

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN NOVEMBER 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in November 2021 was 1,480 metric tons (t), a 3% decrease from that in October 2021 and a 14% decrease from that in November 2020. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 16,900 t, an 11% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in November 2021 was 4,650 t, a 28% increase from that in October 2021 and a 36% increase from that in November 2020. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 42,300 t, a 13% 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 November 2021 was \$19.61 per pound, a slight increase from that in October 2021. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for November 2021 was \$17.83 per pound, a 4% increase from that in October 2021. For both exchanges, November average prices were more than double the prices in November 2020 (fig. 1, table 2). In November, New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages on record. In addition to supply constraints, refined tin prices in November were boosted by the news that the government of Indonesia was considering a ban of refined tin exports to increase the domestic manufacture and export of “semi-finished and finished” tin products (Mining.com, 2021).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in November 2021 were 3,860 t, a 32% increase than those in October 2021 and a 48% increase from those in November 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in November 2021 were Peru (38%), Bolivia (26%), Indonesia (10%), China (7%), and Brazil (6%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 34,100 t, a 16% increase from those in the same period of 2020. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Peru (31%), Bolivia (19%), Indonesia (19%), Malaysia (11%), and Brazil (9%). Total refined tin exports in November were 61 t, a decrease of 96 t from those in October 2021. Year

to date, refined tin exports were 1,280 t, an increase of 811 t from those in the same period of 2020 (table 4).

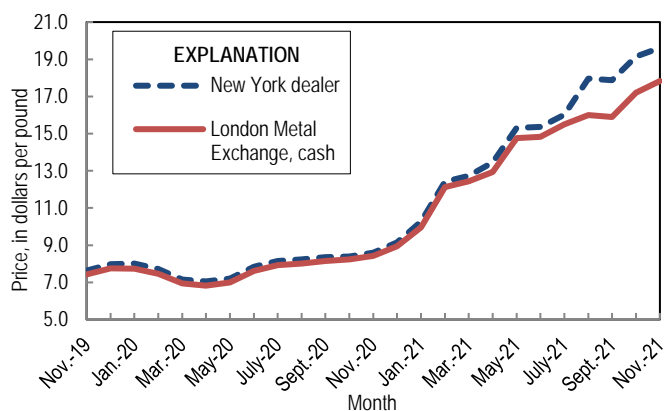


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from November 2019 through November 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

On November 5, 2021, the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials announced that in September, the agency had sold 20 t of stock-piled tin to an undisclosed buyer for \$758,000 (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021).

On November 10, Aurubis AG announced plans to construct a metals recycling plant in the United States within Richmond County, Georgia. The facility will recover multiple metals, including tin, from 90,000 t of recyclable materials. Construction will begin in mid-2022 with commissioning scheduled for the first half of 2024 (Aurubis AG, 2021a, b).

References Cited

Aurubis AG, 2021a, Aurubis and SMS to cooperate in construction of multimetal recycling plant in Georgia (US): Hamburg, Germany, Aurubis AG press release, November 26. (Accessed January 14, 2022, at <https://www.aurubis.com/en/media/press-releases/press-releases-2021/aurubis-and-sms-to-cooperate-in-construction-of-multimetal-recycling-plant-in-georgia-us>.)

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Mining.com, 2021, Soldering on—Tin price surges past \$40,000 after Jakarta jolt: Glacier Media Group, November 24. (Accessed November 24, 2021, at <https://www.mining.com/soldering-on-tin-price-surges-past-40000-after-jakarta-jolt/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2021			
	2020	October	November	January- November ²
Production, secondary ^{6, 3}	10,300	858	858	9,440
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,530	1,480	16,900
Secondary	2,340	30	28	651
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	3,620	4,650	42,300
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	2,920	3,860	34,100
Exports, refined tin	519	157	61	1,280
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,510	4,530	4,530
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,914.25	1,961.25	1,546.95
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,721.01	1,782.94	1,449.43

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:		
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
November	1,961.25	1,782.94
January–November	1,546.95	1,449.43

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:				
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
November	30,700	416	13.5	96,100
January–November	430,000	4,910	11.5	962,000

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		
		October	November	January– November ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372	51	35	323
Bolivia	5,060	344	1,020	6,560
Brazil	3,080	239	244	3,090
China	(3)	569	285	1,470
Indonesia	9,170	572	397	6,570
Malaysia	3,740	10	210	3,650
Peru	8,850	933	1,450	10,500
Poland	1,080	180	45	1,190
Thailand	174	25	1	287
Other	111	(3)	171	486
Total	31,600	2,920	3,860	34,100
Other:				
Alloys	843	179	105	1,070
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	158	128	1,540
Flakes and powders	129	51	29	286
Foil	47	(3)	14	83
Plates, sheets, strip	58	1	2	35
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	--	(3)	38
Waste and scrap	20,700	2,260	1,080	17,400
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,250	127	85	1,370
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	157	61	1,280
Alloys	1,130	72	44	611

-- 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	October			November			January– November ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	156	--	156	160	--	160	1,750
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	7	W	7	83
Bronze and brass	1,620	46	21	66	49	19	69	873
Chemicals	4,030	262	--	262	245	--	245	2,910
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	1,300
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	216
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	457	W	457	416	W	416	4,910
Other ⁵	7,130	477	9	486	477	8	485	5,550
Total reported	23,100	1,530	30	1,560	1,480	28	1,510	17,600

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 bar tin and anodes, britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal, and white metal.