

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN DECEMBER 2021

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in December 2021 was 1,490 metric tons (t), essentially unchanged from that in November 2021 and a 13% decrease from that in December 2020. For 2021, annual domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 18,400 t, an 11% decrease from that in 2020. Apparent consumption of refined tin in December 2021 was 5,040 t, an 8% increase from that in November 2021 and a 63% increase from that in December 2020. For 2021, annual apparent consumption of refined tin was 47,300 t, a 17% increase from that in 2020, which was largely driven by an increase in imports (table 1).

Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for December 2021 was \$19.44 per pound, a slight decrease from that in November 2021, and more than double that in December 2020. For 2021, the annual average New York dealer price of Grade A tin was \$15.80 per pound, a 98% increase from that in 2020. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for December 2021 was \$17.94 per pound, a slight increase from that in November 2021, and double that in December 2020. For 2021, the annual average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin was \$14.78 per pound, a 90% increase from that in 2020 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in December 2021 were 4,200 t, a 9% increase from those in November 2021 and an 85% increase from those in December 2020. The leading sources of refined tin in December 2021 were Indonesia (44%), Peru (22%), Brazil (9%), Malaysia (9%), and Bolivia (6%). For 2021, annual refined tin imports were 38,300 t, a 21% increase from those in 2020. In 2021, the leading sources of refined tin were Peru (30%), Indonesia (22%), Bolivia (18%), Malaysia (11%), and Brazil (9%). Total refined tin exports in December were 22 t, a decrease of 39 t from those in November 2021. For 2021, annual refined tin exports were 1,300 t, an increase of 781 t from those in 2020 (table 4).

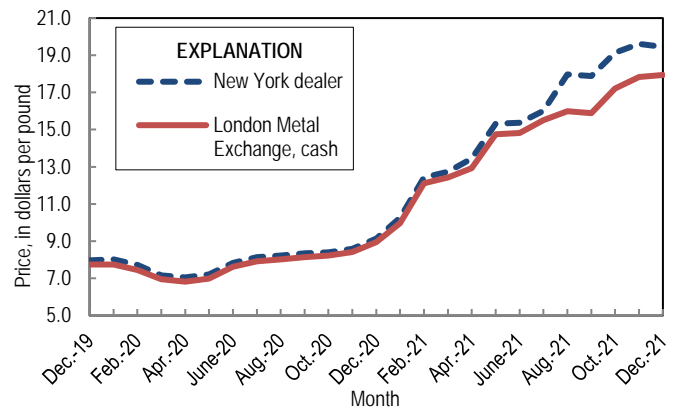


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from December 2019 through December 2021. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Update

On December 6, 2021, the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials announced that in November, the agency had sold 20 t of stock-piled tin to an undisclosed buyer for \$799,000 (Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021).

According to the International Tin Association Ltd. (2022), global production by refined tin producers increased by an estimated 11% in 2021 from that of 2020. The world's leading refined tin producers and their production in 2021 (in metric tons) were, in descending order:

Company	Production
1. Yunnan Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	82,000
2. Minsur S.A. (Peru)	31,843
3. PT Timah (Persero) Tbk (Indonesia)	26,500
4. Yunnan Chengfeng Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd. (China)	17,000
5. Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	16,400
6. Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thailand)	12,100
7. Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto SA (Bolivia)	12,100
8. Jiangxi New Nanshan Technology Ltd. (China)	11,600
9. Aurubis Beerse NV (Belgium)	9,800
10. Guangxi China Tin Group Co. Ltd. (China)	9,200

The top ten companies in 2021 produced 59% of refined tin worldwide compared with 67% in 2020. The Yunnan Tin Group

Co. Ltd. was the top producer in 2021, producing nearly 10% more tin than in 2020. Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto SA experienced the greatest production increase of 70%, to 12,100 t in 2021 from 7,100 t in 2020, while PT Timah (Persero) Tbk had the greatest production decrease of 42%, to 26,500 t in 2021 from 45,700 t in 2020. Chinese and South American smelters showed signs of recovery from global COVID-19 pandemic related closures as five out of the six top producers from those regions increased production in 2021 (International Tin Association Ltd., 2022).

References Cited

- Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, 2021, DLA Strategic Materials Announces BOA sales for November 2021: Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, December 6. (Accessed December 14, 2021, at https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/Strategic%20Materials/Announcements/3204%20BOA%20All%20Nov%202021%20Sales_1.pdf?ver=29KJRp46DAnF85nlfuTF7g%3d%3d.)
- International Tin Association Ltd., 2022, Global tin production rebounds in 2021: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd., February 14. (Accessed February 14, 2022, <https://www.internationaltin.org/global-tin-production-rebounds-in-2021/>.)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2021			
	2020	November	December	January– December ²
Production, secondary ^{6, 3}	10,300	858	858	10,300
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,800	1,480	1,490	18,400
Secondary	2,340	28	28	680
Consumption, apparent ⁴	41,400	4,650	5,040	47,300
Imports for consumption, refined tin	31,600	3,860	4,200	38,300
Exports, refined tin	519	61	22	1,300
Stocks at end of period	5,150	4,530	4,530	4,530
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	798.65	1,961.25	1,944.29	1,580.06
London Metal Exchange cash	777.15	1,782.94	1,794.01	1,478.14

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:		
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
December	1,944.29	1,794.01
January–December	1,580.06	1,478.14

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:				
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
December	39,300	440	11.2	109,000
January–December	470,000	5,350	11.4	1,070,000

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		January– December ²
		November	December	
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	372	35	--	323
Bolivia	5,060	1,020	267	6,830
Brazil	3,080	244	374	3,470
China	(3)	285	90	1,560
India	--	--	176	176
Indonesia	9,170	397	1,840	8,410
Malaysia	3,740	210	390	4,040
Peru	8,850	1,450	942	11,400
Poland	1,080	45	97	1,290
Thailand	174	1	1	287
Other	111	171	21	507
Total	31,600	3,860	4,200	38,300
Other:				
Alloys	843	105	44	1,110
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,160	128	226	1,770
Flakes and powders	129	29	13	299
Foil	47	14	27	110
Plates, sheets, strip	58	2	3	38
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	10	(3)	(3)	38
Waste and scrap	20,700	1,080	1,230	18,600
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,250	85	138	1,510
Exports:				
Refined tin	519	61	22	1,300
Alloys	1,130	44	19	630

-- 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	November			December			January– December ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,470	160	--	160	156	--	156	1,910
Babbitt	102	7	W	7	7	W	7	90
Bronze and brass	1,620	49	19	69	48	20	68	936
Chemicals	4,030	245	--	245	231	--	231	3,140
Solder	2,010	110	W	110	110	W	110	1,410
Tinning	228	19	--	19	19	--	19	235
Tinplate ⁴	5,530	416	W	416	440	W	440	5,350
Other ⁵	7,130	477	8	485	477	8	484	6,040
Total reported	23,100	1,480	28	1,510	1,490	28	1,520	19,100

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.