

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2010

Domestic consumption of primary tin in September 2010 was estimated to be 2,080 metric tons (t), slightly less than that in August 2010 and 9% higher than that in September 2009. For the first 9 months of 2010, imports of refined tin were 25,700 t, a slight decrease compared with those of the comparable period of 2009. Peru, Bolivia, and Indonesia, in decreasing order, were the leading sources of tin imports in the first 9 months of 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in September 2010 was \$13.84 per pound, compared with \$12.56 per pound in August 2010 and \$9.05 per pound in September 2009.

According to the Can Manufacturer's Institute (Washington, DC), August 2010 was the 200th "CAN-niversary" of the food can. The development of the can for food began on August 25, 1810, when Englishman Peter Durand was granted a patent for an idea to preserve food in tinfoil vessels. The can manufacturing industry was born in the United Kingdom in 1812 and was brought to the United States by an English immigrant, Thomas Kensett, that same year. Kensett originally started his canning business with glass jars, but soon, like Durand, switched to tin cans and received a U.S. patent in 1825 (ITRI Ltd., 2010b).

China Tin Group Co. Ltd. (Liuzhou, Guangxi Province, China) announced plans to have a public offering of its shares early in 2011. Officials at Guangxi Nonferrous Metals Group,

which owned China Tin, stated that the parent company would include its own antimony, silver, tin, and zinc production assets in China Tin. The parent company planned to submit the public offering application to the China Securities Regulatory Commission in October and expected to raise up to \$368 million through the public float. Simultaneously Guangxi signed a series of agreements on overseas projects, mainly in southeast Asia, including establishing offices in Laos to explore for antimony, copper, gold, lead, potash, tin, and zinc. China Tin produced 10,500 t of refined tin in 2009 and has the leading tin reserves in China (ITRI Ltd., 2010a).

Update

On December 3, 2010, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$15.27 per pound.

References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2010a, China Tin and parent plan overseas projects and IPO: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, September 15. (Accessed September 15, 2010, at http://www.itri.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_320789.)
- ITRI Ltd., 2010b, Food cans celebrate bicentenary: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, August 23. (Accessed August 25, 2010, at http://www.itri.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_320542.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2009 ^p	2010		
		August	September	January - September
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,500	955	955	8,600
Consumption:				
Primary	21,100	2,090	2,080	13,000
Secondary	10,800	650	644	3,130
Imports for consumption, metal	33,000	2,960	3,650	25,700
Exports, metal	3,170	423	499	4,020
Stocks at end of period	XX	7,130	7,060	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	837.08	1,255.84	1,383.55	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	641.62	976.61	1,061.61	XX
London, standard grade, cash	615.15	940.21	1,028.98	XX
Kuala Lumpur	609.34	931.34	1,024.56	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
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
August	1,300.35	1,198.00	1,255.84
September	1,719.49	1,270.89	1,383.55

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)	
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	155,000
August	1,650	107,000	488	4.5	181,000
September	1,390	102,000	491	4.8	184,000

NA Not available.

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	2009	2010		
		August	September	January - September ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,300	642	547	4,500
Brazil	1,050	--	--	75
China	1,210	1	69	597
Indonesia	3,220	364	325	2,880
Malaysia	169	535	935	2,770
Peru	20,300	1,000	1,490	13,000
Singapore	451	129	90	755
Thailand	15	215	40	305
Other	343	74	162	781
Total	33,000	2,960	3,650	25,700
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,230	100	121	877
Bars and rods	3,020	220	248	2,460
Foil, tubes, pipes	55	12	17	67
Plates, sheets, strip	3,370	1	3	116
Waste and scrap	80,600	5,140	4,900	45,000
Miscellaneous	3,830	452	436	2,710
Total	92,100	5,920	5,730	51,300
Exports (metal)	3,170	423	499	4,020

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previous month(s) data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2010							
	2009 ^p	August			September			January - September ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	1,910	237	W	237	236	W	236	2,350
Babbitt	427	15	W	15	15	W	15	166
Bar tin and anodes	270	20	--	20	20	--	20	179
Bronze and brass	2,110	117	89	206	124	83	206	1,610
Chemicals	3,080	346	W	346	328	W	328	2,950
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	6,210	196	237	432	196	237	432	3,900
Tinning	318	26	--	26	30	--	30	252
Tinplate ⁴	6,200	488	--	488	491	--	491	4,240
Tin powder	193	15	W	15	15	W	15	144
White metal ⁵	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	379	28	25	53	28	25	53	327
Total reported	21,100	1,490	350	1,840	1,480	344	1,830	16,100
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	8,100
Grand total	31,900	2,090	650	2,740	2,080	644	2,730	24,200

^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.

²May include revisions to previous month(s) data.

³Includes terre metal.

⁴Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁵Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

⁶Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.