



MARCH TIN MARKET REVIEW

Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM)

Tin trading on the KLTM in March was generally mixed. The market, however, saw strong demand and tight supply during the month.

The local physical tin market opened the first trading week at US\$26,000 per tonne, much lower than the February's closing of US\$27,100 per tonne, and continued to soften to record the month's lowest price level at US\$23,720 per tonne on 2nd March. It rebounded thereafter before again easing towards end of the trading week.

The tin price rose at the opening of the second trading week and stayed unchanged before strengthening substantially towards end of the trading week to record the month's highest price level at US\$28,500 per tonne on 12th and 15th March, backed by strong demand particularly from overseas interests.

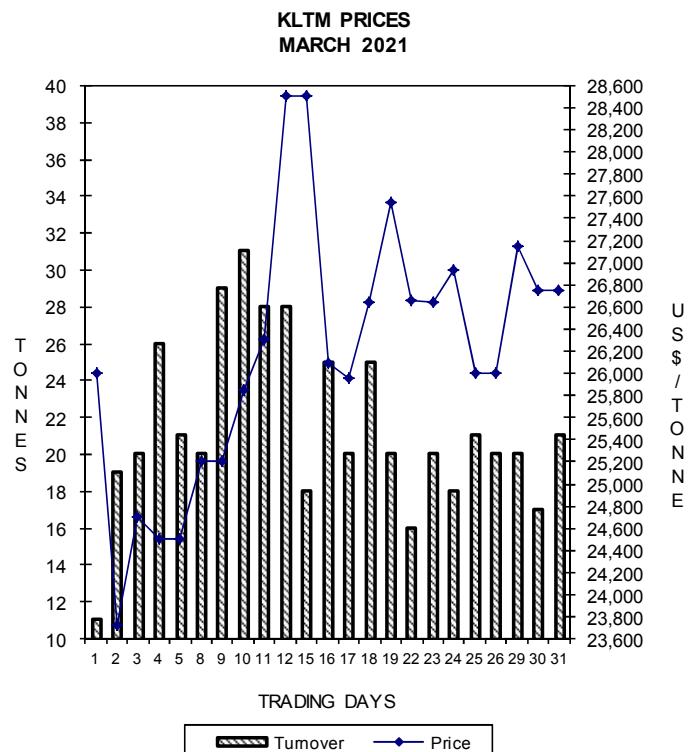
With market sentiment largely uncertain, the tin price opened the third trading week unchanged from the preceding week's closing level. It softened substantially the following two days on lack lusture buying before rebounding towards end of the trading week. According to a trader, the incline was influenced by strong tin prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

The tin price reversed trend at the opening of the fourth trading week and continued to ease subsequently. It inched-up to regain some lost ground before softening yet again to end the trading week lower.

The market rose somewhat at the opening of the final trading week before easing and stayed flat to close the trading month at US\$26,750 per tonne.

Trading on the KLTM for the month of March was conducted over 23 days. The average tin price recorded for the month was US\$26,162 per tonne, much higher than February's average of US\$25,965 per tonne.

Total trading volume for the month increased to 494 tonnes from 456 tonnes the preceding month. March's average trading volume was 21 tonnes, lower than the February's average of 25 tonnes. The month's highest daily trading volume was 31 tonnes recorded on 10th March, while the lowest was 11 tonnes recorded on 1st March 2021. ♦



