

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN NOVEMBER 2000

Domestic consumption of primary tin in November was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be about 6% less than that in October and about 1% less than that in November 1999.

The Platt's Metals Week average composite price for tin in November was \$3.61 per pound, down just slightly from that in October and 8% less than that in November 1999. The November average price represents the lowest average monthly price for tin during 2000, a year in which the average monthly price declined steadily in all but 2 months.

A recently published periodical article provided a rare perspective on tin in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in Russia (Russian Mining, 2000). Almost 95% of proven tin reserves in Russia are concentrated in the Russian Far East, of which about 40% are located in Yakutia. Tin is mined in Yakutia by DeputatskOlvo, a Government-owned company. Tin concentrate is sent for smelting to the Novosibirsk tin plant, currently the only facility in Russia processing tin concentrate. The company is hampered by poor roads, seasonal mining, and its reliance on ice-free shipping lanes in Arctic waters. Exports are not profitable due to extremely high transportation costs.

APEAL, a Belgium-based organization of European packaging firms that use considerable amounts of tinplate, has released 1999 data on the recycling of steel packaging. There has been a marked increase in recycling rates for most countries in the European Union (EU). The overall rate for recycling in 1999 was 47%. Germany ranked first with an 80% recycling rate, mostly due to its selective, multi-material collection system. For comparison, steel packaging recycling rates are 57% in the United States and 80% in Japan. Integral collection and magnetic separation prior to incineration still account for over half of recycled steel packaging in the EU, but the more recent introduction of curbside collections and recycling banks has been so successful that APEAL considers the combined approach as essential (Metal Bulletin Monthly,

2000).

Denmark plans to impose a wide-ranging ban on the use of lead. It would be the first country to do so. The ban becomes effective March 1, 2001, and will affect use of lead and lead compounds in the construction and electronics industry, use of lead as a stabilizer in plastics, and use of metallic lead in ballasts and weights (Mining Journal, 2000). The ban has implications for tin because tin is often used as a replacement for lead in such applications.

In Turkey, the country's only tinplate producer, Erdemir, announced that it has increased tinplate output at its Eregli Works from 100,000 to 300,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). The increase followed the recent addition of a new tinning line, an electrolytic cleaning line, and a shearing line (Metal Bulletin, 2000).

In Bolivia, Allied Deals Corp. announced that its Vinto tin smelter may produce 15,000 metric tons of refined tin in 2001, up from the current rate of 11,000 t/yr. Vinto is seeking new sources of tin concentrate, which now comes from Bolivia and Brazil (Platt's Metals Week, 2000).

Update

On December 29, 2000, the Platt's Metals Week composite price for tin was \$3.55 per pound.

References Cited

- Metal Bulletin, 2000, Erdemir ramps up tinplate output: Metal Bulletin, no. 8534, December 14, p. 20.
- Metal Bulletin Monthly, 2000, More steel packaging recycled: Metal Bulletin Monthly, no. 360, December, p. 80.
- Mining Journal, 2000, Denmark to outlaw lead: Mining Journal, v. 335, no. 8611, December 1, p. 438.
- Platt's Metals Week, 2000, Vinto targets 15,000 mt/year: Platt's Metals Week, v. 71, no. 52, December 25, p. 11.
- Russian Mining, 2000, Antimony and tin: Russian Mining, October, p. 29-42.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2000			
	1999	October	November	January- November
Production, secondary e/ 2/	16,300	900	900	9,900
Consumption:				
Primary	38,400	3,570	3,360	38,700
Secondary	8,890	890	870	9,810
Imports for consumption, metal	47,500	3,790	NA	NA
Exports, metal	6,770	844	NA	NA
Stocks at end of period	10,700	7,200 r/	7,600	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): 3/				
Metals Week composite 4/	365.98	362.14	361.05	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	254.54	247.50	247.00	XX
London, standard grade, cash	245.00	240.00	239.00	XX
Kuala Lumpur	240.70	238.20	236.92	XX

e/ Estimated. 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/ Source: 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:			
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
July	372.25	362.15	366.03
August	372.25	362.15	363.52
September	375.60	365.86	372.11
October	368.35	355.28	362.14
November	364.20	355.77	361.05

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, cobble, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			Shipments 2/
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
1999	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	795	5.3	203,000
July	W	165,000	780	4.7	182,000
August	W	157,000	795	5.1	214,000
September	W	145,000	761	5.3	203,000
October	W	138,000	724	5.2	194,000
November	W	113,000	650	5.7	NA

NA Not available. 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	2000			
	1999	September	October	January- October
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	3,850	279	597	5,940
Brazil	4,700	440	361	4,820
Chile	3,980	368	192	2,280
China	13,900	578	929	8,690
Hong Kong	261	--	--	397
Indonesia	7,930	539	439	4,580
Japan	282	--	--	9
Malaysia	944	--	--	104
Peru	11,000	845	1,220	10,500
Russia	--	--	--	145
Singapore	60	--	--	20
Thailand	20	--	--	--
United Kingdom	60	--	16	232
Other	533	45	44	357
Total	47,500	3,090	3,790	38,100
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	3,090	279	506	3,550
Bars and rods	872	101	72	848
Foil, tubes, pipes	1	--	(2/)	(2/)
Plates, sheets, strip	122	18	4	573
Waste and scrap	2,730	233	170	1,840
Miscellaneous	2,290	1,580	466	7,190
Total	9,100	2,210	1,220	14,000
Exports (metal)	6,770	607	844	5,410

-- Zero.

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

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2000							
	1999	October			November			January- November total 2/
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) 3/	W	124	W	124	104	W	104	1,330
Babbitt	1,610	W	W	W	W	W	W	249
Bar tin and anodes	718	25	W	25	25	W	25	270
Bronze and brass	3,410	106	128	234	107	107	214	2,620
Chemicals	8,220	682	W	682	682	W	682	7,500
Collapsible tubes and foil	45	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	18,700	909	417	1,330	1,040	417	1,460	15,400
Tinning	862	47	--	47	47	--	47	621
Tinplate 4/	9,150	724	--	724	650	--	650	8,370
Tin powder	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	195
White metal 5/	892	W	--	W	W	W	W	10
Other	3,620	352	45	397	111	46	157	2,100
Total reported	47,300	2,970	590	3,560	2,760	570	3,330	38,700
Estimated undistributed consumption 6/	--	600	300	900	600	300	900	9,870
Grand total	47,300	3,570	890	4,460	3,360	870	4,230	48,500

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/ May include revisions for prior months.

3/ Includes terre metal.

4/ Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

5/ Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

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