Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JANUARY 2023

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in January 2023 was 1,520 metric tons (t), a 5% increase from the reported consumption in December 2022 and essentially unchanged from that in January 2022. Apparent consumption of refined tin in January 2023 was 3,330 t, a 5% decrease from that in December 2022 and a 39% decrease from that in January 2022 (table 1).

Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for January 2023 was $13.57 per pound, a 16% increase from that in December 2022, and a 32% decrease from that in January 2022. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for January 2023 was $12.73 per pound, a 17% increase from that in December 2022, and a 33% decrease from that in January 2022 (fig. 1, table 2).

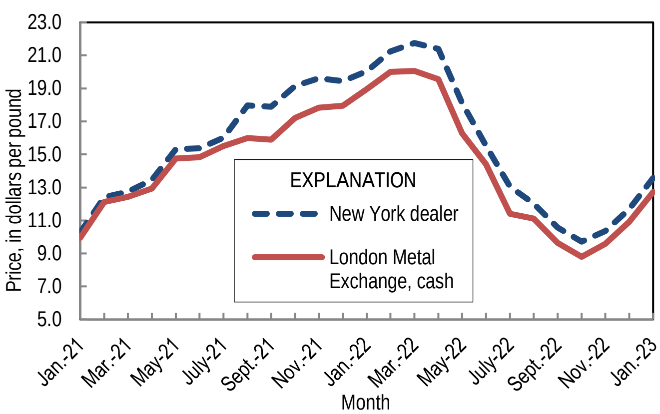

Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from January 2021 through January 2023. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in January 2023 were 2,530 t, a 7% decrease from those in December 2022 and a 46% decrease from those in January 2022. The leading sources of refined tin in January 2022 were Peru (26%), Brazil (25%), Bolivia (22%), and Indonesia (11%). Total refined tin exports in January 2023 were 58 t, a decrease of 12 t from those in December 2022 and a decrease of 51 t from those in January 2022 (table 4).

Industry News

In January, Andrada Mining Ltd. of Guernsey [United Kingdom] (formerly AfriTin Mining Ltd.) announced the definitive feasibility study results for its 85% owned Uis tin mine in Namibia's Erongo region. The company reported an entire resource portfolio of approximately 128 Mt of ore with a gross combined content of 170,000 t of tin (Andrada Mining Ltd., 2023). The non-controlling 15% interest in the project is owned by the Small Miners of Uis, a non-profit association incorporated in Namibia and established by the Ministry of Mines and Energy to act on behalf of small-scale miners across Namibia (Andrada Mining Ltd., 2022, p. 74).

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. and the United Steelworkers union announced a partnership in filing antidumping and countervailing duty petitions against Canada, China, Germany, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom for unfairly traded tin mill products. The group stated that imports of tin mill products from each country are being sold in the United States at less than normal value and that imports from China benefit from countervailable subsidies. Additionally, the group claimed that dumped and subsidized imports from the countries had taken sales from the domestic industry and made it impossible to obtain a fair rate of return on domestic operations, putting the future of American-made tin mill products at risk (Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., 2023).

According to the International Tin Association, Minsur S.A. (Peru) has suspended operations at its San Rafael tin mine in Puno, Peru, due to ongoing protests between supporters of the recently ousted president, Pedro Castillo, and security forces. Minsur cited concerns for staff safety and road blockages that prevented transportation to the mine (International Tin Association Ltd., 2023).

Metals X Ltd. (Australia) reported the completion of stage 1 of the definitive feasibility study for its Rentails tin operation in Tasmania. Further, the company announced that all key optionality and project configuration issues were resolved, except the Thermal Upgrade Plant Furnace Technology selection. Metallurgical performance trials of both Box fumer and Ausmelt Top Submerged Lance technologies are expected to occur throughout 2023 to determine the performance of the two technologies in terms of tin recovery, final product quality, fuel consumption, fluxing requirements, and furnace capacity (Metals X Ltd., 2023).

Tungsten West Plc. (the United Kingdom) announced an updated definitive feasibility value for its wholly owned and operated Hemerdon tungsten and tin mine in Devon, United Kingdom. In December, Tungsten West reported that Hemerdon had a mineral resource estimate of 351.5 Mt at 0.12% WO_3 and 0.03% tin. In January, it highlighted an expected average annual production of 2,900 t of WO_3 in concentrate and 310 t of tin in concentrate, a life of mine expectancy of 27 years, and an average yearly mining rate of 3.5 Mt (Tungsten West Plc., 2023).

References Cited

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2022		2023
	Year	December	January
Production, secondary[e, 2]	10,300	858	858
Consumption, reported:			
Primary	18,000	1,450	1,520
Secondary	311	22	28
Consumption, apparent[3]	42,300	3,510	3,330
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,300	2,720	2,530
Exports, refined tin	1,300	70	58
Stocks at end of period	5,020	5,020	4,910
Prices (average cents per pound):[4]			
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,545.94	1,170.25	1,356.78
London Metal Exchange cash	1,422.55	1,092.02	1,272.70

[e]Estimated.

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

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

[3]Defined as secondary production plus imports minus exports.

[4]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
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
May	1,812.78	1,629.00
June	1,552.75	1,440.15
July	1,305.75	1,140.64
August	1,201.89	1,111.05
September	1,057.78	963.59
October	971.56	879.56
November	1,035.87	957.71
December	1,170.25	1,092.02
January–December	1,545.94	1,422.55
2023, January	1,356.78	1,272.70

Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3

TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	Tinplate (all forms)			
	Production			
Period	Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments[2] (gross weight)
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
April	40,300	380	9.4	85,900
May	44,900	449	10.0	86,100
June	42,400	443	10.4	88,100
July	42,100	443	10.5	71,100
August	41,800	430	10.3	78,000
September	36,200	420	11.6	71,600
October	32,700	429	13.1	67,300
November	36,200	400	11.0	69,400
December	31,700	410	13.0	54,900
January–December	460,000	5,100	11.1 [r]	894,000
2023, January	29,900	405	13.5	62,400

[r]Revised.

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

[2]Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS[1]

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Country/locality, or product	2022 Year[p]	2022 December	2023 January
Imports:			
Refined tin:			
Belgium	433	63	59
Bolivia	10,600	1,100	550
Brazil	4,390	399	625
Canada	281	20	19
Indonesia	5,250	196	285
Malaysia	878	50	160
Peru	9,470	723	664
Poland	1,370	135 r	67
Thailand	279	26	25
Other	335 r	11 r	75
Total	33,300	2,720	2,530
Other:			
Alloys	735	62	73
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,510	101	108
Flakes and powders	308	8	8
Foil	90	(2)	1
Plates, sheets, strip	6	(2)	(2)
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	19	1	4
Waste and scrap	11,600	897	659
Miscellaneous[3]	2,020	94	116
Exports:			
Refined tin	1,300	70	58
Alloys	531	8	46

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Less than ½ unit.
[3]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[1]

(Metric tons of contained tin)

	2022				2023		
		December			January		
Product	Year[p]	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous)[2]	1,910 [r]	158	--	158	156	--	156
Babbitt	112 [r]	10	W	10	11	W	11
Bronze and brass	810	61	12	73	58	14	72
Chemicals	2,800	180	--	180	233	--	233
Solder	1,600 [r]	134	W	134	152	W	152
Tinning	233	19	--	19	28	--	28
Tinplate[3]	5,120 [r]	410	W	410	405	W	405
Other[4]	5,770 [r]	479	9	488	479	15	494
Total reported	18,400	1,450	22	1,470	1,520	28	1,550

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with “Other.” -- Zero.

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

[2]Includes terne metal.

[3]Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

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