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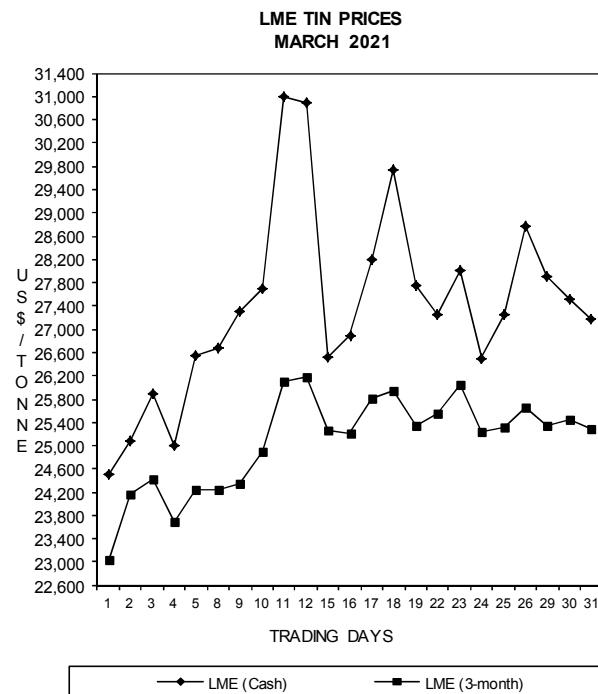
London Metal Exchange (LME)

Tin trading on the LME during the month of March was again in line with the movement in the trading of other base metals on the Exchange, which was on the uptrend during the first half of the trading month but stayed somewhat flat during the second half.

The tin price opened the trading month at US\$24,505 per tonne for cash tin and US\$23,031 per tonne for 3-month tin, both being their respective lowest level for the month. It rose the subsequent two days before softening but continued afterwards to climb to close the trading week on a higher note.

Backed by strong demand, the tin price further strengthened throughout the second trading week to record its highest level for the month at US\$30,995 per tonne for cash tin, and at US\$26,170 per tonne for 3-month tin. They were recorded on 11th and 12th March, respectively. Buyers were confident in participating in the market while sellers stayed on the sideline during the period. The strong demand came particularly from overseas interests arising from the weakening US dollar.

During the third, fourth and final trading weeks, the tin price were traded somewhat flat to close the trading month at US\$27,180 per tonne for cash tin and US\$25,300 per tonne for 3-month tin as market sentiment remained largely uncertain, in-line with the flat momentum of other base metals traded on the LME.



The average LME cash tin price recorded in March was US\$27,396 per tonne, whilst the average 3-month tin price was US\$25,079 per tonne.

NEWS ROUND UP

YTC's New Smelter Almost at Full Scale Production

Yunnan Tin (YTC), one of the world's major refined tin producers and China's largest, has announced that it is close to achieve full-scale production at its new smelter located in an Economic Development Zone.

In 2006, the Chinese government through environmental reforms forced smelters located within 1 km radius of residential areas to relocate. YTC's main smelting facility, which was located in the centre of Gejiu City, Yunnan, began relocating in 2013 to the Mengzi Economic Development Zone where the company already has extensive operations there, with its copper and lead smelters already located in the Economic Zone in 2011.

The commissioning of the new tin smelter, which began on 26 November 2020, has been completed. The company has tested all sub-sections of its smelting project, and completed a test run of the whole process. Refined tin output, as well as economic and technical factors, have gradually improved.

The smelter is currently running at around 90 per cent of its designed capacity, and the company estimates that some 11,800 tonnes had been produced between January and February this year.

AfriTin Quarterly Production Surpasses Expectations

AfriTin Mining has announced that it produced some 300 tonnes of concentrate from its Uis tin mine in Namibia during the 2020/2021 financial year.

The company began redeveloping the historic Uis tin mine in 2018, with its first tin concentrate production at end of 2019.

Production at Uis mine has gradually improved throughout 2020 despite the Covid-19 pandemic issues in early part of the year. The December to February period was the best on record for concentrate and contained tin production. At current rates, annual production for the next 12 months is ex-

pected to exceed that level. According to the company's spokesman, "the company is operating 108 per cent beyond our production targets for Stage 1". AfriTin also announced that it produced 117 per cent of the Stage 1 quarterly target in terms of tin contained in concentrate.

The spokesman added that "we look to incrementally expand our processing and bring additional concentrate streams online". The company is planning to expand the capacity of its processing plant at Uis to produce in excess of 5,000 tonnes of tin concentrate.

China's Declining Tin Supply from Myanmar Compensated by that from Other Countries

China's imports of tin-in-concentrate from Myanmar declined by 14 per cent, year-on-year, but improved imports from other countries have made up for the decline.

