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# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2009

Domestic consumption of primary tin in the second quarter of 2009 was estimated to be 5,520 metric tons (t), compared with 5,700 t in the first quarter of 2009 and 5,810 t in the second quarter of 2008. Imports of refined tin were 9,420 t in the second quarter of 2009 and 8,170 t in the second quarter of 2008. Peru, Bolivia, and Indonesia, in decreasing order, were the leading sources of tin imports in the first half of 2009.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in June 2009 was $9.25 per pound compared with $13.40 per pound in June 2008.

According to provisional data from China's National Bureau of Statistics, refined tin production continued to recover in April. April 2009 production was reported to be 12,470 t, up 8.5% compared with that in April 2008. This was the first month in 2009 that output was higher than that of the comparable month in 2008. Cumulative production in January through April, at 33,000 t, was still 20% lower than that in the first 4 months of 2008. The increase reflected improved demand and raw material availability compared with that of the first quarter of 2009. Concentrate supply improved as a result of the reopening of small mines (CRU International Ltd., 2009a).

Nanshan Tin Co. Ltd. commissioned a new tin smelter in Nankang Industrial Zone, Jiangxi Province, China, on April 9. The smelter has a design capacity of 10,000 metric tons per year of refined tin and was constructed for $22 million. The startup took place at a time when Chinese tin smelters were struggling to obtain sufficient raw materials owing to shortage of scrap. However, Nanshan Tin was reported to have a business relationship with a Jiangxi Province mining firm, which was likely to provide part of its concentrate feed (Metals Place, 2009).

Tin production in Indonesia declined during 2009. Independent tin smelters reported continuing problems in obtaining sufficient supplies of tin ore. The PT Bangka-Belitung Timah Sejahtera tin smelter was operating 30% to 40% below its capacity of 5,000 to 6,000 metric tons per month of refined tin. PT Koba Tin was forced to shut down two gravel pump units after they were flooded following heavy rains in May, and they were expected to remain out of operation until July. As a result of these problems, Koba may fall short of its 9,000-t production target in 2009 (CRU International Ltd., 2009b).

The Metals X Ltd. (East Perth, Western Australia, Australia) tin mine in Tasmania produced 1,440 t of tin-in-concentrate in the first quarter of 2009, an increase of 61% from that in the prior quarter. The mill was fed with tin ore from two mines—the Renison underground mine and the nearby Mt. Bichoff open pit mine. The company was focused on boosting production from the Renison Mine, where Metals X expected to complete a feasibility study on the treatment of Renison tailings by the middle of 2009 (CRU International Ltd., 2009a).

### Update

On December, 18, 2009, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was $9.61 per pound.

### References Cited

CRU International Ltd., 2009a, CRU Week in the News: CRU International Ltd., May 7. (Accessed May 7, 2009, via http://www.crumonitor.com.)
CRU International Ltd., 2009b, CRU Week in the News: CRU International Ltd., May 14. (Accessed May 14, 2009, via http://www.crumonitor.com.)
Metals Place, 2009, New Chinese tin smelter starts up: Metals Place, May 4. (Accessed May 12, 2009, at http://metalsplace.com/news/articles/27403/new-chinese-tin-smelter-starts-up/.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

| | | 2009 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2008[p] | March | April | May | June | January-June |
| Production, secondary[e, 2] | 11,900 | 994 | 994 | 994 | 994 | 5,960 |
| Consumption: | | | | | | |
| Primary | 21,100 | 1,900 | 1,880 | 1,830 | 1,810 | 11,200 |
| Secondary | 10,800 | 710 | 693 | 695 | 711 | 4,200 |
| Imports for consumption, metal | 36,300 | 3,500 | 2,610 | 4,560 | 2,250 | 18,400 |
| Exports, metal | 9,800 | 340 | 206 | 141 | 124 | 1,560 |
| Stocks at end of period | XX | 7,640 | 7,620 | 7,640 | 7,570 | XX |
| Prices (average cents per pound):[3] | | | | | | |
| Metals Week composite[4] | 1,128.97 | 668.86 | 725.34 | 849.13 | 924.85 | XX |
| Metals Week New York dealer | 864.53 | 509.22 | 559.00 | 648.97 | 704.72 | XX |
| London, standard grade, cash | 839.10 | 483.74 | 531.50 | 624.31 | 678.74 | XX |
| Kuala Lumpur | 837.70 | 513.15 | 518.10 | 618.72 | 679.87 | XX |

[e]Estimated. [p]Preliminary. 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 1,529.29 | 630.41 | 1,128.97 |
| 2009: | | | |
| January | 748.18 | 688.67 | 711.90 |
| February | 712.54 | 670.97 | 692.57 |
| March | 698.72 | 647.98 | 668.86 |
| April | 781.18 | 661.48 | 725.34 |
| May | 874.60 | 785.83 | 849.13 |
| June | 970.28 | 891.14 | 924.85 |

