

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN SEPTEMBER 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in September 2012 was estimated to be 2,170 metric tons (t) a slight decrease from that in August 2012, and a decrease of 15% from that in September 2011. For the first 9 months of 2012, imports of refined tin were 27,600 t, a 5% increase 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 9 months of 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in September 2012 was \$12.57 per pound, compared with \$11.37 in August 2012, and \$13.78 in September 2011.

Wisco-Nippon Steel Tinplate (WINSteel), the joint venture between Japan's Nippon Steel Corp. and China's Wuhan Iron and Steel Corp. planned to expand the capacity of the tin mill under construction in Qingshan District of the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. With two electrolytic tinplating lines, the plant's capacity would double to 400,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of tinplate and 400,000 t/yr of blackplate. Commissioning of the \$290 million facility was scheduled for yearend 2013. It was the joint venture's second tinplate facility. Its first, Guangzhou Pacific Tinplate, was established in 1994 in Guangdong Province. Nippon Steel's other tinplate joint

ventures were Siam Tinplate Co. (Thailand), and PT Latinusa (Indonesia). In Japan, Nippon Steel had three tinplate mills at Yawata, Hirohota, and Nagoya, with total production capacity of 1.2 million metric tons per year (Canmaker, The, 2012).

The Republic of Korea's Public Procurement Service purchased 400 t of refined tin at its latest tender, bringing purchases for January to September 2012, to 1,900 t. The agency maintains stocks on behalf of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies (CRUGroup.com, 2012).

Update

On November 23, 2012, the Platts Metals Daily composite price for tin was \$12.51 per pound.

References Cited

- Canmaker, The, 2012, WINSteel expands tinplate mill capacity: The Canmaker, September, v. 25 1 p.
CRUGroup.com, 2012, South Korea's Public Procurement Service has bought a further 400 tonnes of refined tin at its latest tender, bringing purchases in the year to date to 1,900 tonnes: CRUGroup.com, September 20. (Accessed September 21, 2012, via cruonline.crugroup.com.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2012			
	2011 ^P	August	September	January– September
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,100	922	922	8,300
Consumption:				
Primary	28,300	2,220	2,170	20,300
Secondary	6,280	525	526	4,740
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	2,670	1,710	27,600
Exports, metal	5,450	551	553	4,550
Stocks at end of period	5,230	7,280	7,340	7,340
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,574.67	1,137.31	1,257.23	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	871.61	961.00	XX
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	845.26	938.39	XX
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	843.17	937.31	XX

^eEstimated. ^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
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

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)	
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

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	2011	2012		
		August	September	January– September ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	261	1	3	524
Bolivia	5,680	587	256	3,790
Brazil	676	340	318	2,220
Chile	60	--	--	--
China	1,490	20	--	143
Indonesia	4,930	617	345	3,820
Malaysia	3,980	200	150	3,470
Peru	14,000	807	458	11,100
Singapore	645	--	75	248
Thailand	2,310	100	100	1,650
Other	156	1	4	624
Total	34,200	2,670	1,710	27,600
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	2,000	159	91	1,070
Bars and rods	2,620	142	114	1,370
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	1	15	59
Plates, sheets, strip	52	5	7	38
Waste and scrap	57,700	5,490	6,050	55,400
Miscellaneous	2,740	216	215	1,620
Total	65,300	6,010	6,500	59,600
Exports (metal)	5,450	551	553	4,550

-- 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	2012							
	2011 ^P	August			September			January– September ²
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	6,550	544	3	547	545	3	548	4,920
Babbitt	222	16	W	16	57	W	57	188
Bronze and brass	3,410	71	70	141	71	70	141	1,670
Chemicals	2,640	218	W	218	192	W	192	1,940
Solder	3,630	185	W	185	143	9	152	1,620
Tinning	325	21	--	21	21	--	21	195
Tinplate ⁴	6,350	516	--	516	490	W	490	4,620
Other ⁵	701	50	152	202	50	144	194	1,810
Total reported	23,800	1,620	225	1,850	1,570	226	1,800	17,000
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	8,100
Grand total	34,600	2,220	525	2,750	2,170	526	2,700	25,100

^PPreliminary. 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 tinplating chemical solutions.

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

⁶Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.