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TIN IN AUGUST 2005

Domestic consumption of primary tin in August was estimated to be about 4% higher than that in July 2005 and about 2% less than that in August 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Estimated domestic consumption of primary tin in the first 8 months of 2005 was slightly less than that for the comparable period of 2004. The leading exporters of refined tin to the United States in the first 7 months of 2005 were, in descending order, Peru, Bolivia, China, Indonesia, Brazil, and Malaysia.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in August was $4.69 per pound, slightly lower than that in July 2005 and 18% lower than that in August 2004.

The Defense National Stockpile Center announced that the fiscal year 2006 Annual Materials Plan (AMP) in effect October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006, calls for up to 12,000 metric tons (t) of tin to be sold from the Stockpile.

China, the world's leading tin producer, reported that tin output through the first 8 months of 2005 was 78,000 t, an increase of 12% compared with that in the similar period of 2004. China exported 19,000 t of refined tin through the first 8 months of 2005, a decline of 30% compared with that of the similar period of 2004. China imported 21,100 t of refined tin through the first 8 months of 2005, more than doubling the amount imported during the comparable period of 2004 (Metal-Pages, 2005§[1]).

In Peru, the leading tin producer in South America and the country's lone tin producer, Minsur SA, produced of 20,800 t of tin in the first 6 months of 2005, up 4% compared with that of the first half of 2004 (Platts Metals Week, 2005).

In Australia, Van Dieman Mines Plc (United Kingdom), signed an agreement to supply Thailand Smelting & Refining Co. Ltd. (Thaisarco) with its entire tin concentrate production. The 6-year contract with Thaisarco is based on the London Metal Exchange tin price at the time of the delivery of the concentrate. At current tin prices, the total value of the contract to Van Dieman reportedly is about $60 million. The company was expected to start mining by the end of 2005, having received a mining license for its Scotia Mine in northeast Tasmania, Australia, on July 7. The company was also reportedly close to completing a lease agreement for its Endurance Mine in Tasmania (Metal Bulletin, 2005c).

In the Philippines, Global Steel Philippines (GSP) is set to become the country's sole tinplate producer when it restarts production in November at its Iligan mill on the island of Mindanao. The country's tin can manufacturers reportedly were concerned that the quality of GSP's tinplate may be suitable for "general line" can production (for paint and varnish cans, etc.) but perhaps not for more stringent uses like sanitary (food and beverage) tin cans. Local tin can firms have the option of buying tinplate from GSP or overseas. In recent years, Philippine tin can makers have imported tinplate from Australia, Japan, South Africa, Republic of South Korea, and the United States. The country imported about 240,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tinplate. GSP's tinplating capacity is 150,000 t/yr. GSP is owned by Global Steel Holdings Ltd., the international investment arm of Ispat Group (India) (Metal Bulletin, 2005a).

In Germany, tinplate producer Rasselstein GmbH (a division of Thyssen Krupp Stahl AG) has invested about $175 million to create 250,000 t/yr of new capacity. The firm plans to commission a new electrolytic tinning line, as well as a new continuous annealing line, in October, raising the company's output to about 1.5 million metric tons per year of tinplate. With the expansion, Rasselstein will have five electrolytic tinning lines and three continuous annealing lines (Metal Bulletin, 2005b).

Update

On October 7, 2005, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was $4.36 per pound.

References Cited

Metals Bulletin, 2005a, Canmaker's conundrum: Metal Bulletin, no. 8909, September 5, p. 30.
Metal Bulletin, 2005b, Rasselstein invests €150m on new tinning and annealing lines: Metal Bulletin, no. 8913, October 3, p. 21.
Metal Bulletin, 2005c, Van Dieman signs tin off-take deal: Metal Bulletin, no. 8912, September 26, p. 16.

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

Platts Metals Week, 2005, Peru's tin production up: Platts Metals Week, v. 76, no. 35, August 29, p. 8.

Internet Reference Cited

Metal-Pages, 2005 (September 14), China ups base metal output, accessed September 14, 2005, via URL http://www.metal-pages.com.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2005		
	2004[p]	July	August	January-August
Production, secondary[e, 2]	10,800	900	900	7,200
Consumption:				
Primary	38,500	3,040 [r]	3,150	25,200
Secondary	8,200	766	770	6,130
Imports for consumption, metal	47,600	4,000	3,590	NA
Exports, metal	3,650	408	392	NA
Stocks at end of period	6,140	5,830 [r]	5,550	XX
Prices (average cents per pound):[3]				
Metals Week composite[4]	547.30	470.82 [r]	469.43	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	409.38	350.75 [r]	354.77	XX
London, standard grade, cash	385.00	325.00 [r]	326.00	XX
Kuala Lumpur	385.11	323.84 [r]	322.25	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
2004:			
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
August	482.15	458.34	469.43

[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]
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	706	3.8	169,000
July	W	168,000	612 [r]	3.8 [r]	136,000
August	W	163,000	624	3.8	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	2004[p]	2005 June	2005 July	2005 January-July
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	5,060	871	601	4,260
Brazil	4,330	225	175	1,530
Chile	281	--	--	20
China	5,310	412	519	2,960
Indonesia	4,660	296	775	1,910
Japan	540	--	--	--
Malaysia	6,600	1	200	1,070
Peru	19,600	2,190	1,310	11,500
Switzerland	178	--	--	1
Thailand	500	--	--	35
United Kingdom	97	--	9	27
Other	472	--	6	157
Total	47,600	4,000	3,590	23,500
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	5,180	430	419	5,350
Bars and rods	625	73	87	546
Foil, tubes, pipes	6	--	--	(2)
Plates, sheets, strip	509	15	14	192
Waste and scrap	1,950	43	204	1,720
Miscellaneous	3,330	150	241	1,650
Total	11,600	711	965	9,460
Exports (metal)	3,650	408	392	2,300

-- 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)

		2005						
		July			August			January-
Product	2004[p]	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	August
Alloys (miscellaneous)[2]	2,800	99 [r]	--	99 [r]	103	--	103	834
Babbitt	264	21	W	21	19	W	18	204
Bar tin and anodes	182	23	W	23	23	W	23	182
Bronze and brass	2,490	162	132	294	175	136	311	2,430
Chemicals	8,490	719	W	719	719	W	719	5,750
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	12,500	666	325	991	741	325	1,070	8,260
Tinning	451	57	--	57	61	--	61	488
Tinplate[3]	7,700	612 [r]	--	612 [r]	624	--	624	5,240
Tin powder	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	W
White metal[4]	W	W	--	W	W	--	W	W
Other	1,000	81 [r]	9	90 [r]	81	9	90	718
Total reported	35,900	2,440 [r]	466	2,910 [r]	2,550	470	3,020	24,100
Estimated undistributed consumption[5]	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	7,200
Grand total	46,700	3,040 [r]	766	3,810 [r]	3,150	770	3,920	31,300

[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.