[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] |
| 2008 | 30,900 | 2,280,000 | 6,690 | 2.9 | 1,770,000 |
| 2009: | | | | | |
| January | 1,440 | 118,000 | 562 | 4.8 | 103,000 |
| February | 1,170 | 86,500 | 523 | 6.0 | 94,400 |
| March | 1,350 | 96,000 | 547 | 5.7 | 107,000 |
| April | 372 | 87,900 | 527 | 6.0 | 122,000 |
| May | 402 | 78,600 | 479 | 6.1 | NA |
| June | 508 | 73,600 | 452 | 6.1 | NA |

NA Not available.
[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 | 2008 | 2009 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | March | April | May | June | January-June |
| Imports: | | | | | | |
| Metal (unwrought tin): | | | | | | |
| Bolivia | 4,980 | 1,160 | 740 | 186 | 237 | 3,040 |
| Brazil | 1,570 | 326 | 100 | 225 | 75 | 951 |
| China | 2,380 | 79 | 98 | 175 | 95 | 564 |
| Indonesia | 2,000 | 510 | 690 | 686 | -- | 2,030 |
| Malaysia | 1,740 | -- | 30 | 45 | -- | 90 |
| Peru | 20,900 | 1,280 | 943 | 3,130 | 1,690 | 11,200 |
| Singapore | 706 | 118 | -- | 51 | 154 | 323 |
| Thailand | 1,670 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 15 |
| United Kingdom | 225 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Other | 152 | 23 | 7 | 59 | -- | 109 |
| Total | 36,300 | 3,500 | 2,610 | 4,560 | 2,250 | 18,400 |
| Other (gross weight): | | | | | | |
| Alloys | 1,720 | 65 | 336 | 88 | 98 | 762 |
| Bars and rods | 4,190 | 219 | 278 | 239 | 222 | 1,390 |
| Foil, tubes, pipes | 97 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 36 |
| Plates, sheets, strip | 1,150 | 26 | 317 | (2) | 1 | 362 |
| Waste and scrap | 23,300 | 5,700 | 7,430 | 9,040 | 11,100 | 40,900 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,940 | 114 | 310 | 178 | 180 | 1,080 |
| Total | 33,400 | 6,130 | 8,680 | 9,540 | 11,600 | 44,500 |
| Exports (metal) | 9,800 | 340 | 206 | 141 | 124 | 1,560 |

-- Zero.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5

CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT[1]

(Metric tons of contained tin)

| | | 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | March | | | April | | | May | | | June | | | January- |
| Product | 2008[p] | Primary | Secondary | Total | Primary | Secondary | Total | Primary | Secondary | Total | Primary | Secondary | Total | June |
| Alloys (miscellaneous)[2] | 1,800 | 131 | W | 131 | 130 | W | 130 | 129 | W | 129 | 132 | W | 132 | 846 |
| Babbitt | 459 | 18 | W | 18 | 18 | W | 18 | 18 | W | 18 | 18 | W | 18 | 205 |
| Bar tin and anodes | 218 | 16 | -- | 16 | 16 | -- | 16 | 16 | -- | 16 | 16 | -- | 16 | 96 |
| Bronze and brass | 2,250 | 72 | 87 | 159 | 71 | 87 | 158 | 72 | 88 | 160 | 74 | 88 | 162 | 981 |
| Chemicals | 2,940 | 242 | W | 242 | 242 | W | 242 | 242 | W | 242 | 242 | W | 242 | 1,490 |
| Collapsible tubes and foil | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W |
| Solder | 5,750 | 197 | 277 | 474 | 197 | 277 | 475 | 200 | 277 | 477 | 198 | 277 | 475 | 2,840 |
| Tinning | 322 | 25 | -- | 25 | 28 | -- | 28 | 25 | -- | 25 | 28 | -- | 28 | 156 |
| Tinplate[3] | 6,690 | 547 | -- | 547 | 527 | -- | 527 | 479 | -- | 479 | 452 | -- | 452 | 3,090 |
| Tin powder | 227 | 18 | W | 18 | 18 | W | 18 | 18 | W | 18 | 18 | W | 18 | 113 |
| White metal[4] | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W |
| Other | 389 | 28 | 47 | 75 | 29 | 30 | 59 | 29 | 30 | 59 | 33 | 47 | 80 | 193 |
| Total reported | 21,100 | 1,300 | 410 | 1,710 | 1,280 | 393 | 1,670 | 1,230 | 395 | 1,620 | 1,210 | 411 | 1,620 | 10,000 |
| Estimated undistributed consumption[5] | 10,800 | 600 | 300 | 900 | 600 | 300 | 900 | 600 | 300 | 900 | 600 | 300 | 900 | 5,400 |
| Grand total | 31,900 | 1,900 | 710 | 2,610 | 1,880 | 693 | 2,570 | 1,830 | 695 | 2,520 | 1,810 | 711 | 2,520 | 15,400 |

[p]Preliminary. 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.