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For information, contact:
James F. Carlin, Jr., Tin Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jcarlin@usgs.gov

Elsie D. Isaac (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7950
Fax: (703) 648-7975

Internet: http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals

TIN IN JULY 2002

Domestic consumption of primary tin in July was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 1% higher than that in June and 3% lower than that in July 2001.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in July was $3.09 per pound, an increase of 1% from that of June, and also an increase of 1% from that of July 2001.

China's 2001-05 development plan for nonferrous minerals promulgated by the State Development Planning Commission targets tin output at 60,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) by 2005. In May 2001, however, the Yunnan Tin Corp. (YTC), China's largest tin smelter, idled its operations for 2 months in response to falling tin prices and to work on the installation of its new Ausmelt furnace. YTC's output for 2001 reached 20,000 t and the company expects to export around 6,000 t of tin in 2002 versus 8,000 t in 2001 (Mining Journal, 2002).

The proposed merger between Corus Group, the Anglo-Dutch steelmaker, and Brazil's Companhia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN) reportedly is progressing, with a goal to combine operations by March 2003. The $4.3 million union would result in Corus shareholders having 62.4% of the new firm and CSN shareholders having 37.6%. The combined organization would produce over 20 million metric tons (Mt) of crude steel annually, ranking it among the world's largest steelmakers. The new firm would be the world's largest tinplate producer with a tinplate capacity of 2.9 Mt annually (American Metal Market, 2002).

Kester Solder Co. (Des Plaines, IL) announced the permanent closure of its Anaheim, CA, tin alloy solder plant. The closure was caused by a slowdown in the economy, especially in the electronics industry. Solder production will continue at two of Kester's other North American facilities. Kester is a unit of Northrup Grumman's Component Technologies Division (Platts Metals Week, 2002).

Arcelor Group, Europe's top steelmaker, announced plans to replace the two tinning lines at its Avilés Works (Spain) to increase its width capabilities to 1,250 millimeters (mm). The Avilés plant currently has two Ferrostan vertical electrolytic tinning lines producing a yearly total of 300,000 t of tinplate 457—1,016 mm wide. One of the tinning lines will be replaced within two years to allow Avilés to produce up to 150,000 t/yr of 1,250-mm-wide coil specifically for the beverage can industry (Metal Bulletin, 2002).

Update

On September 6, 2002, the Platts Metals Week Composite price for tin was $2.78 per pound.

References Cited

American Metal Market, 2002, Corus, Brazil's CSN negotiate possible steel mega-merger: American Metal Market, v. 110, no. 76-1, July 8, p. 1, 2.
Metal Bulletin, 2002, Arcelor to boost Avilés tinning capabilities: Metal Bulletin, no. 8696, August 5, p. 15.
Mining Journal, 2002, Problems for tin: Mining Journal, v. 339, no. 8697, August 9, p. 93.
Platts Metals Week, 2002, Kester shuts solder plant in Anaheim, California: Platts Metals Week, v. 73, no. 31, August 5, p. 9.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2002		
	2001 p/	June	July	January-July
Production, secondary e/ 2/	10,800	900	900	6,300
Consumption:				
Primary	39,300	3,090	3,110	21,700
Secondary	10,500	797	787	5,630
Imports for consumption, metal	37,500	3,270	NA	NA
Exports, metal	4,350	221	NA	NA
Stocks at end of period	7,700	6,540	6,570	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): 3/				
Metals Week composite 4/	314.88	304.92	308.64	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	211.48	204.86	185.44	XX
London, standard grade, cash	200.00	194.00	174.00	XX
Kuala Lumpur	200.77	194.28	175.44	XX

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. 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: Platts 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
2001:			
July	321.14	291.50	306.98
August	285.47	270.73	280.33
September	278.39	262.81	268.50
October	275.81	264.30	270.42
November	301.03	272.87	287.17
December	297.98	283.04	289.64
Year	359.89	262.81	314.88
2002:			
January	287.97	277.20	280.68
February	280.03	267.12	273.15
March	283.34	276.69	278.81
April	291.33	283.90	288.55
May	299.15	290.78	296.72
June	311.49	299.48	304.92
July	316.83	290.53	308.64

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: Platts 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/
2001p/	77,500	1,710,000	8,130	4.8	2,010,000
2001:					
December	3,880	136,000	668	4.9	130,000
2002:					
January	W	187,000	683	3.6	191,000
February	5,330	191,000	640	3.3	152,000
March	4,440	188,000	588	3.1	163,000
April	5,080	176,000	530	3.0	173,000
May	5,110	197,000	746	3.8	178,000
June	5,850	200,000	609	3.1	178,000
July	5,280	198,000	574	2.9	NA

p/ Preliminary. 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	2001	2002 May	2002 June	2002 January-June
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,040	493	301	3,200
Brazil	5,510	320	340	2,240
Chile	122	--	--	--
China	6,360	701	843	3,280
Hong Kong	20	--	--	--
Indonesia	3,880	20	80	620
Malaysia	674	--	4	45
Peru	14,000	1,660	1,650	9,480
Russia	143	--	20	21
Singapore	145	--	--	--
United Kingdom	118	--	--	--
Other	434	2	28	125
Total	37,500	3,200	3,270	19,000
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	3,830	370	238	2,020
Bars and rods	539	20	25	99
Foil, tubes, pipes	1	--	--	(2/)
Plates, sheets, strip	529	83	8	98
Waste and scrap	3,700	11	48	238
Miscellaneous	13,900	315	328	5,990
Total	22,500	799	647	8,440
Exports (metal)	4,350	218	221	1,430

-- 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)

		2002						
		June			July			January-
Product	2001 p/	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	July
Alloys (miscellaneous) 2/	1,500	159 r/	W	159 r/	131	W	131	962
Babbitt	316	27	22	49	19	22	41	342
Bar tin and anodes	248	13	W	13	13	W	13	128
Bronze and brass	2,640	94	121	215	73	115	188	1,460
Chemicals	8,020	630	W	630	630	W	630	4,430
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	15,700	869	341	1,210	954	341	1,300	8,470
Tinning	906	34	--	34	34	--	34	239
Tinplate 3/	8,130	607 r/	--	607 r/	574	--	574	4,370
Tin powder	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
White metal 4/	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	1,530	54 r/	13	67 r/	78	9	87	669
Total reported	38,900	2,490	497	2,980 r/	2,510	487	2,990	21,100
Estimated undistributed consumption 5/	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	6,300
Grand total	49,700	3,090	797	3,880 r/	3,110	787	3,890	27,400

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.