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Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN DECEMBER 2010

Domestic consumption of primary tin in December 2010 was estimated to be 3,380 metric tons (t), 63% greater than that in November 2010, and 57% more than that in December 2009. Imports for consumption for 2010 were 35,300 t, a 7% increase from those in 2009. For 2010, Peru, Bolivia, and Malaysia, in descending order, were the leading sources of refined tin imports.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in December 2010 was $15.66 per pound, 63% higher than that in December 2009.

ITRI Ltd. (Frogmore, United Kingdom) signed an agreement with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to collaborate on tin traceability and due-diligence programs in central Africa. Both organizations are working to limit opportunities for armed groups in the region to benefit financially from the production and trade of minerals. New U.S. regulations on the trade of material from conflict zones were designed to require reporting on products derived from minerals from Congo (Kinshasa) and surrounding countries. The start of implementation of the U.S. regulations in April 2011 would probably not give ITRI time to include as much material in its tagging program as originally planned. The agreement initially would address traceability for columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, wolframite, or their derivatives (the raw materials for tantalum and niobium, tin, and tungsten, respectively) and gold (Davies, 2010).

The Indonesian tin smelter consortium, Bangka Belitung Timah Sejahtera PT (BBTS) (Pangkalpinang, Indonesia), announced that it expected its tin output to fall by 40% in 2010, to about 12,000 t owing to excessive rain. BBTS observed that the authorities continued to monitor independent tin miners, resulting in less tin ore to process (American Metal Market, 2010).

Malaysia Smelting Corp. Berhad (MSC) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), one of the world's leading tin smelters, issued a prospectus to list its shares on the Singapore Stock Exchange. Currently MSC is listed on Bursa Malaysia (the Malaysian stock market). The stock offering proceeds were expected to be used mainly to acquire plant machinery and to develop new mines through selective acquisition of suitable mining concessions or leases, as well as of mining projects and assets primarily in Indonesia and Malaysia. MSC operated two smelting facilities—Butterworth (Penang, Malaysia) and Bangka Island, Indonesia, which is owned by PT Koba Tin (Jakarta, Indonesia). MSC holds a 75% stake in Koba Tin. The Butterworth operation has a production capacity of about 35,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of refined tin, and the Bangka operation has a capacity of 25,000 t/yr of refined tin. MSC is a 75% owned subsidiary of The Straits Trading Co. Ltd. (Singapore), which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange (Platts Metals Week, 2011).

Update

On May 6, 2011, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was $17.76 per pound.

References Cited

American Metal Market, 2010, Indonesian tin consortium: American Metal Market, v. 118, no. 50-1, December 13, p. 8.
Davies, Janie, 2010, ITRI teaming up with ICGLR on African tin traceability: American Metal Market, v. 118, no. 50-2, December 14, p. 9.
Platts Metals Week, 2011, MSC to list on Singapore exchange: Platts Metals Week, v. 82, no. 1, January 3, p. 12.

TABLE 1

SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2010		
	2009[p]	November	December	January - December
Production, secondary[e, 2]	11,500	922	926	11,100
Consumption:				
Primary	21,100	2,070 [r]	3,380	26,900
Secondary	10,800	529 [r]	521	6,220
Imports for consumption, metal	33,000	3,750	2,750	35,300
Exports, metal	3,170	598	419	5,630
Stocks at end of period	7,450	7,090	6,920	6,920
Prices (average cents per pound):[3]				
Metals Week composite[4]	837.08	1,538.48	1,565.82	1,239.64
Metals Week New York dealer	641.62	1,193.94	1,212.43	954.13
London, standard grade, cash	615.15	1,156.28	1,185.81	925.15
Kuala Lumpur	609.34	1,157.03	1,172.95	922.17

[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
November	1,626.34	1,460.52	1,538.48
December	1,617.91	1,449.43	1,565.82
Year	1,719.49	937.69	1,239.64

[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	557 r	5.7 r	152,000
February	1,090	91,800	543 r	5.9 r	153,000
March	1,270	92,400	559 r	6.0 r	211,000
April	1,660	94,200	557 r	5.9 r	172,000
May	1,030	97,600	547 r	5.6 r	166,000
June	1,280	129,000	541 r	4.2 r	168,000
July	1,690	98,400	566 r	5.7 r	155,000
August	1,650	107,000	574 r	5.3 r	181,000
September	1,390	102,000	578 r	5.6 r	184,000
October	1,360	92,300	565 r	6.1 r	168,000
November	1,940	72,000	510 r	7.1 r	145,000
December	2,810	74,600	504	6.8	179,000
Total	18,200	1,150,000	6,600	5.8	2,030,000

rRevised.

[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		
		November	December	January - December[2]
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,300	764	359	6,060
Brazil	1,050	--	--	75
Chile	121	79	--	641
China	1,210	90	160	887
Indonesia	3,220	235	504	3,970
Malaysia	169	1,150	24	4,500
Peru	20,300	1,180	1,300	16,500
Singapore	451	100	--	996
Thailand	15	155	400	1,310
Other	222	1	1	327
Total	33,000	3,750	2,750	35,300
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,230	175	108	1,290
Bars and rods	3,020	225	182	3,190
Foil, tubes, pipes	55	1	3	80
Plates, sheets, strip	3,370	9	4	135
Waste and scrap	80,600	3,700	4,280	57,300
Miscellaneous	3,830	292	255	3,540
Total	92,100	4,400	4,830	65,500
Exports (metal)	3,170	598	419	5,630

-- 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						
		November			December			January -
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	December[2]
Alloys (miscellaneous)[3]	1,910	481 [r]	W	481 [r]	682	W	682	6,070
Babbitt	427	15	W	15	15	W	15	220
Bar tin and anodes	270	20	--	20	20	--	20	239
Bronze and brass	2,110	90	76 [r]	166 [r]	95	69	164	2,000
Chemicals	3,080	207 [r]	W	207 [r]	182	W	182	2,590
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	6,210	165 [r]	142 [r]	307 [r]	270	142	412	3,710
Tinning	318	28	--	28	24	--	24	331
Tinplate[4]	6,200	510 [r]	--	510 [r]	504	--	504	6,600
Tin powder	193	15	W	15	15	W	15	192
White metal[5]	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	379	28	11 [r]	39 [r]	25	11	36	416
Total reported	21,100	1,560 [r]	229 [r]	1,790 [r]	1,830	221	2,050	22,400
Estimated undistributed consumption[6]	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	10,800
Grand total	31,900	2,160 [r]	529 [r]	2,690 [r]	2,430	521	2,950	33,200

[p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. 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.