

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2008

Domestic consumption of primary tin in the first 6 months of 2008 was estimated to be 11,500 metric tons (t). Consumption of primary tin in June 2008 was estimated to be 1,920 t compared with 2,890 t in June 2007. For the first 6 months of 2008, tinsplate was the leading consumption category, followed by solder, chemicals, and bronze and brass.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in June 2008 was \$13.40 per pound, compared with \$8.72 in July 2007.

Yunnan Tin Co., Ltd. (Kunming, Yunnan Province, China), a subsidiary of Yunnan Tin Group, announced its tin output plan for 2008: increasing tin production by 15% compared with 61,000 t in 2007 (China Metal Market—Lead, Zinc & Tin, 2008)

Metals X Ltd. (East Perth, Western Australia, Australia), through its wholly owned subsidiary, Bluestone Mines Tasmania Pty Ltd. (BMT), implemented a restart strategy for the Renison tin project in Tasmania. The project had been on care and maintenance since October 2005, when tin prices fell to less than \$6,000 per metric ton. With the world tin price stabilized, recovering to more than \$17,000 per metric ton, the company was on track to restart operations during 2008. The Renison project was built around the Renison Bell underground tin mine and Renison tin concentrator, and was to include the Mount Bischoff open pit mine to generate a blended feedstock, with the underground mine providing about two-thirds of the feed. The Mount Bischoff open pit mine had a planned life of about 3 years (TIN World, 2008b).

Malaysia Smelting Corp. (MSC) (Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory, Malaysia) announced the signing of an agreement between its 60% owned local subsidiary PT Tenaga Anugerah and PT Sarana Marina that will allow it to start offshore tin production in 2008. MSC's main tin holding in Indonesia was its 75% stake in PT Koba Tin, which has onshore mining operations and a smelter on Bangka Island (TIN World, 2008a).

Stellar Resources Ltd. (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia) acquired a 60% interest in the Zeehan tin project in northwest Tasmania, Australia, from Western Metals Ltd. (West Perth, Western Australia, Australia). The remaining 40% ownership is held by Gippsland Ltd. (Claremont, Western Australia, Australia). The Zeehan tin project has a reported resource estimate of 7.3 million metric tons at 0.69% tin, which Stellar believed represented the largest known underground tin resource in Australia (Platts Metals Week, 2008).

References Cited

- China Metal Market—Lead, Zinc & Tin, 2008, Yunnan Tin plans to raise tin output by 15%: China Metal Market—Lead, Zinc & Tin, no. 136, April, p. 9.
Platts Metals Week, 2008, Stellar buys Tasmanian tin stake: Platts Metals Week, v. 79, no. 12, March 24, p. 7.
TIN World, 2008a, MSC invests in Indonesian mining venture: TIN World, no. 21, Spring, p. 6.
TIN World, 2008b, Renison restart projected for 2008: TIN World, no. 21, Spring, p. 6.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2008					
	2007 ^P	March	April	May	June	January- June
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,900	994	994	994	994	5,960
Consumption:						
Primary	23,700	1,910	1,970	1,920	1,920	11,500
Secondary	7,490	720	723	719	721	4,330
Imports for consumption, metal	34,600	2,660	2,930	3,040	2,200	18,400
Exports, metal	6,410	845	638	792	818	4,960
Stocks at end of period	9,100	8,020	8,000	7,970	7,930	XX
Prices (average cents per pound) ³						
Metals Week composite ⁴	899.48	1,210.00	1,310.00	1,450.00	1,340.00	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	679.48	921.39	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,030.00	XX
London, standard grade, cash	659.00	897.80	981.56	991.38	100.72	XX
Kuala Lumpur	658.42	897.30	977.49	1,090.00	1,000.00	XX

^eEstimated. ^PPreliminary. 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
2007	1,056.54	655.02	899.48
2008:			
January	1,031.54	988.63	1,004.58
February	1,138.12	1,023.31	1,054.61
March	1,255.43	1,147.64	1,206.50
April	1,468.60	1,213.43	1,311.05
May	1,529.29	1,293.17	1,454.06
June	1,414.29	1,266.59	1,342.82

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, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ²
2007	58,900	1,780,000	7,010	3.9	1,770,000
2008:					
January	3,350	166,000	532	3.2	140,000
February	2,440	166,000	510	3.1	143,000
March	2,230	175,000	524	3.0	172,000
April	2,590	203,000	584	2.9	183,000
May	2,520	203,000	554	2.7	149,000
June	2,430	194,000	542	2.8	181,000

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	2008					January- June
	2007	March	April	May	June	
Imports:						
Metal (unwrought tin):						
Bolivia	4,340	20	701	520	280	2,730
Brazil	2,600	151	176	149	124	926
China	4,230	458	247	184	290	1,560
Indonesia	1,680	221	84	170	25	591
Malaysia	14	--	--	--	84	84
Netherlands	100	--	--	--	--	--
Peru	18,700	1,710	1,170	1,640	1,390	11,400
Singapore	1,730	--	100	118	--	243
Taiwan	15	--	--	--	--	6
Thailand	--	--	460	250	--	710
United Kingdom	881	100	--	--	--	100
Other	299	--	--	2	--	9
Total	34,600	2,660	2,930	3,040	2,200	18,400
Other (gross weight):						
Alloys	1,940	211	219	203	117	954
Bars and rods	3,840	345	443	371	298	2,310
Foil, tubes, pipes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Plates, sheets, strip	--	--	--	--	--	--
Waste and scrap	10,200	2,130	3,300	2,730	2,340	16,900
Miscellaneous	3,780	270	236	319	144	1,360
Total	19,800	2,960	4,200	3,620	2,900	21,500
Exports (metal)	6,410	845	638	792	818	4,960

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2007 ^P	2008												January- June
		March			April			May			June			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	W	124	W	124	128	W	128	124	W	124	126	W	126	876
Babbitt	604	20	W	20	21	W	21	20	W	20	19	W	19	229
Bar tin and anodes	788	18	--	18	18	--	18	22	--	22	19	--	19	111
Bronze and brass	2,800	106	98	203	94	101	195	95	97	192	92	99	190	1,200
Chemicals	6,070	242	W	242	242	W	242	242	W	242	242	W	242	1,470
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	10,400	205	277	483	206	277	483	195	277	472	204	277	482	2,880
Tinning	451	28	--	28	28	--	28	26	--	26	29	--	29	167
Tinplate ³	7,010	524	--	524	584	--	584	554	--	554	542	--	542	3,250
Tin powder	W	18	W	18	18	W	18	18	--	18	18	W	18	113
White metal ⁴	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	--	W	W	W	W	W
Other	3,000	29	45	74	30	45	75	29	45	74	29	45	74	188
Total reported	31,100	1,310	420	1,730	1,370	423	1,790	1,320	419	1,740	1,320	421	1,740	10,500
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	--	600	300	900	600	300	900	600	300	900	600	300	900	5,400
Grand total	31,100	1,910	720	2,630	1,970	723	2,690	1,920	719	2,640	1,920	721	2,640	15,900

^PPreliminary. 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.