

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 SEPTEMBER 2011

Domestic consumption of primary tin in September 2011 was estimated to be 2,290 metric tons (t), the same as that in August 2011 and 10% more than that in September 2010. For the first 9 months of 2011 imports of refined tin were 26,300 t, a slight increase from that in the comparable period of 2010. Peru, Bolivia, and Indonesia, in descending order, were the leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States in the first 9 months of 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in September 2011 was \$13.78 per pound, compared with \$14.72 per pound in August 2011 and \$13.84 per pound in September 2010.

The Republic of Korea's Public Procurement Service (PPS) (Seoul), a Government commodities stockpile agency, announced that it had purchased 100 t of standard grade tin from Hanwha Corp. (Jangyo-dong, Republic of Korea) for delivery by November 11. The PPS buys around 2,000 t of tin each year and maintains a stock of metals as a service to small- and medium-sized manufacturers using the metal (CRU Week in the News, 2011).

Eurotin Inc. (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), updated the status of two of its tin projects in Spain—the Oropesa primary deposit and the Santa Maria alluvial project. At Oropesa, in southwest Spain, the company determined that it has drilled sufficient holes to define the surface extent of the tin mineralization and that the results obtained during the past year were sufficiently promising to justify commencing a drill program to define the resource. The company believed that the region around Oropesa may be a tin district, generally accepted as being a large area in which multiple, significant-size tin deposits are located. If

correct, this would be the world's first new tin district discovery in the past 40 years. In the short term, Eurotin's focus would be on developing the top 200 to 250 meters of the Oropesa deposit to an initial resource status by mid-2012. The firm has also received conditional approval of applications for two new investigation permits nearby. The Santa Maria tin project, 40 kilometers north of the city of Caceres in central Spain, had previously been a small-scale open pit operation, which was owned by Phelps Dodge Corp. (Phoenix, AZ) in the 1980s. However, Eurotin is more interested in the potential for the discovery of large alluvial deposits nearby and intended to start exploration drilling to test this concept later in 2011. The company announced that it intended to seek the source of the tin once contained in the estimated 2 to 3 billion metric tons of colluvials eroded away during the last 10 to 15 million years. It was believed that these colluvials have been reconcentrated and redeposited as higher-grade alluvial deposits in the northern sector of the Santa Maria pits (Eurotin Inc., 2011).

Update

On December 9, 2011, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.35 per pound.

References Cited

CRU Week in the News, 2011, Tin: CRU Week in the News, September 7.
Eurotin Inc., 2011, Eurotin's Oropesa drill program continues intercepting higher grade tin mineralization over significant widths: Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Eurotin Inc. press release, December 8, 5 p. (Accessed December 14, 2011, via <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Eurotin-Oropesa-Drill-Program-iw-2409551285.html>.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011			
	2010 ^p	August	September	January– September
Production, secondary ^{6,2}	11,100	922	922	8,300
Consumption:				
Primary	26,900	2,290	2,290	20,900
Secondary	6,220	533 ^r	520	4,700
Imports for consumption, metal	35,300	1,700	2,550	26,300
Exports, metal	5,630	513	486	4,700
Stocks at end of period	6,920	6,860	6,860	6,860
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,239.64	1,471.85	1,378.31	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	954.13	1,124.06	1,057.17	XX
London, standard grade, cash	925.15	1,106.99	1,026.71	XX
Kuala Lumpur	922.17	1,110.28	1,026.70	XX

⁶Estimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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
2010	1,719.49	937.69	1,239.64
2011:			
January	1,802.34	1,583.57	1,644.54
February	1,937.62	1,798.67	1,885.16
March	1,934.68	1,738.66	1,842.63
April	1,982.96	1,884.94	1,942.35
May	1,967.66	1,615.32	1,752.83
June	1,673.32	1,492.92	1,544.58
July	1,727.07	1,542.52	1,641.43
August	1,702.85	1,339.10	1,471.85
September	1,542.20	1,190.36	1,378.31

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)			
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ²
2010	18,200	1,420,000	6,920	4.9	2,030,000
2011:					
January	1,860	101,000	528	5.2	118,000
February	1,840	95,500	502	5.3	117,000
March	1,750	103,000	514	5.0	156,000
April	1,230	90,900	470	5.2	146,000
May	1,400	104,000	512	4.9	141,000
June	2,540	127,000	573	4.5	161,000
July	1,590	112,000	531	4.8	150,000
August	1,530	85,400	545	6.4	NA
September	1,550	98,200	561	5.7	NA

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	2010	2011		
		August	September	January– September ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	--	--	2	257
Bolivia	6,060	269	729	4,540
Brazil	75	--	75	451
Chile	641	--	--	60
China	887	20	41	1,440
Indonesia	3,970	499	601	4,320
Malaysia	4,500	--	800	3,140
Peru	16,500	625	149	9,450
Singapore	996	140	--	395
Thailand	1,310	150	150	2,190
Other	327	1	4	31
Total	35,300	1,700	2,550	26,300
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,290	187	129	1,570
Bars and rods	3,190	192	219	2,030
Foil, tubes, pipes	80	53	1	93
Plates, sheets, strip	135	16	9	51
Waste and scrap	57,300	5,030	5,730	41,600
Miscellaneous	3,540	188	272	2,340
Total	65,500	5,670	6,360	47,700
Exports (metal)	5,630	513	486	4,700

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2010 ^P	2011						
		August			September			January– September ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	6,070	562	W	562	561	W	561	5,080
Babbitt	220	16	W	16	16	W	16	170
Bar tin and anodes	239	6	--	6	6	--	6	56
Bronze and brass	2,000	96	68	164	97	68	165	1,990
Chemicals	2,590	232	W	232	211	W	211	2,050
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	3,710	171	142	313	172	142	313	2,820
Tinning	331	21	--	21	23	--	23	210
Tinplate ⁴	6,600	545	W	545	561	W	561	4,760
Tin powder	192	15	W	15	15	W	15	144
White metal ⁵	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	416	28	24	52	28	11	39	274
Total reported	22,400	1,690	233 ^r	1,930	1,690	220	1,910	17,500
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	8,100
Grand total	33,200	2,290	533 ^r	2,830	2,290	520	2,810	25,600

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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.

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.