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Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JUNE 2000

Domestic consumption of primary tin in June was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be slightly higher than that in May and 2% lower than that in June 1999.

The *Platt's Metals Week* average composite price for tin in June was $3.68 per pound, about equal to that in May and 2% higher than that in June 1999.

Weirton Steel Corp. (Weirton, WV) announced that it will enter the coated coil industry when it begins operating a new polymer film coating line during the first half of 2001. The planned line will have the capacity to apply a thin coat of polymer film on 200,000 tons of tinplated steel per year. Several sites for the facility are being considered. The polymer coating process is a new technology that reportedly is superior to conventional lacquer coating systems. Polymer-coated tinplate is used for the top and bottom lids of food containers, aerosol cans, and other containers. Weirton is the largest U.S. tinplate producer and is the eighth largest domestic integrated steel company (Weirton Steel Corp., 2000).

In England, the London Metal Exchange announced that it would introduce traded average price options for aluminum alloy, lead, nickel, tin, and zinc on October 2, 2000. October will be the first traded month for the new contracts with the forward months being the same as for futures contracts — that is, up to 15 months forward for aluminum alloy, lead, and tin and 27 months forward for nickel and zinc (Metal Bulletin, 2000a).

In Sydney, Australia, explorer Marlborough Resources Ltd. announced that significant progress has been made on its Ardlethan tin project. The firm indicated that an increase in the resource base is expected following evaluation of its latest 85-hole drill program. Ardlethan, 560 kilometers west of Sydney in New South Wales, was last mined in 1986. After submitting its environmental impact statement, Marlborough expects to receive mining approval by yearend. Development of the project is scheduled to start in early 2001, with the first tin concentrate output expected by mid year. The company intends to process 950,000 tons of tin ore per year to produce about 1,000 tons of concentrate containing 600 tons of metal. Company officials indicated that competitive quotes have been received from Asian smelters to treat the concentrates, and test work has shown that the concentrate would be of a high grade. Proven reserves are sufficient for an 8-year mine life and are expected to increase with the latest drilling program. Also present are the tailings from old workings which have been estimated to contain 14,000 tons of recoverable tin (Metal Bulletin, 2000b).

Update

On August 4, 2000, the *Platt's Metals Week* composite price for tin was $3.62 per pound.

References Cited

Metal Bulletin, 2000a, In brief: Metal Bulletin, no. 8490, July 6, p. 6.
———2000b, Marlborough Resources on track to reopen tin mine: Metal Bulletin, no. 8490, July 6, p. 7.
Weirton Steel Corp., 2000, Weirton Steel to enter coated coil industry with opening of new polymer film coating line: Weirton, WV, Weirton Steel Corp. news release, June 26, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2000		
	1999 p/	May	June	January-June
Production, secondary e/ 2/	10,800	900	900	5,400
Consumption:				
Primary	42,800	3,550	3,570	21,200
Secondary	12,300	916 r/	917	5,410
Imports for consumption, metal	47,500	3,140	NA	NA
Exports, metal	6,770	460	NA	NA
Stocks at end of period	XX	7,930	8,140	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): 3/				
Metals Week composite 4/	365.98	367.72	368.23	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	254.54	254.94	255.17	XX
London, standard grade, cash	245.00	247.00	247.00	XX
Kuala Lumpur	240.70	240.74	241.43	XX

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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/ From Platt's Metals Week.

4/ The Metals Week composite price is a calculated formula, not a market price, that includes fixed and finance charges, and a risk factor. It is normally substantially higher than other tin prices.

TABLE 2
METALS WEEK COMPOSITE PRICE 1/

(Cents per pound)

Period	High	Low	Average
1999:			
June	368.44	354.81	360.01
July	362.56	356.00	357.87
August	362.04	355.27	358.10
September	372.30	357.68	364.61
October	383.67	363.53	369.61
November	397.54	385.56	391.55
December	403.52	381.53	386.61
Year	403.52	343.72	365.98
2000:			
January	405.27	390.75	397.72
February	391.72	377.25	382.84
March	383.26	364.68	373.01
April	371.49	365.85	368.16
May	369.58	363.91	367.72
June	373.83	362.99	368.23

1/ The Metals Week composite price is a calculated formula, not a market price, that includes fixed and finance charges, and a risk factor. It is normally substantially higher than other tin prices.

Source: Platt's Metals Week.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste (waste, strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms) Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments 2/
1999 p/	W	1,750,000	9,080	5.2	2,370,000
2000:					
January	W	141,000	718	5.1	184,000
February	W	144,000	785	5.5	175,000
March	W	155,000	810	5.2	203,000
April	W	149,000	736	4.9	170,000
May	W	156,000	816	5.2	219,000
June	W	149,000	799	5.4	203,000

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.
2/ Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or product	1999 p/	2000 April	May	January-May
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	3,850	582	200	2,570
Brazil	4,700	582	594	2,240
Chile	3,980	260	--	1,480
China	13,900	899	861	5,270
Hong Kong	261	21	20	277
Indonesia	7,930	340	457	2,180
Japan	282	--	--	--
Malaysia	944	4	20	44
Peru	11,000	970	950	5,030
Singapore	60	--	--	20
Thailand	20	--	--	--
United Kingdom	60	--	1	209
Other	533	2	40	114
Total	47,500	3,660	3,140	19,400
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	3,090	277	235	1,620
Bars and rods	872	60	102	400
Foil, tubes, pipes	1	--	--	--
Plates, sheets, strip	122	118	284	404
Waste and scrap	2,730	87	209	727
Miscellaneous	2,290	341	556	1,530
Total	9,100	883	1,390	4,670
Exports (metal)	6,770	488	460	2,520

p/ Preliminary. -- Zero.
1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT 1/

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	1999 p/	2000						
		May			June			January-June total
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) 2/	W	123	--	123	124	W	124	741
Babbitt	22	35 r/	W	35	30	34	63	206
Bar tin and anodes	244	25 r/	W	25 r/	26	W	26	152
Bronze and brass	3,170	96	139 r/	236 r/	104	126	229	1,480
Chemicals	8,140	682	W	682	682	W	682	4,060
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	14,000	1,030 r/	423	1,450	1,060	431	1,490	8,810
Tinning	508	55	--	55	58	--	58	362
Tinplate 3/	9,080	816	--	816	799	--	799	4,670
Tin powder	W	W	--	W	50	--	50	147
White metal 4/	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	10
Other	6,120	88 r/	54 r/	141 r/	36	26	62	548
Total reported	41,300	2,950	616 r/	3,570 r/	2,970	617	3,590	21,200
Estimated undistributed consumption 5/	13,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	5,400
Grand total	55,100	3,550	916 r/	4,470 r/	3,570	917	4,490	26,600

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 pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

5/ Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.