

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN AUGUST 2013

Domestic consumption of primary tin in August 2013 was reported to be 1,910 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in July 2013 but 14% less than that in August 2012. Consumption of primary tin for the first 8 months of 2013 was 18% less than in the same period of 2012. For the first 8 months of 2013, imports of refined tin were 25,600 t, essentially unchanged from imports in the comparable period of 2012. Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Malaysia were, in descending order, the leading sources of refined tin imports during the first 8 months of 2013.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in August 2013 was \$13.09 per pound, 10% more than the July 2013 average price and 15% more than the August 2012 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of tin for August 2013 was \$21,620 per metric ton, 10% more than the July 2013 average price and 16% more than the August 2012 average price. During August 2013, global LME stocks of tin increased by 1,140 t to 14,985 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2013			
	2012 ^p	July	August	January– August
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,000	918	918	7,340
Reported consumption:				
Primary	24,500 ^r	1,870 ^r	1,910	14,900
Secondary	3,240 ^r	229	230	1,840
Imports for consumption, unwrought tin	36,900	3,250	2,780	25,600
Exports, unwrought tin and tin alloys	5,560	427	440	4,130
Stocks at end of period	6,470	6,670 ^r	6,680	6,680
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,283.37	1,194.01	1,308.88	1,336.10
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	989.60	920.06	1,011.50	1,030.27
London Metal Exchange cash	957.26	888.29	980.68	998.89
Kuala Lumpur	958.44	887.70	976.98	999.19

^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	1,719.32	1,020.42	1,283.37
2013:			
January	1,515.09	1,438.85	1,485.79
February	1,506.82	1,405.01	1,471.11
March	1,448.13	1,375.21	1,412.80
April	1,393.02	1,238.56	1,318.70
May	1,293.89	1,210.20	1,261.58
June	1,279.40	1,191.82	1,235.90
July	1,223.65	1,173.38	1,194.01
August	1,338.13	1,247.04	1,308.88

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 (all forms)				
	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Production		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2012	16,271	921,656	6,023	6.5	1,472,621 ^r
2013:					
January	1,440	89,800	506	5.6	120,000 ^r
February	1,190	92,500	516	5.6	115,000 ^r
March	1,540	89,400	546	6.1	116,000 ^r
April	1,730	75,800	513	6.8	130,000 ^r
May	1,230	80,900	523	6.5	121,000 ^r
June	1,800	75,800	516	6.8	119,000 ^r
July	1,950	77,100	552	7.2	130,000 ^r
August	1,950	85,400	566	6.6	125,000

^rRevised.

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	2013			
	2012	July	August	January– August
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	625	2	2	216
Bolivia	5,100	970	340	5,080
Brazil	2,930	264	278	2,170
China	174	--	23	1,280
Indonesia	6,180	455	671	4,560
Malaysia	4,590	425	355	2,480
Peru	14,500	1,020	1,060	7,640
Singapore	424	101	--	101
Thailand	1,750	--	50	2,080
Other	676 ^r	9	6	26
Total	36,900	3,250	2,780	25,600
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,480	90	157	878
Bars and rods	1,800	131	139	1,060
Foil, tubes, pipes	83	3	14	60
Plates, sheets, strip	60	1	(2)	73
Waste and scrap	72,500	4,980	6,090	41,900
Miscellaneous ³	2,260	374	204	2,520
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,560	427	440	4,130

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes tin powders and flakes (HTS code 8007.00.3200) and other articles of tin not elsewhere specified or included (HTS code 8007.00.5000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2013							
	2012 ^{r, p}	July			August			January– August
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	2,950	664	4	668	661	4	665	5,320
Babbitt	281	17	W	17	17	W	17	648
Bronze and brass	2,460	83	82	165	89	82	171	1,380
Chemicals	9,860	273	W	273	257	W	257	2,040
Solder	4,900	218	W	218	241	W	241	2,400
Tinning	467	19	--	19	17	--	17	165
Tinplate ³	6,090	538 ^r	W	538 ^r	566	W	566	4,230
Other ⁴	733	60	145	203 ^r	60	145	205	519
Total reported	27,700	1,870 ^r	229	2,100 ^r	1,910	230	2,140	16,700

^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 terne metal.

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

⁴Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.