

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN NOVEMBER 2011

Domestic consumption of primary tin in November 2011 was estimated to be 2,480 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in October 2011, and an increase of 26% from that in November 2010. In the first 11 months of 2011, tin imports for consumption totaled 26,200 t, a 19% decrease from those in the comparable period of 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in November 2011 was \$12.95 per pound, compared with \$13.23 per pound in October 2011 and \$15.38 per pound in November 2010.

PT Timah (Jakarta, Indonesia), one of the world's leading tin producers, announced that it would produce 50,000 t of refined tin in 2012, an increase of 52% from the estimated output of 33,000 t in 2011. The production was expected to come mostly from offshore mining. Illegal tin mining has hampered Timah's tin mining activity onshore (Nugraha, 2011b).

Twenty-six out of 28 Indonesian tin producers agreed to continue halting tin exports until the end of 2011 in an effort to boost the price. Tin industry officials in Indonesia believed that the current lower tin price was driven by investment fund managers, and not by fundamental supply/demand factors (Nugraha, 2011a).

Update

On February 3, 2012, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$14.53 per pound.

References Cited

- Nugraha, Anita, 2011a, Indonesian tin exports halted until year-end: Platts Metals Week, v. 82, no. 45, November 7, p. 17.
Nugraha, Anita, 2011b, Indonesia's PT Timah eyes 50,000 mt of production in 2012: Platts Metals Week, v. 82, no. 47, November 21, p. 13.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011			
	2010 ^P	October	November	January– November
Production, secondary ^{c,2}	11,100	922	922	10,100
Consumption:				
Primary	26,900	2,540	2,480	26,200
Secondary	6,220	521	524	5,750
Imports for consumption, metal	35,300	2,150	3,120	31,500
Exports, metal	5,630	304	133	5,140
Stocks at end of period	6,920	6,800	6,670	6,670
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,239.64	1,323.47	1,294.59	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	954.13	1,019.75	1,003.57	XX
London, standard grade, cash	925.15	987.55	963.23	XX
Kuala Lumpur	922.17	989.45	973.71	XX

^cEstimated. ^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
2010	1,719.49	937.69	1,239.64
2011:			
January	1,802.34	1,583.57	1,644.54
February	1,937.62	1,798.67	1,885.16
March	1,934.68	1,738.66	1,842.63
April	1,982.96	1,884.94	1,942.35
May	1,967.66	1,615.32	1,752.83
June	1,673.32	1,492.92	1,544.58
July	1,727.07	1,542.52	1,641.43
August	1,702.85	1,339.10	1,471.85
September	1,542.20	1,190.36	1,378.31
October	1,389.64	1,237.99	1,323.47
November	1,339.87	1,231.26	1,294.59

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)	
2010	18,200	1,420,000	6,920	4.9	2,030,000
2011:					
January	1,860	101,000	528	5.2	118,000
February	1,840	95,500	502	5.3	117,000
March	1,750	103,000	514	5.0	156,000
April	1,230	90,900	470	5.2	146,000
May	1,400	104,000	512	4.9	141,000
June	2,540	127,000	573	4.5	161,000
July	1,590	112,000	531	4.8	150,000
August	1,530	85,400	545	6.4	156,000
September	1,550	98,200	561	5.7	137,000
October	1,090	86,800	528	6.1	129,000
November	1,140	94,700	463	4.9	133,000

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	2010	2011		
		October	November	January– November ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	--	--	4	261
Bolivia	6,060	688	346	5,580
Brazil	75	--	75	526
Chile	641	--	--	60
China	887	20	31	1,490
Indonesia	3,970	302	280	4,900
Malaysia	4,500	190	375	3,700
Peru	16,500	794	1,670	11,900
Singapore	996	--	250	645
Thailand	1,310	50	75	2,310
Other	327	104	19	154
Total	35,300	2,150	3,120	31,500
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,290	194	110	1,870
Bars and rods	3,190	224	202	2,450
Foil, tubes, pipes	80	1	14	107
Plates, sheets, strip	135	1	--	52
Waste and scrap	57,300	6,070	4,810	52,500
Miscellaneous	3,540	193	96	2,640
Total	65,500	6,680 [†]	5,230	59,600
Exports (metal)	5,630	304	133	5,140

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2010 ^p	2011						January– November ²
		October			November			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	6,070	561	W	561	562	W	562	6,200
Babbitt	220	16	W	16	16	W	16	208
Bar tin and anodes	239	6	--	6	6	--	6	69
Bronze and brass	2,000	350	69	419	381	71	452	3,120
Chemicals	2,590	240	W	240	222	W	222	2,520
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	3,710	171	142	313	171	142	313	3,440
Tinning	331	24	--	24	16	--	16	250
Tinplate ⁴	6,600	528 ^r	W	528 ^r	463	W	463	5,750
Tin powder	192	15	W	15	15	W	15	176
White metal ⁵	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	416	28	11	39	28	11	39	336
Total reported	22,400	1,940	221	2,160	1,880	224	2,100	22,100
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	9,900
Grand total	33,200	2,540	521	3,060	2,480	524	3,000	32,000

^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.

²May include revisions.

³Includesterne metal.

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

⁵Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

⁶Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.