

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MARCH 2022

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in March 2022 was 1,520 metric tons (t), unchanged from that in February 2022 and essentially unchanged from that in March 2021. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 4,570 t, a 6% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2021. Apparent consumption of refined tin in March 2022 was 3,850 t, a 14% increase from that in February 2022 and a 25% decrease from that in March 2021. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 12,700 t, an 11% increase from that in the same period of 2021 (table 1).

Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for March 2022 was \$21.75 per pound, a slight increase from that in February 2022, and a 71% increase from that in March 2021. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for March 2022 was \$20.06 per pound, unchanged from that in February 2022, and a 61% increase from that in March 2021 (fig. 1, table 2). In March, New York dealer and London Metal Exchange tin prices reached their highest monthly averages on record. March’s high prices were owing to supply constraints, low production, and indirect impacts from “Russia’s invasion of Ukraine” (Barich, 2022).

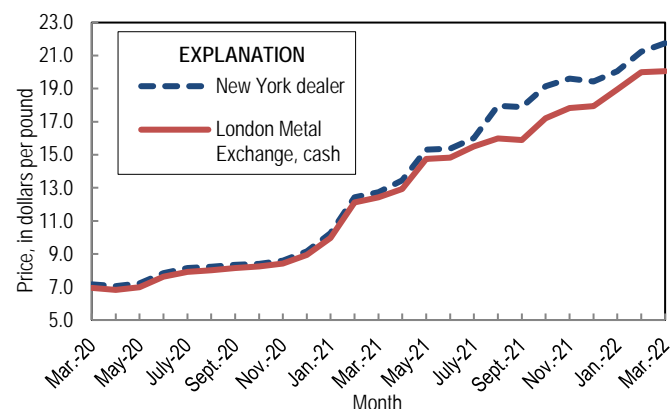


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from March 2020 through March 2022. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in March 2022 were 3,090 t, a 21% increase from those in February 2022 and a 30% decrease from those in March 2021. The leading sources of refined tin in March 2022 were Peru (35%), Bolivia (32%), Indonesia (15%), Brazil (10%), and Poland (4%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 10,360 t, a 12% increase from those in the same period of 2021. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Bolivia (26%), Peru (26%), Indonesia (23%), Brazil (12%), and Malaysia (6%). Total refined tin exports in March 2022 were 98 t, an increase of 71 t from those in February 2022 and a decrease of 25 t from those in March 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 233 t, a decrease of 93 t from those in the same period of 2021 (table 4).

News

In March, Alphamin Resources Corp. announced that it would begin development of its Mpama South deposit and associated processing facility. The expansion at the Mpama complex was expected to increase the mine’s total annual tin production by 7,232 t to approximately 20,000 t. Tin production at the Mpama South deposit was expected to begin in December 2023. The company updated indicated and inferred resources at the deposit to 105,000 t of contained tin (Alphamin Resources Corp., 2022).

References Cited

Alphamin Resources Corp., 2022, Alphamin announces an updated Mpama South mineral resource estimate and the decision to commence with development: Grand-Baie, Mauritius, Alphamin Resources Corp. press release, March 29. (Accessed May 12, 2022, at <https://alphaminresources.com/2022/03/29/alphamin-announces-an-updated-mpama-south-mineral-resource-estimate-and-the-decision-to-commence-with-development/>.)
 Barich, Anthony, 2022, Tin soars to record high, dives as investors cash in and supply worries ease: S&P Global Market Intelligence LLC, March 24. (Accessed May 13, 2022, via <https://spglobal.com/>)

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2022			
	2021 ^P	February	March	January– March ²
Production, secondary ^{e,3}	10,300	858	858	2,570
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	18,400	1,520	1,520	4,570
Secondary	680	22	19	62
Consumption, apparent ⁴	47,300	3,380	3,850	12,700
Imports for consumption, refined tin	38,300	2,550	3,090	10,400
Exports, refined tin	1,300	27	98	233
Stocks at end of period	4,550	5,060 ^r	4,930	4,930
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,580.06	2,123.63	2,175.11	2,101.21
London Metal Exchange cash	1,478.14	2,000.53	2,005.83	1,967.30

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
2021:		
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
2022:		
January	2,004.89	1,895.55
February	2,123.63	2,000.53
March	2,175.11	2,005.83
January–March	2,101.21	1,967.30

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)	
2021:				
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
2022:				
January	37,100	439	11.8	72,400
February	33,600	416	12.4	72,900
March	41,000	443	10.8	76,300
January–March	112,000	1,300	11.7	222,000

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	2022			
	2021 ^p	February	March	January– March ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	323	3	66	104
Bolivia	6,830	1,020	1,000	2,710
Brazil	3,470	283	294	1,240
China	1,560	--	--	--
Indonesia	8,410	297	456	2,340
Malaysia	4,040	18	10	593
Peru	11,400	761	1,080	2,740
Poland	1,290	103	132	357
Thailand	287	45	20	115
Other	684	19	29	167
Total	38,300	2,550	3,090	10,400
Other:				
Alloys	1,110	43	61	164
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,770	127	156	378
Flakes and powders	299	89	42	140
Foil	110	1	3	5
Plates, sheets, strip	38	(3)	(3)	1
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	38	(3)	--	(3)
Waste and scrap	18,600	831	1,190	2,720
Miscellaneous ⁴	1,510	285	208	743
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,300	27	98	233
Alloys	630	15	33	83

^pPreliminary. -- 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	2022							
	2021 ^p	February			March			January– March ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	1,910	160	--	160	152	--	152	469
Babbitt	96	7	W	7	7	W	7	22
Bronze and brass	936	73	13	86	54	10	64	214
Chemicals	3,140	248	--	248	254	--	254	764
Solder	1,650	116	W	116	116	W	116	348
Tinning	235	19	--	19	19	--	19	58
Tinplate ⁴	5,370	416	W	416	443	W	443	1,300
Other ⁵	5,760	479	8	487	479	9	488	1,460
Total reported	19,100	1,520	22	1,540	1,520	19	1,540	4,630

^pPreliminary. 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 tinplating chemical solutions.

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