

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN AUGUST 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in August 2012 was estimated to be 2,220 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in July 2012, and 3% less than that in August 2011. Imports of refined tin were 25,900 t in the first 8 months of 2012, 9% more than those in the comparable period of 2011. Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Malaysia were, in descending order, the leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States in the first 8 months of 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in August 2012 was \$11.37 per pound, compared with \$11.35 per pound in July 2012, and \$14.72 in August 2011.

RG Steel, LLC (Sparrows Point, MD), the fourth-ranked domestic producer of flat-rolled steel, received court approval to sell more of its assets. An agreement was reached for Environmental Liability Transfer Inc., Commercial Development Co., and Hilco Trading Co. to buy RG Steel's

Sparrows Point plant, one of the leading single-site steelmaking facilities in the United States, with an annual capacity of 3.9 million metric tons, for about \$73 million. The Sparrows Point plant had been a leading domestic tinplate producer and was a leading domestic user of tin (Bathon, 2012).

### Update

On November 16, 2012, the Platts Metals Daily composite price for tin was \$12.45 per pound.

### Reference Cited

Bathon, Michael, 2012, RG Steel sells Sparrows Point, other assets for \$94 million: Businessweek.com, August 15. (Accessed August 16, 2012, at <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-08-15/rg-steel-sells-sparrows-point-other-assets-for-94-million>.)

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011 <sup>P</sup>	2012		
		July	August	January– August
Production, secondary <sup>e,2</sup>	11,100	922	922	7,380
Consumption:				
Primary	28,300	2,210 <sup>f</sup>	2,220	18,200
Secondary	6,280	525	525	4,210
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	2,960	2,670	25,900
Exports, metal	5,450	691	551	3,990
Stocks at end of period	5,230	7,290 <sup>f</sup>	7,280	7,280
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	1,574.67	1,134.50	1,137.31	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	874.06	871.61	XX
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	843.82	845.26	XX
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	840.18	843.17	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>f</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

<sup>4</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(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

<sup>1</sup>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<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste (waste, strips, cobble, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			Shipments <sup>2</sup>
		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
June	1,330 <sup>r</sup>	86,000 <sup>r</sup>	530 <sup>r</sup>	6.2 <sup>r</sup>	153,000
July	1,430 <sup>r</sup>	84,700 <sup>r</sup>	523 <sup>r</sup>	6.2 <sup>r</sup>	134,000
August	1,250	82,700	516	6.2	170,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2011	2012		
		July	August	January– August <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Metal (unwrought tin):</b>				
Belgium	261	1	1	521
Bolivia	5,680	275	587	3,540
Brazil	676	458	340	1,900
Chile	60	--	--	--
China	1,490	--	20	143
Indonesia	4,930	398	617	3,480
Malaysia	3,980	550	200	3,320
Peru	14,000	1,100	807	10,600
Singapore	645	--	--	173
Thailand	2,310	75	100	1,550
Other	156	102	1	620
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,200</b>	<b>2,960</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>25,900</b>
<b>Other (gross weight):</b>				
Alloys	2,000	79	159	976
Bars and rods	2,620	180	142	1,260
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	1	1	44
Plates, sheets, strip	52	8	5	30
Waste and scrap	57,700	4,290	5,490	49,300
Miscellaneous	2,740	200	216	1,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,300</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>53,100</b>
Exports (metal)	5,450	691	551	3,990

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2012							
	2011 <sup>P</sup>	July			August			January– August <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	6,550	543	3	546	544	3	547	4,370
Babbitt	222	16	W	16	16	W	16	131
Bronze and brass	3,410	71	71	142	71	70	141	1,530
Chemicals	2,640	198	W	198	218	W	218	1,750
Solder	3,630	185	W	185	185	W	185	1,480
Tinning	325	22	--	22	21	--	21	174
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	6,350	523 <sup>r</sup>	--	523 <sup>r</sup>	516	--	516	4,130
Other <sup>5</sup>	701	50	151	201	50	152	202	1,610
Total reported	23,800	1,610 <sup>r</sup>	225	1,830 <sup>r</sup>	1,620	225	1,850	15,200
Estimated undistributed consumption <sup>6</sup>	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	7,200
Grand total	34,600	2,210 <sup>r</sup>	525	2,730 <sup>r</sup>	2,220	525	2,750	22,400

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions.

<sup>3</sup>Includesterne metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>5</sup>Includes bar tin and anodes, collapsible tubes and foil, tinpowder, type metal and white metal.

<sup>6</sup>Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.