According to China's latest customs data, the country imported some 20,500 tonnes in gross weight during the January to February period. It was a decline of 27 per cent, year-on-year, with nearly 17,000 tonnes that came from Myanmar. With an estimated concentrate grade of 25 per cent Sn (27 per cent Sn in 2020), the total tin content of the Myanmar imports over the two-month period declined by some 31 per cent, year-on-year.

However, imports from other countries made up half of this deficit. Continued imports from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Australia, as well as approximately some 400 tonnes in gross package from Bolivia, helped increase imports by almost 1,800 tonnes in February compared to some 1,650 tonnes recorded in January. Imports from countries other than Myanmar have increased by 126 per cent compared to that in 2020.

China's Tin Metal Exports Rose Spurred by Tight Market

According to China's recent customs data, the country's refined tin metal trade has shifted into net exports in February.

The country normally augments its significant domestic supply of metal with material from other producers, with the majority usually imported from Indonesia. During the January to February period, imports from that country exceeded 1,000 tonnes, an increase of 20 per cent compared to the same period in 2020.

China, however, imported some 75 per cent of the metal in January. Only 459 tonnes entered the country in February, the lowest since August 2020.

China's tin metal trade with the rest of the world is dictated by the arbitrage, which is the difference

between the LME price and the price of metal once imported into China. For the past two years, the positive arbitrage has been strongly in favour of imports. However, due to the tightness in the ex-China market since the beginning of the year, LME prices have far exceeded those in China. The now-negative arbitrage has far exceeded the previous peak of approximately US\$4,000 per tonne in October 2016 and reaching US\$7,000 per tonne in February.

Exports from China, as a result, increased significantly during the first two months of 2021. The outflow of tin ingots for January and February totaled 1,212 tonnes, with 481 tonnes in January and 731 tonnes in February, some 133 per cent higher than the 2020 total.

(Source: International Tin Association Ltd. UK)

TIN STATISTICS

KLTM & LME TIN PRICES

Period	KLTM			LME	
	Average Price * (US\$/Tonne)	Exchange Rates	Average Daily Turnover (Tonnes)	Total Turnover (Tonnes)	Cash (US\$/Tonne)
2016	17,528		47	11,568	17,982
2017	20,029		37	8,890	20,098
2018	20,151		37	9,075	20,168
2019	19,168		26	6,445	18,671
2020	17,504		19	4,088	17,134
2018	Jan.	20,415	46	973	20,711
	Feb.	21,558	42	756	21,694
	Mar.	21,049	42	933	21,214
	Apr.	21,151	35	744	21,340
	May	20,740	39	710	20,900
	Jun.	20,616	45	907	20,663
	Jul.	19,687	39	857	19,700
	Aug.	19,299	31	642	19,281
	Sep.	18,905	43	736	18,999
	Oct.	19,048	33	762	19,129
	Nov.	19,133	27	536	19,139
	Dec.	19,208	26	519	19,243
2019	Jan.	20,417	34	719	20,480
	Feb.	21,268	37	628	21,268
	Mar.	21,317	50	1,046	21,444
	Apr.	20,528	38	833	20,684
	May	19,394	19	388	19,531
	Jun.	19,065	19	344	19,177
	Jul.	18,074	19	416	17,991
	Aug.	16,532	20	422	16,577
	Sep.	16,730	22	392	16,840
	Oct.	16,562	21	464	16,603
	Nov.	16,624	20	417	16,369
	Dec.	16,883	18	376	17,093
2020	Jan.	17,014	19	406	17,056
	Feb.	16,536	18	354	16,457
	Mar.	16,417	20	236	15,321
	Apr.	N.A	N.A		15,039
	May	15,110	17	268	15,410
	Jun.	16,605	18	374	16,806
	Jul.	17,287	16	358	17,452
	Aug.	17,515	18	343	17,672
	Sep.	17,846	21	444	17,946
	Oct.	18,026	18	383	18,154
	Nov.	18,433	20	413	18,568
	Dec.	19,693	23	509	19,727
2021	Jan.	22,085	17	314	21,955
	Feb.	25,965	25	456	26,717
	Mar.	26,162	21	494	27,396
2021	MAR	1	26,000	4.0555	105,443
		2	23,720	4.0568	96,227
		3	24,700	4.0525	100,097
		4	24,500	4.0555	99,360
		5	24,500	4.0699	99,713
		8	25,200	4.0922	103,123
		9	25,200	4.1273	104,008
		10	25,850	4.1281	106,711
		11	26,300	4.1225	108,422
		12	28,500	4.1191	117,394
		15	28,500	4.1185	117,377
		16	26,100	4.1168	107,448
		17	25,950	4.1210	106,940
		18	26,650	4.1091	109,508
		19	27,540	4.1203	113,473
		22	26,660	4.1163	109,741
		23	26,640	4.1193	109,738
		24	26,940	4.1343	111,378
		25	26,000	4.1398	107,635
		26	26,000	4.1510	107,926
		29	27,150	4.1504	112,683
		30	26,750	4.1480	110,959
		31	26,750	4.1593	111,261

