

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JANUARY 2013

Domestic consumption of primary tin in January 2013 was estimated to be 2,430 metric tons (t), a 10% increase from that in December 2012, and an 11% increase from that in January 2012. Imports for consumption in January 2013 were 4,220 t, an increase of 15% from those in December 2012, and a decrease of 15% from those in January 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in January 2013 was \$14.86 per pound, compared with \$13.82 per pound in December 2012 and \$12.99 per pound in January 2012.

Cookson Group plc (London, United Kingdom), a leading worldwide producer of solder, announced that it had split itself into two separate entities—Alent plc, which would include its solder making, electronics assembly materials, and plating chemicals businesses, and Vesuvius plc, which would encompass its ceramics and precious metals businesses. Each of the new corporate entities was to be listed on the London Stock Exchange. Alent has more than 2,500 employees and 23 major manufacturing facilities worldwide (Cookson Group plc, 2012).

The Trade Minister of Indonesia issued a new decree that specified that starting July 1, 2013, refined tin exports must

have a minimum purity of 99.9% tin, an increase from the prior figure of 99.85%. The new decree represents a continuing effort by Indonesian authorities to regulate the activities of independent smelters and limits the shipment of tin ingots by only allowing shipment by registered exporters approved by the Trade Ministry. Exporters are also required to pay a 3% export royalty and provide technical verification by independent surveying firms prior to shipment. Indonesia was the world's second leading tin producer in 2012 (ITRI Ltd., 2013).

Update

On March 28, 2013, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$13.98 per pound.

References Cited

Cookson Group plc, 2012, Demerger update—Demerger effective: London, United Kingdom, Cookson Group news release, December 19 (Accessed April 3, 2013, at <http://www.cooksongroup.co.uk/cooksongroup/investors>.)
ITRI Ltd., 2013, Indonesia tightens tin export regulations: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, January 3. (Accessed April 3, 2013, at https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=2630&Itemid=143.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2012 ^p		2013
	Year	December	January
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,000	878	918
Consumption:			
Primary	27,300	2,210	2,430
Secondary	6,200	515 ^r	529
Imports for consumption, metal	36,900	3,680	4,220
Exports, metal	5,560	80	700
Stocks at end of period	6,470 ^r	6,470 ^r	6,670
Prices (average cents per pound): ³			
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,283.37	1,382.38	1,485.79
Metals Week New York dealer	989.60	1,071.25	1,145.56
London, standard grade, cash	957.26	1,035.85	1,117.80
Kuala Lumpur	958.44	1,035.09	1,113.79

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
2012:			
December	1,425.91	1,313.11	1,382.38
Year	1,719.32	1,020.42	1,283.37
2013, January	1,515.09	1,438.85	1,485.79

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)	
2012:					
December	1,460	72,300	496	6.9	108,000
Year	16,300	922,000	6,020	6.5	1,620,000
2013, January	1,440	89,800	506	5.6	131,000

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	2012		2013
	Year	December	January
Imports:			
Metal (unwrought tin):			
Belgium	625	100	200
Bolivia	5,100	306	1,380
Brazil	2,930	260	376
China	174	21	--
Indonesia	6,180	880	759
Malaysia	4,590	620	100
Peru	14,500	1,340	748
Singapore	424	101	--
Thailand	1,750	--	650
Other	677	51	2
Total	36,900	3,680	4,220
Other (gross weight):			
Alloys	1,480	83	128
Bars and rods	1,800	105	135
Foil, tubes, pipes	83	3	3
Plates, sheets, strip	60	7	20
Waste and scrap	72,500	4,690	4,040
Miscellaneous	2,260	190	316
Total	78,200	5,080	4,640
Exports (metal)	5,560	80	700

-- Zero.

¹Data 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 PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2012				2013		
	Year ^p	December			January		
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	7,130	584	3	587	659	4	663
Babbitt	328	53	W	53	56	W	56
Bronze and brass	2,090	58 ^r	71 ^r	129 ^r	90	81	171
Chemicals	2,600	197	W	197	241	W	241
Solder	1,980	147 ^r	W	147 ^r	198	W	198
Tinning	257	20	--	20	23	--	23
Tinplate ³	5,980	496	W	496	506	W	506
Other ⁴	2,320	57 ^r	139	196 ^r	60	144	204
Total reported	22,700	1,610	215 ^r	1,830	1,830	229	2,060
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900
Grand total	33,500	2,210	515 ^r	2,730	2,430	529	2,960

^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.

²Includes terre metal.

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

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

⁵Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.