

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JUNE 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in June 2019 was 1,720 metric tons (t), slightly more than the reported primary consumption in May 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in June 2019 was 2,820 t, 9% less than the apparent consumption in May 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for June 2019 was \$8.88 per pound, a slight decrease from \$9.03 per pound in May 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for June 2019 was \$8.69 per pound, a slight decrease from \$8.85 per pound in May 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in June 2019 were 2,130 t, a 14% decrease from the 2,470 t of imports in May 2019 (table 4). This decrease was primarily driven by decreased imports from, in descending order, Bolivia and Brazil, but offset somewhat by increased imports from, in descending order, Poland, Malaysia and Peru. The leading sources of refined tin in June 2019 were Peru (32%), Malaysia (19%), China (13%), and Brazil (11%), and Bolivia (10%).

Update

14 Chinese refined tin companies planned to reduce their production by 10%, or 20,000 t in 2019. The companies included, in decreasing order of 2018 production, Yunnan Tin Group (Holding) Co. Ltd. (77,789 t), Yunnan Chengfeng Nonferrous Metals Co., Ltd. (22,900 t), and Guangxi China Tin Group Co. Ltd. (9,219 t); three of the top ten producers of refined tin in the world. Tin concentrate availability has been limited, driven by the closure of the Baiyinchagan Mine in Inner Mongolia and the reduced concentrate imports from Burma. Market conditions have also created thin margins, with low tin prices on the London Metal Exchange and the Shanghai Futures Exchange (Argus Metals International, 2019; International Tin Association Ltd, 2019a, b).

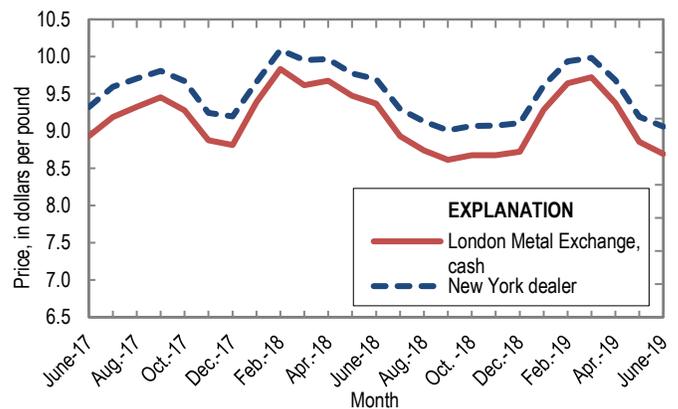


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from June 2017 through June 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019			
	2018 ^p	May	June	January– June
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	10,300	858	858	4,290
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,690	1,720	10,000
Secondary	2,400	185	197	1,160
Consumption, apparent ³	46,100	3,080	2,820	22,300
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	2,470	2,130	18,700
Exports, refined tin	962	248	171	750
Stocks at end of period	5,570	5,540 ^r	5,420	5,420
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	902.88	888.00	954.70
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	885.42	869.23	926.33

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

³Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

⁴Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash
2018:		
June	959.63	936.76
July	914.44	893.09
August	895.89	873.96
September	882.38	861.35
October	889.00	867.37
November	889.38	867.72
December	893.57	872.33
January–December	935.87	914.31
2019:		
January	949.88	928.81
February	985.63	964.47
March	991.88	972.45
April	958.11	937.61
May	902.88	885.42
June	888.00	869.23
January–June	954.70	926.33

Source: 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)	
2018:				
June	43,800	385	8.8	83,800
July	41,900	387	9.3	80,100
August	44,800	387	8.6	91,600
September	39,800	381	9.6	79,000
October	45,400	381	12.2	100,000
November	40,100	384	9.6	88,000
December	42,100	389	9.1	88,900
January–December	487,000	4,600	9.7	985,000
2019:				
January	30,600	399	13.0	76,100
February	45,100	432	9.6	81,500
March	42,000	390	9.3	72,800
April	42,600	383	9.0	70,900
May	44,800	390 ^r	8.7	86,000
June	47,200	413	8.7	75,300
January–June	252,000	2,410	9.7	463,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS¹

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Country/locality, or product	2018 ^p	2019		January – June
		May	June	
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	112	42	22	171
Bolivia	6,310	579	205	3,230
Brazil	2,740	282	224	1,380
China	1,310	300	275	1,340
Estonia	--	--	--	480
Hong Kong	100	--	--	100
Indonesia	10,500	100	--	1,930
Malaysia	7,590	315	400	4,110
Peru	6,660	635	686	4,230
Poland	731	45	132	603
Russia	--	101	101	845
Thailand	422	71	66	298
Other	301	(2)	20	41
Total	36,800	2,470	2,130	18,700
Other:				
Alloys	1,430	54	87	509
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	132	136	768
Flakes and powders	189	12	10	65
Foil	91	12	1	15
Plates, sheets, strip	89	7	5	26
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	44	25	106
Waste and scrap	47,700	3,460	2,510	18,400
Miscellaneous ³	1,060	84	52	426
Exports:				
Refined tin	962	248	171	750
Alloys	885	75	51	414

^pPreliminary. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes 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	2019							
	2018 ^p	May			June			January– June ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,230	170	--	170	170	--	170	1,020
Babbitt	231	15	W	15	45	W	45	127
Bronze and brass	1,720	62 ^r	78 ^r	140	59	80	139	840
Chemicals	3,850	353	--	353	333	W	333	2,010
Solder	3,630	174 ^r	W	174	174	W	174	1,710
Tinning	269	23	--	23	23	--	23	137
Tinplate ⁴	4,680	390	W	390	413	W	413	2,420
Other ⁵	5,900	478	117	594	503	117	620	2,910
Total reported	22,500	1,670 ^r	194 ^r	1,860	1,720	197	1,920	11,200

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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 previously published data.

³Includes terne metal.

⁴Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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