USGS
science for a changing world

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 JANUARY 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in January 2012 was estimated to be 2,190 metric tons (t), a slight decrease compared with that in December 2011, and a decrease of 3% compared with that in January 2011. Imports for consumption in January 2011 were 4,960 t, an increase of 87% from those in December 2011, and a 16% increase from those in January 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in January 2012 was $12.99 per pound, compared with $11.63 per pound in December 2011 and $16.45 per pound in January 2011.

U.S. Steel Corp. (Pittsburgh, PA) announced that effective January 31, 2012, it had sold its Serbian steel plant subsidiary, U.S. Steel Serbia d.o.o., to the Serbian Government for a nominal price. U.S. Steel attributed the necessity for the sale to difficult economic conditions in Europe. The Serbian plant operation included a tin mill (U.S. Steel Corp., 2012).

The U.S. Consumer Electronics Association (Arlington, VA) forecast that global consumer electronics sales in 2012 will increase by 5% to exceed $1 trillion for the first time. The electronics sector accounts for about one-half of world tin demand (Consumer Electronics Association, 2012).

Update

On April 20, 2012, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was $12.95 per pound.

References Cited

Consumer Electronics Association, 2012, Global consumer tech device spending to surpass $1 trillion in 2012: Arlington, VA, Consumer Electronics Association news release, January 10. (Accessed April 24, 2012, at http://www.ce.org/News/News-Releases/Press-Releases/2012-Press-Releases/Global-Consumer-Tech-Device-Spending-to-Surpass-$1.aspx.)

U.S. Steel Corp., 2012, United States Steel Corporation reports 2011 fourth quarter and full-year results and announces completion of the sale of U.S. Steel Serbia: Pittsburgh, PA, U.S. Steel Corp. press release, January 31, 8 p. (Accessed February 28, 2012, at http://uss.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=32722&item=117738.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011[p]		2012
	Year	December	January
Production, secondary[e, 2]	11,100	926	922
Consumption:			
Primary	28,300	2,220	2,190
Secondary	6,280	530 [r]	528
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	2,650	4,960
Exports, metal	5,450	307	535
Stocks at end of period	5,230	5,230	6,810
Prices (average cents per pound):[3]			
Metals Week composite[4]	1,574.67	1,163.42	1,298.79
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	913.69	1,009.06
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	881.80	972.43
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	889.74	963.82

[e]Estimated. [p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.

[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
2011:			
December	1,246.16	856.78	1,163.42
Year	1,884.94	856.78	1,574.67
2012, January	1,461.15	1,181.94	1,298.79

[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]
2011:					
December	689	71,800	424	5.9	131,000
Year	21,600	1,230,000	6,330	5.2	1,680,000
2012, January	1,070	64,000	461	7.2	107,000

[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	2011		2012
	Year	December	January
Imports:			
Metal (unwrought tin):			
Belgium	261	--	501
Bolivia	5,680	100	648
Brazil	676	150	264
Chile	60	--	--
China	1,490	--	21
Indonesia	4,930	25	478
Malaysia	3,980	275	1,040
Peru	14,000	2,100	2,010
Singapore	645	--	--
Thailand	2,310	--	--
Other	156	1	1
Total	34,200	2,650	4,960
Other (gross weight):			
Alloys	2,000	133	103
Bars and rods	2,620	163	163
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	5	15
Plates, sheets, strip	52	(2)	--
Waste and scrap	57,700	5,250	5,330
Miscellaneous	2,740	105	171
Total	65,300	5,660	5,780
Exports (metal)	5,450	307	535

-- Zero.

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

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT[1]

(Metric tons of contained tin)

	2011				2012		
		December			January		
Product	Year[p]	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous)[2]	6,550 [r]	537	W	537	545	3	548
Babbitt	222	16	W	16	17	W	17
Bronze and brass	3,410 [r]	W	76	76	84	74	158
Chemicals	2,640	200	W	200	226	W	226
Solder	3,630 [r]	173	W	173	185	W	185
Tinning	325 [r]	25	--	25	23	--	23
Tinplate[3]	6,350	424	--	424	461	--	461
Other[4]	690 [r]	241 [r]	154 [r]	395 [r]	50	151	201
Total reported	23,800	1,620	230 [r]	1,850	1,590	228	1,820
Estimated undistributed consumption[5]	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900
Grand total	34,600	2,220	530 [r]	2,750	2,190	528	2,720

[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]Includes terne metal.

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

[4]Includes bar tin and anodes, collapsible tubes and foil, tinpowder, type metal and white metal.

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