

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN JULY 2010

Domestic consumption of primary tin in July 2010 was estimated to be 2,060 metric tons (t), slightly higher than that in June 2010 and 7% higher than that in July 2009. Imports of refined tin were 19,100 t in the first 7 months of 2010, 7% lower than in the comparable period of 2009. Peru, Bolivia, and Indonesia, in decreasing order, were the leading sources of tin imports in the first 7 months of 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in July 2010 was \$11.09 per pound, compared with \$10.62 per pound in June 2010 and \$8.65 per pound in July 2009.

Analysts at Commerzbank AG (Frankfurt, Germany) issued a report that pinpoints sharply falling tin inventories as the main reason for tin's substantial price increase during 2010. Reduced production from several of the world's leading tin producers has been a major factor in tin's price increases. In particular, the world's second leading tin-producing country, Indonesia, suffered a prolonged monsoon season, and the Government has moved to curb illegal mining. As a result, Indonesia's tin exports fell by 15% in the first half of 2010 compared with those of the comparable period of 2009 (Platts Metals Week, 2010).

Adex Mining Inc. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) announced that it may start mining tin and indium at its Mount Pleasant property in southwestern New Brunswick, Canada. A decision on moving ahead with the mine, which would be North America's first new tin mine in several decades, was expected by yearend but hinged on signing an offtake deal. Adex had run a variety of pilot production programs in 2010, and a feasibility study conclusion was due by yearend, but the firm needs a financing partner to provide \$193 million to build the mine and an end-user for the metals Mount Pleasant would produce. The

company's preliminary economic assessment showed the site's north zone could produce 3,200 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tin, or around 1% of global supply, for about 12 years, while indium production could total around 40 t/yr or roughly 10% of the global supply. The mine would also produce about 4,000 t/yr of zinc (American Metal Market, 2010).

Researchers at Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN) announced the development of a potential new tool for medical diagnostics, testing food and water for contamination, and for use in crime-scene forensics. The technique uses a combination of light and electric fields to position droplets on a specific region of a sensor so that particles such as bacteria, viruses, and DNA, which are contained inside the drops, can be analyzed. The technology features electrodes made of indium tin oxide, a transparent and electrically conductive material commonly used in consumer electronics for touch-screen displays (Venere, 2010).

### Update

On October 29, 2010, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$15.60 per pound.

### References Cited

- American Metal Market, 2010, Adex seeks tin, indium offtake partner: American Metal Market, v. 118, no. 29-5, July 23, p. 10.
- Platts Metals Week, 2010, Tin shines on shrinking supply—Commerzbank: Platts Metals Week, v. 81, no. 31, August 2, p. 9.
- Venere, Emil, 2010, New method manipulates particles for sensors, crime scene testing: West Lafayette, ID, Purdue University news release, June. (Accessed November 5, 2010, at [http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2010/story-print-deploy-layout\\_1\\_6157\\_6157.html](http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2010/story-print-deploy-layout_1_6157_6157.html).)

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2010			
	2009 <sup>P</sup>	June	July	January - July
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	11,500	955	955	6,690
Consumption:				
Primary	21,100	2,010	2,060	14,200
Secondary	10,800	645	646	4,540
Imports for consumption, metal	33,000	2,740	4,770	19,100
Exports, metal	3,170	345	494	3,100
Stocks at end of period	XX	7,270	7,220	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	837.08	1,061.52	1,108.82	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	641.62	814.28	851.22	XX
London, standard grade, cash	615.15	798.92	831.72	XX
Kuala Lumpur	609.34	784.13	818.84	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

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

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

<sup>4</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Cents per pound)

Period	High	Low	Average
2009	1,030.42	647.98	837.08
2010:			
January	1,109.84	1,054.27	1,087.07
February	1,042.04	937.69	1,008.92
March	1,108.16	1,041.15	1,073.64
April	1,162.79	1,110.30	1,142.59
May	1,113.10	1,055.20	1,078.52
June	1,106.45	981.80	1,061.52
July	1,191.97	1,056.29	1,108.82

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste (waste, strips, cobble, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			Shipments <sup>2</sup>
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2009	14,500	1,150,000	6,200	5.4	1,540,000
2010:					
January	983	97,400	470	4.8	152,000
February	1,090	91,800	456	5.0	153,000
March	1,270	92,400	472	5.1	211,000
April	1,660	94,200	470	5.0	172,000
May	1,030	97,600	461	4.7	166,000
June	1,280	129,000	455	3.5	168,000
July	1,690	98,400	479	4.9	NA

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2009	2010		
		June	July	January - July <sup>2</sup>
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,300	709	818	3,310
Brazil	1,050	--	--	75
China	1,210	78	133	527
Indonesia	3,220	348	293	2,190
Malaysia	169	--	1,220	1,300
Peru	20,300	1,370	2,230	10,500
Singapore	451	120	49	536
Thailand	15	--	--	50
Other	343	124	26	544
Total	33,000	2,740	4,770	19,100
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,230	97	119	656
Bars and rods	3,020	248	281	1,990
Foil, tubes, pipes	55	5	2	39
Plates, sheets, strip	3,370	4	4	112
Waste and scrap	80,600	4,050	4,190	35,000
Miscellaneous	3,830	267	357	1,820
Total	92,100	4,670	4,950	39,600
Exports (metal)	3,170	345	494	3,100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previous month(s) data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2010							
	2009 <sup>P</sup>	June			July			January - July <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	1,910	308	W	308	236	W	236	1,840
Babbitt	427	15	W	15	15	W	15	131
Bar tin and anodes	270	20	--	20	20	--	20	140
Bronze and brass	2,110	85	83	168	114	84	198	1,200
Chemicals	3,080	258	W	258	330	W	330	2,270
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	6,210	196	237	432	196	237	432	3,040
Tinning	318	33	--	33	27	--	27	196
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	6,200	455	--	455	479	--	479	3,260
Tin powder	193	15	W	15	15	W	15	112
White metal <sup>5</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	379	28	25	53	28	25	53	267
Total reported	21,100	1,410	345	1,760	1,460	346	1,810	12,500
Estimated undistributed consumption <sup>6</sup>	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	6,300
Grand total	31,900	2,010	645	2,660	2,060	646	2,710	18,800

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previous month(s) data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes terne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>5</sup>Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

<sup>6</sup>Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.