

TIN

(Data in metric tons of tin content unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Tin has not been mined or smelted in the United States since 1993 and 1989, respectively. Twenty-five firms accounted for over 90% of the primary tin consumed domestically in 2019. The major uses for tin in the United States were tinplate, 21%; chemicals, 17%; solder, 14%; alloys, 10%; babbitt, brass and bronze, and tinning, 11%; and other, 27%. Based on the average Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for tin, the estimated value of imported refined tin in 2019 was \$703 million, and the estimated value of tin recovered from old scrap domestically in 2019 was \$213 million.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019^e
Production, secondary:					
Old scrap ^e	10,100	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,000
New scrap	1,120	1,080	900	900	1,000
Imports for consumption:					
Tin, refined	33,600	32,200	34,100	36,800	35,000
Tin, alloys, gross weight	2,720	1,910	1,590	1,430	980
Tin, waste and scrap, gross weight	32,700	27,200	52,100	47,700	35,000
Exports:					
Tin, refined	807	1,150	1,560	962	1,500
Tin, alloys, gross weight	2,540	1,040	965	885	2,900
Tin, waste and scrap, gross weight	2,530	4,570	3,360	5,970	2,100
Shipments from Government stockpile, gross weight	—	—	2	13	1
Consumption, apparent, refined ¹	42,700	42,100	42,800	47,000	44,000
Price, average, cents per pound: ²					
New York dealer	756	839	937	936	860
London Metal Exchange, cash	729	815	911	914	840
Stocks, consumer and dealer, yearend	7,090	6,370	6,390	5,570	4,900
Net import reliance ³ as a percentage of apparent consumption, refined	76	76	76	78	77

Recycling: About 11,000 tons of tin from old and new scrap was estimated to have been recycled in 2019. Of this, about 10,000 tons was recovered from old scrap at 2 detinning plants and about 75 secondary nonferrous metal-processing plants, accounting for 24% of apparent consumption.

Import Sources (2015–18): Refined tin: Indonesia, 25%; Malaysia, 24%; Peru, 20%; Bolivia, 18%; and other, 13%. Waste and scrap: Canada, 99%; and other, 1%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–19
Unwrought tin:		
Tin, not alloyed	8001.10.0000	Free.
Tin alloys, containing, by weight:		
5% or less lead	8001.20.0010	Free.
More than 5% but not more than 25% lead	8001.20.0050	Free.
More than 25% lead	8001.20.0090	Free.
Tin waste and scrap	8002.00.0000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

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Government Stockpile:⁴

Material	Inventory As of 9–30–19	FY 2019		FY 2020	
		Potential Acquisitions	Potential Disposals	Potential Acquisitions	Potential Disposals
Tin (gross weight)	4,025	40	—	40	—

Events, Trends, and Issues: Apparent consumption of tin in the United States was estimated to have decreased by 6% in 2019 compared with consumption in 2018. Indonesia was the leading supplier of refined tin and Canada was the leading supplier of tin waste and scrap to the United States in 2019. The estimated amount of tin recycled in 2019 decreased slightly compared with that in 2018. Estimated annual average tin prices based on the first 9 months in 2019 were 860 and 840 cents per pound for the New York dealer price and London Metal Exchange cash price, respectively—an 8% decrease for both prices from those in 2018. In 2019, the monthly average New York dealer tin price peaked in March at 992 cents per pound, then steadily decreased through August to a monthly average price of 776 cents per pound, where monthly average prices remained essentially unchanged through October.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Reserves for Australia and Burma were revised based on new information from Government sources.

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵
	2018	2019 ^e	
United States	—	—	—
Australia	6,870	7,000	⁶ 420,000
Bolivia	16,900	17,000	400,000
Brazil	17,100	17,000	700,000
Burma	54,600	54,000	100,000
China	90,000	85,000	1,100,000
Congo (Kinshasa)	7,400	10,000	150,000
Indonesia	85,000	80,000	800,000
Laos ^e	1,100	1,000	NA
Malaysia	4,300	4,000	250,000
Nigeria	7,800	7,500	NA
Peru	18,600	18,500	110,000
Russia	1,400	1,400	350,000
Rwanda	2,400	3,000	NA
Vietnam	4,560	4,500	11,000
Other countries	310	1,400	350,000
World total (rounded)	318,000	310,000	4,700,000

World Resources: Identified resources of tin in the United States, primarily in Alaska, were insignificant compared with those of the rest of the world. World resources, principally in western Africa, southeastern Asia, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, and Russia, are extensive and, if developed, could sustain recent annual production rates well into the future.

Substitutes: Aluminum, glass, paper, plastic, or tin-free steel substitute for tin content in cans and containers. Other materials that substitute for tin are epoxy resins for solder; aluminum alloys, alternative copper-base alloys, and plastics for bronze; plastics for bearing metals that contain tin; and compounds of lead and sodium for some tin chemicals.

^eEstimated. NA Not available. — Zero.

¹Defined as production (old scrap) + refined tin imports – refined tin exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Excludes imports and exports of alloys, and waste and scrap.

²Source: Platts Metals Week.

³Defined as imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes, excluding imports and exports of waste and scrap.

⁴See Appendix B for definitions.

⁵See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

⁶For Australia, Joint Ore Reserves Committee-compliant reserves were 250,000 tons.