Sources : The Kuala Lumpur Tin Market
London Metal Exchange

Note : As from 1 February 2001, KLTM price is quoted in U.S. Dollar

* KLTM's monthly average price is arrived at on a weighted average against total tonnage basis.

N.A : Not Available

**MALAYSIAN REFINED TIN PRODUCTION
IMPORT OF TIN-IN-CONCENTRATES
AND EXPORT OF TIN METAL (In Tonnes)**

Period	Production of Tin-In-Concentrates	Imports of Tin-In-Concentrates	Refined Tin Production	Local Consumption	Exports of Tin Metal
2010	2,668	30,589	38,771	2,942	33,697
2011	3,343	30,031	40,281	2,341	42,302
2012	3,725	26,537	37,823	2,083	37,212
2013	3,697	30,273	32,633	1,835	36,363
2014	3,777	31,610	35,018	1,581	35,221
2015	4,125	31,965	30,260	1,900	38,319
2016	4,158	30,536	26,849	2,238	27,470
2017	3,894	29,866	27,211	2,707	27,147
2018	3,868	27,450	27,115	1,964	27,342
2019	3,611	25,644	24,387	1,441	24,418
2020*	2,961	22,288	22,367	1,512	22,597
2017					
Jan.	351	2,377	1,683	171	1,530
Feb.	316	2,033	2,167	203	2,635
Mar.	306	1,723	2,044	322	2,091
Apr.	275	2,441	1,832	263	1,777
May.	338	2,598	2,572	218	2,326
Jun.	306	2,446	2,121	258	1,732
Jul.	333	3,154	2,605	320	2,768
Aug.	328	2,428	2,812	178	3,106
Sep.	313	2,565	2,149	179	2,275
Oct.	322	2,775	2,256	225	2,116
Nov.	368	2,740	2,478	204	2,510
Dec.	338	2,586	2,492	166	2,281
2018					
Jan.	308	2,424	2,060	171	1,950
Feb.	297	2,046	2,214	190	2,009
Mar.	323	2,488	2,340	158	2,584
Apr.	330	2,430	2,111	192	2,401
May.	336	2,895	2,343	171	2,435
Jun.	310	2,494	2,219	192	2,162
Jul.	342	2,609	2,571	162	2,687
Aug.	393	2,619	2,470	215	2,257
Sep.	280	1,653	2,068	149	1,899
Oct.	319	2,284	2,282	117	2,138
Nov.	324	1,844	2,563	102	2,746
Dec.	306	1,664	1,874	145	2,074
2019					
Jan.	325	2,169	1,887	125	2,205
Feb.	278	1,700	1,912	99	1,694
Mar.	324	2,263	2,169	134	2,195
Apr.	301	2,090	2,145	125	2,097
May.	282	1,842	1,836	145	1,891
Jun.	213	2,393	1,536	129	1,630
Jul.	263	2,393	2,491	144	2,347
Aug.	299	2,381	2,476	122	2,257
Sep.	320	1,998	2,234	111	1,886
Oct.	312	2,506	1,478	111	1,790
Nov.	323	2,147	2,137	105	2,086
Dec.	356	1,762	2,086	91	2,340
2020*					
Jan.	288	2,136	2,314	93	2,180
Feb.	265	1,449	1,880	119	2,226
Mar.	162	1,105	1,228	71	1,191
Apr.	36	1,198	1,110	75	933
May.	252	2,187	1,344	99	1,516
Jun.	278	1,927	1,926	190	1,644
Jul.	272	1,972	1,819	150	2,240
Aug.	277	2,785	2,672	151	2,290
Sep.	292	2,398	2,057	138	2,198
Oct.	295	1,565	2,078	146	2,126
Nov.	272	1,536	1,974	125	2,108
Dec.	272	2,030	1,965	155	1,945

