

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in May 2012 was estimated to be 2,380 metric tons (t), a 4% increase from that in April 2012, and a slight increase from that in May 2011. Imports of refined tin in the first 5 months of 2012 were 16,100 t, a slight decrease compared with those of the comparable period of 2011. The leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States during the first 5 months of 2012 in descending order were Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

One of the key themes of the 12th International Tin Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, was the potential for Africa to develop its mineral resources and expand its share of the world market, thereby contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in the region. Other themes included the changing but still vital influence of China on tin

and other metals markets, the growing influence of recycling, and the increasing geographical diversification of (mined) tin supply (ITRI Ltd., 2012).

Update

On September 28, 2012, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$13.11 per pound.

Reference Cited

ITRI Ltd., 2012, Cape Town conference—Africa's potential and other key themes: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, May 2. (Accessed October 10, 2012, at https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=2421&Itemid=143.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011 ^p	2012		
		April	May	January– May
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	11,100	922	922	4,610
Consumption:				
Primary	28,300	2,300	2,380	11,500
Secondary	6,280	529	528	2,640
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	1,990	3,430	16,100
Exports, metal	5,450	636	415	2,070
Stocks at end of period	5,230	6,710	6,750	6,750
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,574.67	1,345.29	1,244.92	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	1,039.61	961.83	XX
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	1,001.50	923.53	XX
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	1,008.27	928.07	XX

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. 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
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
March	1,719.32	1,020.42	1,398.32
April	1,400.86	1,288.87	1,345.29
May	1,374.59	1,182.00	1,244.92

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)			Shipments ²
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	
2011	21,500	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
March	1,250	96,300	556	5.8	156,000
April	1,240	86,700	522	6.0	140,000
May	1,290	65,600	521	7.9	155,000

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	2011	2012		
		April	May	January– May ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	261	2	4	517
Bolivia	5,680	191	319	2,040
Brazil	676	151	259	935
Chile	60	--	--	--
China	1,490	20	20	102
Indonesia	4,930	232	747	2,020
Malaysia	3,980	250	--	1,620
Peru	14,000	641	1,310	7,070
Singapore	645	--	74	74
Thailand	2,310	300	600	1,180
Other	156	202	102	517
Total	34,200	1,990	3,430	16,100
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,000	140	143	634
Bars and rods	2,620	120	168	774
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	2	16	42
Plates, sheets, strip	52	(³)	4	12
Waste and scrap	57,700	7,280	8,310	33,900
Miscellaneous	2,740	208	167	850
Total	65,300	7,750	8,800	36,200
Exports (metal)	5,450	636	415	2,070

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2012							
	2011 ^P	April			May			January–
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	May ²
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	6,550	539	3	542	542	3	545	2,730
Babbitt	222	16	W	16	16	W	16	93
Bronze and brass	3,410	158	75	233	220	75	295	1,100
Chemicals	2,640	205	W	205	227	W	227	1,120
Solder	3,630	185	W	185	185	W	185	1,630
Tinning	325	21	--	21	22	--	22	109
Tinplate ⁴	6,350	522	--	522	521	--	521	2,560
Other ⁵	701	50	151	201	49	150	200	271
Total reported	23,800	1,700	229	1,930	1,780	228	2,010	9,620
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	4,500
Grand total	34,600	2,300	529	2,830	2,380	528	2,910	14,100

^PPreliminary. 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.

³Includesterne metal.

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

⁵Includes bar tin and anodes, collapsible tubes and foil, tinpowder, type metal and white metal.

⁶Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.