and powders	129	35	57	205
Foil	47	1	17	69
Plates, sheets, strip	58	2	7	32
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	--	11	38
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,350	1,260	14,000
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,250	170	162	1,160
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	92	199	1,060
Alloys	1,130	29	28	495

^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.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes 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	August			September			January– September ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	161	--	161	158	--	158	1,440
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	7	W	7	66
Bronze and brass	1,620	46	17	62	46	20	66	737
Chemicals	4,030	207	--	207	229	--	229	2,290
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	1,080
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	173
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	440	W	440	433	W	433	4,030
Other ⁵	7,130	477	9	484	477	8	485	4,610
Total reported	23,100	1,470	25	1,490	1,480	29	1,510	14,400

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.