

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JULY 2005

Domestic consumption of primary tin in July was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be about 3% lower than that in June 2005 and about 3% lower than that in July 2004.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in July was \$4.71 per pound, about 5% lower than that in June 2005, and about 18% lower than that in July 2004. The July average price was the lowest average monthly price since February 2004.

During the first 6 months of 2005, Peru remained the dominant refined tin supplier to the United States, with Bolivia second, followed by China and Brazil.

Yunnan Tin Industry Corporation Ltd. (China) announced that it intended to shut down its tin smelting operations for a 40-day major overhaul. Production ceased on July 25, with resumption planned for September 4. Normally, Yunnan closes for maintenance every 6 months, but for the past year the smelter was worked to the limit and operated without a maintenance shutdown. Yunnan is one of the world's major tin producers. It had previously projected tin output of 32,000 metric tons (t) in 2005, in line with 2004 production, but Yunnan officials now estimate it will lose 5,000 t from the shutdown (Platts Metals Week, 2005b).

Beginning in July, another major Chinese tin producer, Liuzhou China Tin Group (Guangxi Province), reported a 50% reduction in tin ingot production owing to a tightening feedstock supply. Liuzhou produced 1,400 to 1,500 metric tons per month for the first one half of the year using its own concentrate and purchased concentrate from local suppliers. Liuzhou has a 25,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) capacity and has been producing at 60% of capacity in recent years owing to a tightening supply of feedstock (Platts Metals Week, 2005a).

In Argentina, it was announced that Silver Standard Resources Inc. (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) planned to restart the Pirquitas silver and tin project. The company aimed to update the project's 1999-2000 feasibility study and expected to invest \$100 million in the restart. The feasibility study was expected to be completed by 2006. The previous feasibility

study, carried out by Sunshine Mining Co. (Idaho), projected annual production of 342,000 kilograms of silver and 3,000 t of tin over an 8-year mine life (CRU Week in the News, 2005§¹).

In Brazil, Grupo Paranapanema (Sao Paulo), the country's leading producer of nonferrous metals, announced plans to expand its production of tin. It intended to spend \$51 million to double production at its Mamore division from the 7,500 t of tin reported for 2004 to more than 15,000 t/yr of tin. Completion was scheduled for the second half of 2007 (Metal-Pages, 2005a§).

The Russian Economic Development and Trade Ministry has been considering abolishing the import duty on tin ore and concentrates. The 5% tariff was suspended at the beginning of 2005 for a period of 9 months (Metal-Pages, 2005b§).

Update

On September 16, 2005, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$4.36 per pound.

References Cited

Platts Metals Week, 2005a, Liuzhou's tin output hit by tight feed: Platts Metals Week, v. 76, no. 33, August 15, p. 8.
Platts Metals Week, 2005b, Yunnan maintenance shutdown to cost 5,000 mt of tin: Platts Metals Week, v. 76, no. 33, August 15, p.1, 13.

Internet References Cited

CRU Week in the News, 2005 (September 1), TIN, accessed September 1, 2005, via URL <http://www.crumonitor.com>.
Metal Pages, 2005a, (August 25), Brazil major to hike output, accessed August 25, 2005, via URL <http://www.metal-pages.com>.
Metal Pages, 2005b, (August 25), Russia told to remove tin duty, accessed August 25, 2005, via URL <http://www.metal-pages.com>.

¹References that include a section mark (§) are found in the Internet References Cited section.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2005			
	2004 ^p	June	July	January- July
Production, secondary ^{s, 2}	10,800	900	900	6,300
Consumption:				
Primary	38,500	3,150 ^r	3,060	22,100
Secondary	8,200	768	766	5,360
Imports for consumption, metal	47,600	4,000	NA	NA
Exports, metal	3,650	408	NA	NA
Stocks at end of period	6,140	5,670	5,800	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	547.30	497.35	470.82	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	409.38	370.72	350.75	XX
London, standard grade, cash	385.00	345.00	325.00	XX
Kuala Lumpur	385.11	345.57	323.84	XX

^sEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

³Source: Platts Metals Week.

⁴The 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 PRICE¹

(Cents per pound)

Period	High	Low	Average
2004:			
July	583.13	565.64	576.07
August	590.50	563.04	573.74
September	585.04	566.00	576.55
October	586.56	568.98	578.10
November	584.93	570.24	580.02
December	569.06	505.64	555.57
Year	624.98	424.94	547.30
2005:			
January	521.70	492.15	503.78
February	544.11	511.92	523.08
March	555.16	521.08	543.81
April	534.61	521.86	527.02
May	529.88	521.36	524.53
June	514.23	476.28	497.35
July	483.46	462.98	470.82

¹The 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 STATES¹

(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)	
2004 ^P	W	2,550,000	7,700	3.0	2,190,000
2005:					
January	W	207,000	676	3.3	144,000
February	W	202,000	684	3.4	164,000
March	W	209,000	684	3.3	166,000
April	W	199,000	662	3.3	136,000
May	W	174,000	595	3.4	186,000
June	W	186,000 ^r	706 ^r	3.8 ^r	169,000
July	W	168,000	627	3.7	NA

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS¹

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2004 ^P	2005		
		May	June	January- June
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	5,060	813	871	3,660
Brazil	4,330	275	225	1,350
Chile	281	--	--	20
China	5,310	360	412	2,440
Indonesia	4,660	200	296	1,130
Japan	540	--	--	--
Malaysia	6,600	161	1	869
Peru	19,600	1,130	2,190	10,200
Switzerland	178	--	--	--
Thailand	500	--	--	35
United Kingdom	97	--	--	18
Other	472	23	--	152
Total	47,600	2,960	4,000	19,900
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	5,180	1,690	430	4,930
Bars and rods	625	101	73	459
Foil, tubes, pipes	6	(2)	--	(2)
Plates, sheets, strip	509	6	15	179
Waste and scrap	1,950	476	43	1,520
Miscellaneous	3,330	226	150	1,410
Total	11,600	2,500	711	8,490
Exports (metal)	3,650	341	408	1,910

-- Zero.

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

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2004 ^P	2005						
		June			July			January- July
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,800	105	--	105	104	--	104	736
Babbitt	264	19	W	19	21	W	21	186
Bar tin and anodes	182	23	W	23	23	W	23	159
Bronze and brass	2,490	173	134	307	162	132	294	2,120
Chemicals	8,490	719	W	719	719	W	719	5,030
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	12,500	665	325	990	666	325	991	7,190
Tinning	451	64	--	64	57	--	57	427
Tinplate ³	7,700	706 ^r	--	706 ^r	627	--	627	4,640
Tin powder	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	W
White metal ⁴	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	W
Other	1,000	78	9	87	80	9	89	627
Total reported	35,900	2,550 ^r	468	3,020 ^r	2,460	466	2,930	21,100
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	6,300
Grand total	46,700	3,150 ^r	768	3,920 ^r	3,060	766	3,830	27,400

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁴Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

⁵Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.