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 OCTOBER 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in October 2012 was estimated to be 2,200 metric tons (t), a slight increase from that in September 2012 and a decrease of 13% from that in October 2011. For the first 10 months of 2012 imports of refined tin were 30,200 t, an increase of 6% from that in the comparable period of 2011. Peru, Indonesia, Bolivia, and Malaysia, in descending order, were the leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States in the first 10 months of 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in October was $12.96 per pound, compared with $12.57 per pound in September 2012, and $13.23 per pound in October 2011.

Update

The Platts Metals Daily composite price for tin in December 2012 was $13.82 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

		2012		
	2011[p]	September	October	January–October
Production, secondary[e, 2]	11,100	922	922	9,220
Consumption:				
Primary	28,300	2,170	2,200	22,500
Secondary	6,280	526	524	5,260
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	1,710	2,680	30,200
Exports, metal	5,450	553	751	5,300
Stocks at end of period	5,230	7,340	7,310	7,310
Prices (average cents per pound):[3]				
Metals Week composite[4]	1,574.67	1,257.23	1,296.34	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	961.00	996.33	XX
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	938.39	966.72	XX
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	937.31	972.53	XX

[e]Estimated. [p]Preliminary. 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
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
June	1,204.60	1,137.01	1,176.26
July	1,165.45	1,074.68	1,134.50
August	1,257.65	1,084.62	1,137.31
September	1,310.50	1,191.92	1,257.23
October	1,362.26	1,214.18	1,296.34

[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	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
June	1,330	86,000	530	6.2	153,000
July	1,430	84,700	523	6.2	134,000
August	1,250	82,700	516	6.2	170,000
September	1,650	74,600	490	6.6	127,000
October	1,740	74,200	489	6.6	134,000

[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		
		September	October	January–October[2]
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	261	3	--	524
Bolivia	5,680	256	575	4,370
Brazil	676	318	227	2,440
Chile	60	--	--	--
China	1,490	--	(3)	143
Indonesia	4,930	345	765	4,590
Malaysia	3,980	150	200	3,670
Peru	14,000	458	814	11,900
Singapore	645	75	--	248
Thailand	2,310	100	100	1,750
Other	156	4	1	625
Total	34,200	1,710	2,680	30,200
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,000	91	200	1,270
Bars and rods	2,620	114	173	1,550
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	15	7	66
Plates, sheets, strip	52	7	7	45
Waste and scrap	57,700	6,050	5,850	61,300
Miscellaneous	2,740	215	315	1,930
Total	65,300	6,500	6,550	66,100
Exports (metal)	5,450	553	751	5,300

-- Zero.

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

[2]May include revisions.

[3]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)

Product	2011[p]	2012						
		September			October			January–October[2]
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous)[3]	6,550	545	3	548	622	3	625	5,550
Babbitt	222	57	W	57	57	W	57	246
Bronze and brass	3,410	71	70	141	73	70	143	1,810
Chemicals	2,640	192	W	192	146	W	146	2,090
Solder	3,630	143	9	152	143	9	152	1,760
Tinning	325	21	--	21	21	--	21	217
Tinplate[4]	6,350	490	W	490	489	--	489	5,110
Other[5]	701	50	144	194	50	143	193	2,010
Total reported	23,800	1,570	226	1,800	1,600	224	1,830	18,800
Estimated undistributed consumption[6]	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	9,000
Grand total	34,600	2,170	526	2,700	2,200	524	2,730	27,800

[p]Preliminary. 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.

[3]Includes terne metal.

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

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

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