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Mineral Industry Surveys

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
E-mail: eisaac@usgs.gov

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

TIN IN MAY 2003

Domestic consumption of primary tin in May was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 6% lower than that in April and 9% below that in May 2002.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in May was $3.31 per pound, 3% higher than that in April and 11% higher than that in May 2002.

Several attempts have been made in various parts of the United States to alter existing beverage container deposit laws:

a) In Hawaii, the Governor plans to ask the legislature to repeal the State's beverage container deposit law.
b) In Massachusetts, a legislative bill to expand the State's 21-year-old beverage container redemption program was defeated, only to be resurrected and defeated again.
c) In California, a legislative bill to boost the redemption value on used beverage containers failed to pass.

Beer and soft drink industry officials have tended to resist increases in the redemption value because a corresponding increase at the retail level may result in declining sales. While most metal beverage containers made in the United States are aluminum, there are some imported containers made of tinplate (Container Recycling Report, 2003).

In China, the country's second largest tin producer, Liuzhou China Tin Group, has reportedly opened a new tin mine. Liuzhou has had tin shortages for 2 years. The company opened the new mine in June, but the ore grade reportedly was low. Liuzhou's tin operations continue to run below capacity due to a lack of concentrates. The company is expected to produce 15,000 metric tons (t) of tin annually, only one-half of what it produced 2 years ago before its major tin mine in Nandan was closed due to a major mining accident there (Metal-Pages, 2003§[1]).

In Australia, Murchison United NL closed its Renison Bell tin mine in Tasmania for 6 to 8 weeks so that the facility can be made safer following the death of a worker there in May. Only 20 of the mine's 150-person staff will remain to perform maintenance and the rest will be redeployed to the other west coast sites of Renison's mining contractor Barminco (CRU Tin Monitor, 2003).

In Bolivia, it was reported that the Huanuni tin mine will not be offered for re-privatization for several months due to a legal dispute between the Government and the workers cooperatives which have been operating in parts of the mine since it was confiscated from the now defunct RBG Resources (CRU Tin Monitor, 2003).

In China, Yunnan Tin Corp. announced plans to shutdown the Ausmelt furnace at its Gejui Plant for 2 to 4 weeks for maintenance. Production at Yunnan's second tin smelter in Hunan would be unaffected. Yunnan plans to produce 28,000 t of tin this year (CRU Tin Monitor, 2003).

In Russia, the Novosibirsk Tin Combine announced plans to increase shipments of raw materials from its subsidiaries in Khabarovsk from 400 t to 1,000 t this year before rising to 1,500 t in 2004. The increased output is due to the restart of the Perevalny and Molodyozhny mines. Novosibirsk is also planning to open a number of new production facilities at its smelter. These include a tin chemicals plant which will be a joint venture with England's Russian Tin Sales Ltd. (CRU Tin Monitor, 2003).

In the Czech Republic, U.S. Steel Kosice announced plans to add a new electrolytic tinplating line with an annual capacity of 40,000 t to its existing tin mill. The new line is expected to start up in the second quarter of 2004 (CRU Tin Monitor, 2003).

Update

On June 27, 2003, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was $3.27 per pound.

References Cited

Container Recycling Report, 2003, North American Watch: Container Recycling Report, v. 14, no. 6, June, p. 6.
CRU Tin Monitor, 2003, Industry news: CRU Tin Monitor, June, p. 7.

Internet Reference Cited

Metal-Pages, 2003 (June 26), Liuzhou opens small mine to help boost output, accessed June 30, 2003, at URL http://www.metal-pages.com.

[1]A reference with a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2003		
	2002[p]	April	May	January-May
Production, secondary[e, 2]	10,800	900	900	4,500
Consumption:				
Primary	35,800	3,180	2,990	15,600
Secondary	10,800	711	711	3,470
Imports for consumption, metal	42,200	3,750	NA	NA
Exports, metal	2,940	271	NA	NA
Stocks at end of period	7,280	6,390 [r]	6,400	XX
Prices (average cents per pound):[3]				
Metals Week composite[4]	291.97	321.54	330.58	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	194.75	217.19	225.11	XX
London, standard grade, cash	184.00	207.00	215.00	XX
Kuala Lumpur	184.35	207.78	214.20	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]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
2002:			
May	299.15	290.78	296.72
June	311.49	299.48	304.92
July	316.83	290.53	308.64
August	286.95	272.37	279.74
September	295.72	277.95	286.19
October	308.99	294.63	302.39
November	306.01	297.88	301.54
December	306.94	298.78	302.37
Year	316.83	267.12	291.97
2003:			
January	320.43	303.14	313.84
February	333.87	310.69	322.82
March	330.75	318.70	323.84
April	326.53	317.74	321.54
May	333.80	325.19	330.58

[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]
2002[p]	61,100	2,400,000	7,440	3.1	2,100,000
2003:					
January	2,790	216,000	642	3.0	180,000
February	2,510	214,000	640	3.0	156,000
March	W	225,000	686	3.1	156,000
April	W	217,000	704 [r]	3.2	165,000
May	1,780	215,000	536	2.5	NA

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. 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	2002	2003 March	2003 April	2003 January-April
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,150	641	277	1,930
Brazil	4,840	476	250	986
China	7,600	592	559	2,030
Indonesia	3,340	320	590	1,210
Malaysia	122	80	15	175
Peru	19,900	1,810	2,060	6,910
Russia	21	--	--	--
United Kingdom	2	--	--	--
Other	264	138	--	190
Total	42,200	4,060	3,750	13,400
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	3,530	288	228	1,080
Bars and rods	224	39	63	147
Foil, tubes, pipes	1	1	2	3
Plates, sheets, strip	128	(2)	9	19
Waste and scrap	561	34	12	512
Miscellaneous	7,810	209	316	848
Total	12,300	571	630	2,610
Exports (metal)	2,940	196	271	1,030

-- 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	2002[p]	2003						
		April			May			January-May
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous)[2]	1,660	153 [r]	W	153 [r]	180	W	180	797
Babbitt	501	29	W	29	33	W	33	128
Bar tin and anodes	192	17	W	17	14	W	14	108
Bronze and brass	2,390	83	78	161	76	74	150	799
Chemicals	7,550	697	W	697	697	W	697	3,490
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	14,500	780	263	1,040	764	266	1,030	5,300
Tinning	411	33	--	33	36	--	36	173
Tinplate[3]	7,440	704 [r]	--	704 [r]	536	--	536	3,190
Tin powder	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	W
White metal[4]	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	W
Other	1,110	85 [r]	70	155 [r]	56	71	127	584
Total reported	35,800	2,580	411	2,990	2,390	411	2,800	14,600
Estimated undistributed consumption[5]	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	4,500
Grand total	46,600	3,180	711	3,890	2,990	711	3,700	19,100

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing 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.