

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN FEBRUARY 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in February 2012 was estimated to be 2,220 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in January 2012, and a slight decrease from that in February 2011. Imports for consumption of tin in February 2012 were 2,530 t, a decrease of 49% from that in January 2012, and a decrease of 4% from that in February 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in February 2012 was \$14.73 per pound, compared with \$12.99 per pound in January 2012 and \$18.85 per pound in February 2011.

A survey by ITRI Ltd. (2012) compiled the world's 10 leading refined tin producers in 2011 with their 2011 refined tin production (metric tons) shown below:

1. Yunnan Tin Group Co., Ltd. (China)	56,200
2. Malaysia Smelting Corp. (Malaysia)	40,300
3. PT Timah (Indonesia)	38,100
4. Minsur S.A. (Peru)	30,200
5. Thailand Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. (Thaisarco) (Thailand)	23,900
6. Yunnan Chengfeng Ltd. (China)	15,400
7. Guangxi China Tin (China)	15,400
8. Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto (EMV) (Bolivia)	11,000
9. Metallo Chimique International N.V. (Belgium)	10,000
10. Gejiu Zi-Li Ltd. (China)	8,600

Steel producer Rasselstein GmbH (Andernach, Germany) announced that it was renamed ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein GmbH effective February 12. The main component of Rasselstein's steel plant in Andernach was a tin mill (electrolytic tin plating of steel coils). The Andernach facility contained the only tin mill in Germany, and this tin mill was also considered to be the world's leading tinplate producer. Almost 80% of its tinplate was exported (ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein GmbH, 2012).

### Update

On May 11, 2012, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.43 per pound.

### References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2012, Top tin producers in 2011: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, February 22. (Accessed May 15, 2012, at [http://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_zoo&task=item&item\\_id=2361&Itemid=143](http://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=2361&Itemid=143).)
- ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein GmbH, 2012, Rasselstein now known as ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein: Andernach, Germany, ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein GmbH press release, February 16, 1 p. (Accessed May 15, 2012, at <http://www.thyssenkrupp-rasselstein.com/main/press/press-releases/mitteilungen/160212.html?L=1>.)

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2012			
	2011 <sup>P</sup>	January	February	January– February
Production, secondary <sup>e,2</sup>	11,100	922	922	1,840
Consumption:				
Primary	28,300	2,190	2,220	4,410
Secondary	6,280	528	528	1,050
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	4,960	2,530	7,500
Exports, metal	5,450	535	171	706
Stocks at end of period	5,230	6,810	6,860	6,860
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	1,574.67	1,298.79	1,472.78	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	1,009.06	1,134.75	XX
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	972.95 <sup>r</sup>	1,103.67	XX
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	963.82	1,110.07	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

<sup>4</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Cents per pound)

Period	High	Low	Average
2011	1,884.94	856.78	1,574.67
2012:			
January	1,461.15	1,181.94	1,298.79
February	1,533.15	1,432.52	1,472.78

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste (waste, strips, cobble, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			Shipments <sup>2</sup>
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2011	21,500 <sup>r</sup>	1,230,000	6,330	5.2	1,680,000
2012:					
January	1,070	64,000	461	7.2	107,000
February	1,430	71,900	498	6.9	121,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2011	2012		January– February
		January	February	
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Metal (unwrought tin):</b>				
Belgium	261	501	5	506
Bolivia	5,680	648	279	927
Brazil	676	264	25	289
Chile	60	--	--	--
China	1,490	21	20	41
Indonesia	4,930	478	268	746
Malaysia	3,980	1,040	225	1,270
Peru	14,000	2,010	1,510	3,520
Singapore	645	--	--	--
Thailand	2,310	--	200	200
Other	156	1	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,200</b>	<b>4,960</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Other (gross weight):</b>				
Alloys	2,000	103	138	241
Bars and rods	2,620	163	192	355
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	15	3	18
Plates, sheets, strip	52	--	--	--
Waste and scrap	57,700	5,330	7,080	12,400
Miscellaneous	2,740	171	180	351
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,300</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>13,400</b>
Exports (metal)	5,450	535	171	706

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2012								
	2011 <sup>P</sup>	January			February			January– February	
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total		
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	6,550	545	3	548	546	3	549	1,100	
Babbitt	222	17	W	17	16	W	16	32	
Bronze and brass	3,410	84	74	158	81	74	155	313	
Chemicals	2,640	226	W	226	221	W	221	447	
Solder	3,630	185	W	185	185	W	185	370	
Tinning	325	23	--	23	21	--	21	44	
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	6,350	461	--	461	498	--	498	959	
Other <sup>4</sup>	690	50	151	201	50	151	201	401	
Total reported	23,800	1,590	228	1,820	1,620	228	1,850	3,660	
Estimated undistributed consumption <sup>5</sup>	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	1,800	
Grand total	34,600	2,190	528	2,720	2,220	528	2,750	5,460	

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes terre metal.

<sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>4</sup>Includes bar tin and anodes, collapsible tubes and foil, tinpowder, type metal and white metal.

<sup>5</sup>Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.