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Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
James F. Carlin, Jr., Tin Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jcarlin@usgs.gov

Linda M. White (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7986
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: lwhite@usgs.gov

Internet: http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals

TIN IN OCTOBER 2010

Domestic consumption of primary tin in October 2010 was estimated to be 2,080 metric tons (t), the same as that in September 2010 and 9% higher than that in October 2009. Imports of refined tin were 3,120 t in October 2010, an increase of 45% from that in October 2009. Imports for the first 10 months of 2010 totaled 28,800 t, a slight increase from those in the comparable period of 2009. Peru, Bolivia, Malaysia, and Indonesia, in decreasing order, were the leading sources of tin imports in the first 10 months of 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in October 2010 was $15.82 per pound, compared with $9.15 per pound in October 2009. Industry analysts attribute the marked tin price increase in recent months to an expanding gap between world demand and world production.

The Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging (Brussels, Belgium) announced steel packaging recycling rates for 2008. In 2008, the recycling rate of steel packaging was slightly higher than that in 2007. With 71% of steel packaging recycled in Europe, this amounts to about 2.6 million metric tons (Mt) of food and beverage cans and other steel containers being recycled in 2008. According to the latest available data, this places recycling rates for steel above those of other packaging materials such as glass (64%), beverage cartons (33%), and plastic (29%) in Europe. The five countries that had the greatest steel packaging recycling rates in 2008 in Europe were Germany (94%), Belgium (93%), the Netherlands (87%), Hungary (83%), and Austria (80%) (Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, 2010).

Consolidated Tin Mines Ltd. (North Cairns, Queensland, Australia) announced that it had been granted a mineral development license for the Windermere project by the Queensland government after a 2-year wait, enabling it to add that resource to its adjacent Mt. Garnet project near Cairns. Windermere has a reported resource of 2.1 Mt grading 0.55% tin, increasing Mt. Garnet's total resource to 7.3 Mt grading 0.60% tin. Consolidated had acquired Windermere from Metals X Ltd.'s subsidiary Bluestone Nominees Pty. Ltd. in February 2008. A scoping study in July 2010 indicated that without the addition of the Windermere resource, a centralized Mt. Garnet plant would have the potential to process 700,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tin ore to produce 22,900 t of tin metal in concentrate (Platts Metals Week, 2010).

Empressa Metalúrgical Vinto (EMV) (Oruro, Bolivia) announced that work would be underway in September 2010 to install an Ausmelt tin smelter at its Vinto site, with completion due by August 2011 and startup expected by September 2011. The Vinto tin smelter produced 5,700 t of refined tin in the first half of 2010. Vinto chose the Ausmelt tin smelter to improve the efficiency of its smelting operation (ITRI Ltd., 2010c).

Kasbah Resources Ltd.'s (South Perth, Western Australia, Australia) tin project in Morocco was on track toward the completion of a prefeasibility study on bulk underground mining of the deposit in the second quarter of 2011. The mine was expected to produce 6,000 t/yr of tin-in-concentrate during a phase one mine life of 6 years, based on the mining of 800,000 t/yr of ore grading 1% tin. A drilling program continued to firm up the resource toward a target of 10 Mt. As of August 2010, the inferred and indicated resource was 7 Mt with a grade of 0.8% tin. Kasbah Resources may use open pit mining for some shallow deposits (ITRI Ltd., 2010a).

PT Timah Tbk (Bangka, Indonesia) announced tin production figures indicating that, increasingly, offshore tin mining was contributing more to its production. Timah's January to June offshore tin-in-concentrate production rose by 28% from that in the comparable period of 2009 and amounted to 52% of the company's total mine production of 17,600 t (ITRI Ltd., 2010b).

Update

On February 25, 2011, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was $18.98 per pound.

References Cited

Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, 2010, Steel for Packaging: Europe's recycling leader: Brussels, Belgium, Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, v. 2, 15 p.

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ITRI Ltd., 2010b, Timah's offshore drive continues: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, August 31. (Accessed March 2, 2011, at

http://www.itri.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_320608.)

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Platts Metals Week, 2010, Consolidated gets tin site OK: Platts Metals Week, v. 81, no. 37, September 13, p. 8–9.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2010		
	2009[p]	September	October	January - October
Production, secondary[e, 2]	11,500	922 [r]	922	9,220
Consumption:				
Primary	21,100	2,080	2,080	14,500
Secondary	10,800	644	650	3,480
Imports for consumption, metal	33,000	3,650	3,120	28,800
Exports, metal	3,170	499	598	4,610
Stocks at end of period	XX	7,060	7,090	XX
Prices (average cents per pound):[3]				
Metals Week composite[4]	837.08	1,383.55	1,582.37	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	641.62	1,061.61	1,222.69	XX
London, standard grade, cash	615.15	1,028.98	1,194.09	XX
Kuala Lumpur	609.34	1,024.56	1,189.24	XX

[e]Estimated. [p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. 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
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
October	1,635.05	1,489.53	1,582.37

[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]
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
October	1,360	92,300	478	5.2	168,000

[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	2009	2010		
		September	October	January - October[2]
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,300	547	439	4,940
Brazil	1,050	--	--	75
Chile	121	59	59	562
China	1,210	69	40	637
Indonesia	3,220	325	355	3,230
Malaysia	169	935	566	3,330
Peru	20,300	1,490	1,020	14,000
Singapore	451	90	141	896
Thailand	15	40	445	750
Vietnam	--	102	41	225
Other	222	1	6	99
Total	33,000	3,650	3,120	28,800
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,230	121	129	1,010
Bars and rods	3,020	248	322	2,780
Foil, tubes, pipes	55	17	9	77
Plates, sheets, strip	3,370	3	5	121
Waste and scrap	80,600	4,900	4,300	49,300
Miscellaneous	3,830	436	280	2,990
Total	92,100	5,730	5,040	56,300
Exports (metal)	3,170	499	598	4,610

-- Zero.

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

[2]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[1]

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2009[p]	2010						
		September			October			January -
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	October[2]
Alloys (miscellaneous)[3]	1,910	236	W	236	237	W	237	2,600
Babbitt	427	15	W	15	15	W	15	184
Bar tin and anodes	270	20	--	20	20	--	20	199
Bronze and brass	2,110	124	83	206	113	89	202	1,810
Chemicals	3,080	328	W	328	350	W	350	3,300
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	6,210	196	237	432	196	237	433	4,340
Tinning	318	30	--	30	27	--	27	279
Tinplate[4]	6,200	491	--	491	478	--	478	4,720
Tin powder	193	15	W	15	15	W	15	160
White metal[5]	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	379	28	25	53	27	25	52	358
Total reported	21,100	1,480	344	1,830	1,480	350	1,830	18,000
Estimated undistributed consumption[6]	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	9,000
Grand total	31,900	2,080	644	2,730	2,080	650	2,730	27,000

[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]May include revisions to previous month(s) data.

[3]Includes terne metal.

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

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

[6]Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.