

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN OCTOBER 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in October 2021 was 1,530 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in September 2021 and a 14% decrease from that in October 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 15,500 t, an 11% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in October 2021 was 3,620 t, a 38% decrease from that in September 2021 and a 26% increase from that in October 2020. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 37,600 t, an 11% increase from that in 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 October 2021 was \$19.14 per pound, a 7% increase from that in September 2021. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for October 2021 was \$17.21 per pound, an 8% increase from that in September 2021. For both exchanges, October average prices were more than double the prices in October 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). In October, New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages on record. Refined tin prices remain high due to limited availability worldwide (De Liz and others, 2021).

### U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in October 2021 were 2,920 t, a 43% decrease than those in September 2021 and a 40% increase from those in October 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in October 2021 were Peru (32%), Indonesia (20%), China (19%), Bolivia (12%), and Brazil (8%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 30,200 t, a 13% increase from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (30%), Indonesia (20%), Bolivia (18%), Malaysia (11%) and Brazil (9%). Total refined tin exports in October were 157 t, a decrease of 42 t from those in September 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 1,220 t, an increase of 798 t from those in the same period of 2020 (table 4).

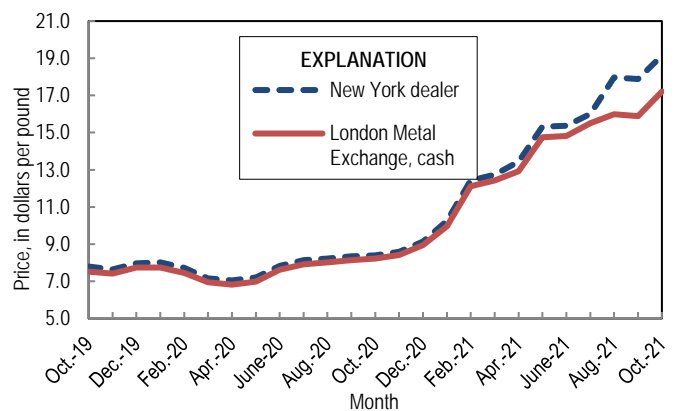


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from October 2019 through October 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

### Update

In October 2021, the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials released its Annual Material Plan for the 2022 fiscal year. The agency plans to potentially dispose up to 4,000 t of stock-piled tin located at its storage facility in Hammond, Indiana (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021).

### References Cited

- De Liz, Ana, O'Sullivan, Orla, and Ju, Yiwen, 2021, Global tin—Premiums diverge as LME prices peak: Fastmarkets AMM., October 19. (Accessed December 14, 2021, via <https://amm.com/>)
- Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021, Annual Materials Plan for FY 2022: Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, October 4. (Accessed October 12, 2021, at <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3199%20FY22%20AMP.pdf?ver=XKpEcK4kDGA0CMqbCAnRAA%3d%3d>)

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2020	2021		
		September	October	January– October <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e, 3</sup>	10,300	858	858	8,580
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,500 <sup>r</sup>	1,530	15,500
Secondary	2,340	29	30	625
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	41,400	5,810	3,620	37,600
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	5,150	2,920	30,200
Exports, refined tin	519	199	157	1,220
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,530	4,510	4,510
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,788.22	1,914.25	1,505.52
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,589.13	1,721.01	1,416.08

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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
2020:		
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
October	1,914.25	1,721.01
January–October	1,505.52	1,416.08

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)	
2020:				
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
October	40,800	457	11.2	95,000
January–October	400,000	4,490	11.3	866,000

<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	2021		
		September	October	January– October <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	372	18	51	288
Bolivia	5,060	1,180	344	5,540
Brazil	3,080	250	239	2,850
China	(3)	446	569	1,180
Indonesia	9,170	1,300	572	6,170
Malaysia	3,740	225	10	3,440
Peru	8,850	1,550	933	9,020
Poland	1,080	67	180	1,150
Thailand	174	50	25	286
Other	111	54 <sup>r</sup>	(3)	315
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,600</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>30,200</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	843	47	179	961
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	95	158	1,420
Flakes and powders	129	57	51	256
Foil	47	17	(3)	69
Plates, sheets, strip	58	7	1	33
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	11	--	38
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,260	2,260	16,300
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	1,250	162	127	1,290
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	519	199	157	1,220
Alloys	1,130	28	72	567

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- 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	2021							
	2020	September			October			January– October <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	2,470	158	--	158	156	--	156	1,600
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	7	W	7	80
Bronze and brass	1,620	46	20	66	46	21	66	804
Chemicals	4,030	248 <sup>r</sup>	--	248 <sup>r</sup>	262	--	262	2,660
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	1,420
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	196
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	5,530	433	W	433	457	W	457	4,510
Other <sup>5</sup>	7,130	477	9 <sup>r</sup>	486 <sup>r</sup>	477	9	486	4,800
Total reported	23,100	1,500 <sup>r</sup>	29	1,530 <sup>r</sup>	1,530	30	1,560	16,100

<sup>1</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>May include revisions to previous published data.

<sup>4</sup>Includesterne metal.

<sup>5</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>6</sup>Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal, and white metal.