

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Chad Friedline, Tin Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-7713
Email: cfriedline@usgs.gov

Sidney Deloach-Overton (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-4927

Email: sdeloach-overton@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys>

TIN IN MARCH 2023

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in March 2023 was 1,520 metric tons (t), unchanged from the reported consumption in February 2023 and March 2022. Apparent consumption of refined tin in March 2023 was 2,200 t, a 32% decrease from that in February 2023 and a 43% decrease from that in March 2022 (table 1).

Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for March 2023 was \$11.79 per pound, an 11% decrease from that in February 2023, and a 46% decrease from that in March 2022. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for March 2023 was \$10.89 per pound, an 11% decrease from that in February 2023, and a 46% decrease from that in March 2022 (fig. 1, table 2).

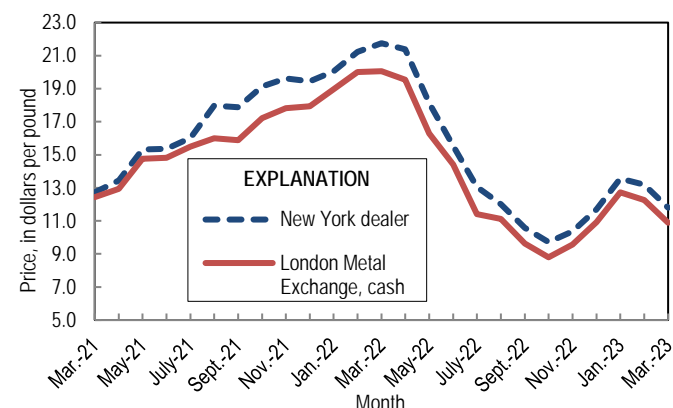


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from March 2021 through March 2023. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

Industry News

In March, energy supply troubles led Bolivian tin producer Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto SA to declare force majeure. The company was unable to secure sufficient coal from Peru to fully power its primary tin smelter, decreasing tin production by up to 200 metric tons per week. Protests along the Peruvian border have reportedly impeded trade of coal into Bolivia (International Tin Association, 2023).

Reference Cited

International Tin Association Ltd., 2023, EM Vinto in force majeure after cut in coal supplies from Peru: Frogmore, United Kingdom, International Tin Association Ltd., March 9. (Accessed June 6, 2023, <https://www.internationaltin.org/em-vinto-in-force-majeure-after-cut-in-coal-supplies-from-peru/>.)

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/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in March 2023 were 1,520 t, a 38% decrease from those in February 2023 and a 51% decrease from those in March 2022. The leading sources of refined tin in March 2023 were Bolivia (48%), Brazil (13%), Peru (11%), followed by Indonesia and Poland (7% each). Total refined tin exports in March 2023 were 176 t, an increase of 131 t from those in February 2023 and an increase of 78 t from those in March 2022 (table 4).

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2022	2023		
		February	March	January– March ²
Production, secondary ^{e, 3}	10,300	858	858	2,570
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	18,000	1,530	1,520	4,570
Secondary	311	30	25	82
Consumption, apparent ⁴	42,300	3,250	2,200	8,780
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,300	2,440	1,520	6,490
Exports, refined tin	1,300	45	176	280
Stocks at end of period	5,020	4,910	4,800	4,800
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,545.94	1,319.25	1,178.89	1,284.97
London Metal Exchange cash	1,422.55	1,226.84	1,088.50	1,196.01

^eEstimated.

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
2022:		
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
February	1,319.25	1,226.84
March	1,178.89	1,088.50
January–March	1,284.97	1,196.01

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)	
2022:				
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	894,000
2023:				
January	29,900	405	13.5	62,400
February	28,300	399	14.1	54,800
March	31,400	418	13.3	59,500
January–March	89,700	1,220	13.6	177,000

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 ^p	2023		
		February	March	January– March ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	433	4	45	108
Bolivia	10,600	945	726	2,220
Brazil	4,390	172	194	991
Canada	281	30	23	72
Indonesia	5,250	332	100	717
Malaysia	878	150	60	370
Peru	9,470	709	171	1,540
Poland	1,370	67	112	247
Thailand	279	25	25	76
Other	335	3	65	143
Total	33,300	2,440	1,520	6,490
Other:				
Alloys	735	152	53	278
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,510	126	133	367
Flakes and powders	308	7	2	16
Foil	90	(3)	2	3
Plates, sheets, strip	6	(3)	(3)	(3)
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	19	(3)	1	4
Waste and scrap	11,600	787	903	2,350
Miscellaneous ⁴	2,020	117	70	302
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,300	45	176	280
Alloys	531	31	40	117

^pPreliminary.

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 ^p	2023						
		February			March			January– March ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	1,910	152	--	152	152	--	152	460
Babbitt	112	13	W	13	13	W	13	36
Bronze and brass	810	58	14	72	44	9	53	197
Chemicals	2,800	253	--	253	245	--	245	731
Solder	1,600	145	W	145	145	W	145	442
Tinning	233	28	--	28	28	--	28	85
Tinplate ⁴	5,120	399	W	399	418	W	418	1,220
Other ⁵	5,770	480	16	496	480	16	496	1,480
Total reported	18,400	1,530	30	1,560	1,520	25	1,550	4,650

^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 metal.