

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

C. Schuyler Anderson, Tin Commodity Specialist
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
 Email: csanderson@usgs.gov

Robin Kaiser (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7948
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 Email: rkaiser@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

TIN IN JULY 2019

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in July 2019 was 1,660 metric tons (t), 5% less than the revised primary consumption in June 2019. Apparent consumption of refined tin in July 2019 was 3,700 t, 31% more than the apparent consumption in June 2019 (table 1).

Prices

The Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for July 2019 was \$8.40 per pound, a 5% decrease from \$8.88 per pound in June 2019. The average London Metal Exchange cash price of Grade A tin for July 2019 was \$8.16 per pound, a 6% decrease from \$8.69 per pound in June 2019 (fig. 1, table 2).

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in July 2019 were 2,940 t, a 38% increase from the 2,130 t of imports in June 2019 (table 4). This increase was primarily driven by increased imports from, in descending order, Indonesia, Bolivia and Brazil. The leading sources of refined tin in July 2019 were Peru (25%), Bolivia (23%), Indonesia (20%), Malaysia (14%), and Brazil (11%).

Update

On October 4, Indonesian state-owned PT Timah Tbk., the second leading producer of tin in the world, announced plans to reduce refined tin exports by 2,000 tons per month, reaffirming an announcement made in September. Low tin prices were cited as the reason for the reduction in exports (International Tin Association Ltd., 2019c).

On October 16, Alphamin Resources Corp. announced the production of 2,500 t of tin in concentrate in the third quarter of 2019 from the Bisie project in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This was an increase of 269% from the previous quarter. The Bisie project has an estimated full capacity of over 12,000 tons of tin concentrate per year (International Tin Association Ltd., 2019a, b).

On October 25, the London Metal Exchange announced its new responsible sourcing requirements. The requirements are based upon four principles—the combination of transparency and

standards; non-discrimination between large-scale mining and artisanal/small scale mining; adherence to well-established work in the sector; and a pragmatic and clear process. Compliance with these requirements is expected to begin in 2022 and reach full compliance by 2023 (London Metal Exchange, 2019).

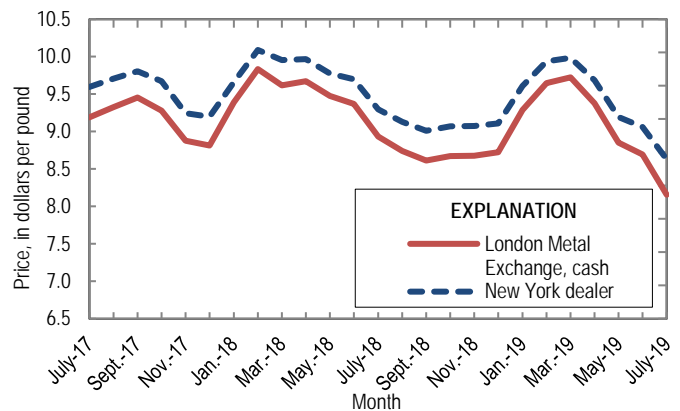


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from July 2017 through July 2019. Source: Platts Metals Week.

References Cited

- London Metal Exchange, 2019, LME sets out responsible sourcing requirements: London Metal Exchange news release, October 25 (Accessed November 1, at <https://www.lme.com/News/Press-room/Press-releases/Press-releases/2019/10/LME-sets-out-responsible-sourcing-requirements/>.)
- International Tin Association Ltd., 2019a, Alphamin begins final commissioning: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, July 19. (Accessed November 1, 2019, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/alphamin-final-commissioning/>.)
- International Tin Association Ltd., 2019b, Production triples at Bisie: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, October 17. (Accessed November 1, 2019, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/production-triples-at-bisie/>.)
- International Tin Association Ltd., 2019c, PT TIMAH confirm export cuts: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd. news release, October 8. (Accessed November 1, 2019, at <https://www.internationaltin.org/pt-timah-confirm-export-cuts/>.)

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2019			
	2018 ^p	June	July	January– July
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	10,300	858	858	5,150
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	20,100	1,750 ^r	1,660	11,800
Secondary	2,400	197	194	1,350
Consumption, apparent ³	46,100	2,820	3,700	26,000
Imports for consumption, refined tin	36,800	2,130	2,940	21,700
Exports, refined tin	962	171	94	844
Stocks at end of period	5,570	5,390 ^r	5,350	5,350
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁴				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	935.87	888.00	839.50	930.84
London Metal Exchange cash	914.31	869.23	815.62	910.52

^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:		
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
July	839.50	815.62
January–July	930.84	910.52

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:				
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	8.7	86,000
June	47,200	413	8.7	75,500
July	37,100	384	10.3	75,500
January–July	289,000	2,790	9.8	538,000

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	2018 ^p	2019		January – July
		June	July	
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	112	22	39	210
Bolivia	6,310	205	665	3,890
Brazil	2,740	224	324	1,700
Chile	--	--	60	60
China	1,310	275	--	1,340
Indonesia	10,500	--	595	2,530
Malaysia	7,590	400	420	4,530
Peru	6,660	686	721	4,950
Poland	731	132	90	693
Russia	--	101	--	845
Thailand	422	66	25	323
United Kingdom	--	20	--	20
Other	401 ^r	-- ^r	1	602
Total	36,800	2,130	2,940	21,700
Other:				
Alloys	1,430	87	81	590
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,460	136	86	854
Flakes and powders	189	10	6	71
Foil	91	1	14	30
Plates, sheets, strip	89	5	6	32
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	143	25	12	118
Waste and scrap	47,700	2,510	2,050	20,400
Miscellaneous ²	1,060	52	157	583
Exports:				
Refined tin	962	171	94	844
Alloys	885	51	59	473

^pPreliminary. -- Zero.

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

²Includes 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	June			July			January– July ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	2,230	196 ^r	--	196 ^r	196	--	196	1,350
Babbitt	231	45	W	45	15	W	15	142
Bronze and brass	1,720	59	80	139	60	77	138	978
Chemicals	3,850	333	-- ^r	333	329	--	329	2,340
Solder	3,630	174	W	174	171	W	171	1,880
Tinning	269	23	--	23	25	--	25	162
Tinplate ⁴	4,680	413	W	413	384	W	384	2,810
Other ⁵	5,900	503	117	620	478	117	595	3,500
Total reported	22,500	1,750 ^r	197	1,940 ^r	1,660	194	1,850	13,200

^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.

³Includesterne 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.