

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN APRIL 2022

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in April 2022 was 1,520 metric tons (t), unchanged from the revised consumption in March 2022 and essentially unchanged from that in April 2021. Year to date, domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin was 6,100 t, a 4% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2021. Apparent consumption of refined tin in April 2022 was 3,570 t, a 7% decrease from that in March 2022 and a 6% increase from that in April 2021. Year to date, apparent consumption of refined tin was 16,300 t, a 10% 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 April 2022 was \$21.39 per pound, a slight decrease from that in March 2022, and a 59% increase from that in April 2021. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for April 2022 was \$19.55 per pound, a 3% decrease from that in March 2022, and a 51% increase from that in April 2021 (fig. 1, table 2).

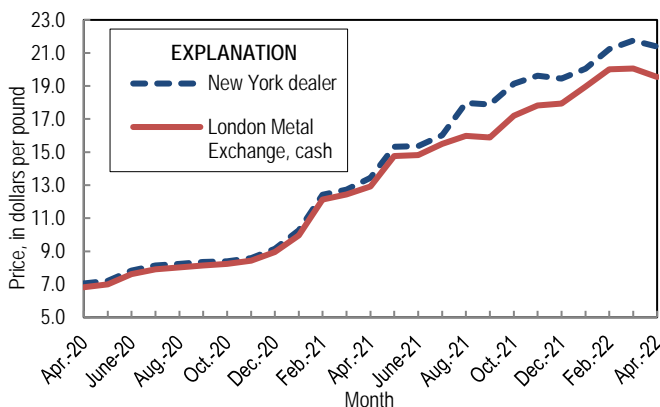


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from April 2020 through April 2022. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

## U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in April 2022 were 2,900 t, a 6% decrease from those in March 2022 and a 10% increase from those in April 2021. The leading sources of refined tin in April 2022 were Bolivia (28%), Peru (25%), Indonesia (23%), and

Brazil (18%). Year to date, refined tin imports were 13,300 t, a 13% increase from those in the same period of 2021. Year to date, leading sources of refined tin were Bolivia (26%), Peru (26%), Indonesia (23%), and Brazil (13%). Total refined tin exports in April 2022 were 186 t, an increase of 88 t from those in March 2022 and an increase of 36 t from those in April 2021. Year to date, refined tin exports were 420 t, a decrease of 57 t from those in the same period of 2021 (table 4).

## News

In April, a strike by truck drivers and elevated liquified natural gas prices have caused W Resources PLC to suspend operations at its La Parrilla tungsten-tin mine in Spain. The disruptions halted delivery of crucial spare-parts and shipments of tin and tungsten concentrates. The company reports that its subsidiary, Iberian Resources Spain SL, has limited cash and faces “significant financial pressure” owing to the suspension at the mine (Ramanathan, 2022; Toboada, 2022).

In April, a COVID-19 outbreak has led Chinese tin producer Yunnan Tin Co. to temporarily suspend operations at its Yunnan Hualian Zinc and Indium Co. Ltd operated mine in Maguan, Yunnan, China. According to the International Tin association, Yunnan Tin Co. is the world’s largest producer of tin (Chen, 2022; International Tin Association, 2022).

## References Cited

- Chen, Avery, 2022, Yunnan Tin halts production amid new COVID-19 outbreak: S&P Global Market Intelligence LLC, April 19. (Accessed April 19, 2022, via <https://spglobal.com/>.)
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TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2022			
	2021 <sup>P</sup>	March	April	January–April <sup>2</sup>
Production, secondary <sup>e,3</sup>	10,300	858	858	3,430
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	18,400	1,530 <sup>r</sup>	1,520	6,100
Secondary	680	18 <sup>r</sup>	19	80
Consumption, apparent <sup>4</sup>	47,100 <sup>r</sup>	3,850	3,570	16,300
Imports for consumption, refined tin	38,100 <sup>r</sup>	3,090	2,900	13,300
Exports, refined tin	1,290 <sup>r</sup>	98	186	420
Stocks at end of period	4,550	4,940 <sup>r</sup>	4,750	4,750
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>5</sup>				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,580.06	2,175.11	2,139.00	2,110.66
London Metal Exchange cash	1,478.14	2,005.83	1,954.97	1,964.22

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <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
2021:		
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
April	2,139.00	1,954.97
January–April	2,110.66	1,964.22

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)	
<b>2021:</b>				
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
<b>2022:</b>				
January	37,100	439	11.8	72,400
February	33,600	416	12.4	72,900
March	41,000	443	10.8	76,300
April	40,300	380	9.4	85,900
January–April	152,000	1,680	11.1	308,000

<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	2021 <sup>p</sup>	2022		
		March	April	January- April <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Refined tin:</b>				
Belgium	323	66	21	125
Bolivia	6,830	1,000	803	3,510
Brazil	3,470	294	526	1,770
China	1,560	--	--	--
Indonesia	8,410	456	654	2,990
Malaysia	3,870 <sup>r</sup>	10	--	593
Peru	11,400	1,080	721	3,460
Poland	1,290	132	90	447
Thailand	287	20	20	135
Other	684	29	62	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,100<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>13,300</b>
<b>Other:</b>				
Alloys	1,110	61	65	228
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,770	156	159	537
Flakes and powders	300 <sup>r</sup>	42	19	159
Foil	110	3	(3)	5
Plates, sheets, strip	38	(3)	(3)	1
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	38	--	1	1
Waste and scrap	18,600	1,190	803	3,520
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	1,560 <sup>r</sup>	208	145	888
<b>Exports:</b>				
Refined tin	1,290 <sup>r</sup>	98	186	420
Alloys	630	33	15	98

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <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 <sup>p</sup>	2022						
		March			April			January- April <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	1,910	155 <sup>r</sup>	--	155 <sup>r</sup>	154	--	154	627
Babbitt	96	7	W	7	7	W	7	30
Bronze and brass	936	54	10	64	54	10	65	278
Chemicals	3,140	254	--	254	249	--	249	1,010
Solder	1,650	116	W	116	177	W	177	525
Tinning	235	19	--	19	19	--	19	78
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	5,370	443	W	443	380	W	380	1,680
Other <sup>5</sup>	5,760	479	8 <sup>r</sup>	487 <sup>r</sup>	479	8	487	1,950
Total reported	19,100	1,530 <sup>r</sup>	18 <sup>r</sup>	1,550 <sup>r</sup>	1,520	19	1,540	6,180

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- 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>Includesterne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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