

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2023

Domestic reported consumption of primary refined tin in May 2023 was 1,490 metric tons (t), unchanged from the reported consumption in April 2023, and a 3% decrease from that in May 2022. Apparent consumption of refined tin in May 2023 was 4,560 t, an 85% increase from that in April 2023, and a 14% increase from that in May 2022 (table 1).

Prices

The S&P Global Platts Metals Week average New York dealer price of Grade A tin for May 2023 was \$12.58 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in April 2023, and a 31% decrease from that in May 2022. The average London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of Grade A tin for May 2023 was \$11.61 per pound, essentially unchanged from that in April 2023, and a 29% decrease from that in May 2022 (fig. 1, table 2).

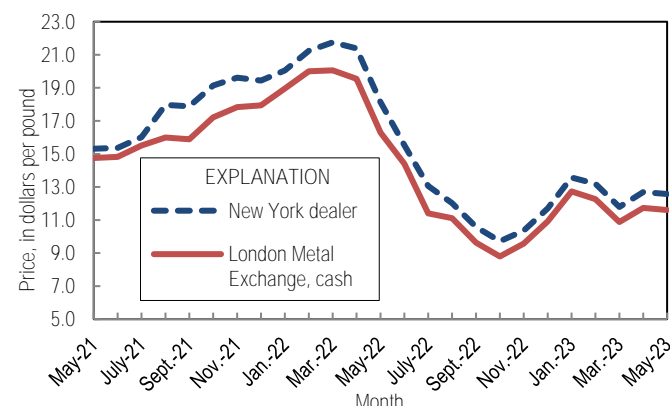


Figure 1. Average monthly prices for Grade A tin from May 2021 through May 2023. Source: S&P Global Platts Metals Week.

U.S. Trade

Total refined tin imports in May 2023 were 3,760 t, more than double (125%) those in April 2023 and a 12% increase from those in May 2022. The leading sources of refined tin in May 2023 were Peru (42%), Bolivia (22%), Malaysia (19%), and Brazil (8%). Imports in May increased from Peru by over six times (1,350 t) and from Bolivia by over two times (585 t). Total refined tin exports in May 2023 were 56 t, a decrease of 12 t from those in April 2023 and a decrease of 161 t from those in May 2022 (table 4).

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2022	2023		
		April	May	January– May ²
Production, secondary ^{c,3}	10,300	858	858	4,290
Consumption, reported:				
Primary	18,000	1,480	1,490	7,540
Secondary	311	26	20	128
Consumption, apparent ⁴	42,200	2,460	4,560	15,800
Imports for consumption, refined tin	33,200	1,670	3,760	11,900
Exports, refined tin	1,310	68	56	403
Stocks at end of period	5,020	4,740	4,800	4,800
Prices (average cents per pound): ⁵				
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,545.94	1,269.38	1,257.67	1,276.39
London Metal Exchange cash	1,422.55	1,173.24	1,160.57	1,184.37

^cEstimated.

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:		
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
April	1,269.38	1,173.24
May	1,257.67	1,160.57
January–May	1,276.39	1,184.37

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:				
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
April	33,300	416	12.5	57,200
May	33,300	415	12.4	63,100
January–May	156,000	2,050	13.2	297,000

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		
		April	May	January– May ²
Imports:				
Refined tin:				
Belgium	433	40	46	194
Bolivia	10,600	240	825	3,290
Brazil	4,390	198	315	1,500
Canada	281	31	16	119
Indonesia	5,250	315	65	1,100
Malaysia	878	365	725	1,460
Peru	9,400	212	1,560	3,320
Poland	1,370	135	90	472
Switzerland	70	81	51	171
Thailand	279	50	23	149
Other	265	5	42	149
Total	33,200	1,670	3,760	11,900
Other:				
Alloys	735	71	67	416
Bars, rods, profiles, and wire	1,510	122	119	608
Flakes and powders	308	4	2	22
Foil	90	14	(3)	17
Plates, sheets, strip	6	1	(3)	1
Tubes, pipes, and tube and pipe fittings	19	(3)	66	71
Waste and scrap	11,600	833	1,140	4,320
Miscellaneous ⁴	2,010 ^r	34	38	373
Exports:				
Refined tin	1,310	68	56	403
Alloys	531	84	78	279

^rRevised. ^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						January– May ²
		April			May			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	1,910	152	--	152	163	--	163	776
Babbitt	112	13	W	13	9	W	9	58
Bronze and brass	810	44	9	53	44	9	53	304
Chemicals	2,800	223	--	223	225	--	225	1,180
Solder	1,600	124	W	124	122	W	122	688
Tinning	233	28	--	28	28	--	28	141
Tinplate ⁴	5,120	416	W	416	415	W	415	2,050
Other ⁵	5,770	480	17	497	480	11	491	2,470
Total reported	18,400	1,480	26	1,510	1,490	20	1,510	7,670

^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.