* : Preliminary
 Sources : Department of Statistics, Malaysia
 Department of Mineral and Geoscience Malaysia
 Malaysia Smelting Corporation Bhd.

MALAYSIA'S DOMESTIC TIN CONSUMPTION (In Tonnes)

PERIOD	TOTAL CONSUMPTION	SOLDER *	TINPLATE	PEWTER	OTHERS *
2016	2,238	1,314	750	86	88
2017	2,707	1,348	737	63	559
2018	1,964	1,019	759	39	147
2019	1,441	695	639	19	88
2020	1,512	738	626	8	140
2017					
Jan.	171	102	54	12	3
Feb.	203	133	64	2	4
Mar.	322	139	76	13	94
Apr.	263	100	72	2	89
May	218	150	61	3	4
Jun.	258	108	61	12	77
July	320	143	76	1	100
Aug.	178	79	62	2	35
Sep.	179	101	40	1	37
Oct.	225	104	68	4	49
Nov.	204	95	49	1	59
Dec.	166	94	54	10	8
2018					
Jan.	171	101	57	3	10
Feb.	190	133	54	1	2
Mar.	158	93	49	13	3
Apr.	192	103	78	1	10
May	171	106	56	1	8
Jun.	192	116	61	13	2
Jul.	162	99	60	0	3
Aug.	215	132	75	1	7
Sep.	149	62	62	1	24
Oct.	117	23	69	1	24
Nov.	102	11	61	0	30
Dec.	145	40	77	4	24
2019					
Jan.	125	66	51	1	7
Feb.	99	60	35	0	4
Mar.	134	69	56	1	8
Apr.	125	51	64	2	8
May	145	70	62	1	12
Jun.	129	66	56	1	6
Jul.	144	91	47	3	3
Aug.	122	60	51	1	10
Sep.	111	41	60	3	7
Oct.	111	41	59	3	8
Nov.	105	45	52	1	7
Dec.	91	35	46	2	8
2020					
Jan.	93	40	48	0	5
Feb.	119	62	52	0	5
Mar.	71	22	45	0	4
Apr.	75	19	53	0	3
May.	99	49	44	0	6
Jun.	190	74	67	3	46
Jul.	150	84	55	3	8
Aug.	151	49	65	0	37
Sep.	138	85	46	0	7
Oct.	146	77	59	0	10
Nov.	125	78	40	2	5
Dec.	155	99	52	0	4
2021**					
Jan.	n.y.a	n.y.a	66	n.y.a	n.y.a
Feb.	n.y.a	n.y.a	37	n.y.a	n.y.a
Mar.	n.y.a	n.y.a	68	n.y.a	n.y.a

* : The figures include high-grade tin (99.9% Sn) imported for consumption.
 ** : Preliminary.

n.y.a : not yet available
 Sources : Department of Mineral and Geoscience Malaysia
 Malaysia Smelting Corporation Bhd
 Perstima Bhd
 Note : Local consumption of tin metal refers to the use of tin in a particular application.
 Sales to manufacturing industries have been used as proxy for consumption except
 in the case of manufacture of tinplate which are actual tin consumption data.

