

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN DECEMBER 2009

Domestic consumption of primary tin in December 2009 was estimated to be 2,150 metric tons (t), compared with 1,960 t in November 2009, and 1,940 t in December 2008. Imports for consumption of tin in December 2009 were 2,490 t compared with 2,380 t in November 2009 and 2,790 t in December 2008.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in December 2009 was \$9.58 per pound, compared with \$7.08 per pound in December 2008.

Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board approved the proposed deal between Metals X Ltd., (East Perth, Western Australia, Australia) and Yunnan Tin Corp. (Kunming, Yunnan Province, China) for the sale of up to 60% of its interest in Metals X's Tasmanian assets for \$55 million. Under the agreement, Yunnan Tin would pay Metals X an initial \$45 million for a 50% stake in Metals X's wholly owned subsidiary, Bluestone Mines Tasmania, which operates the Tasmanian tin assets. Yunnan Tin would have the option of purchasing the remaining 10% stake for \$9 million during the next 2 years. The two companies would form a joint venture to continue the development of the assets, which include the Renison Bell underground mine, the Mt. Bischoff open pit mine, the Renison tin concentrator plant, and the Rentails tailings retreatment project (Platts Metals Week, 2009).

Data from Brazil's tin producers' association Sindicato Nacional da Industria e Extracao de Estanho (SNIIE) shows a 15% year-on-year decline in national tin mine production in January through September 2009. Total output of tin-in-concentrate was reported at 8,100 t, down from 9,500 t in the same period of 2008. The decline was due to the sharp fall in production at Mineracao Taboca SA's Pitinga Mine as a result of a major reorganization of operations that began following Taboca's acquisition by Peru's Minsur S.A. (Lima) in late 2008. Production at Pitinga fell by 55% to 2,200 t in the first 9 months of 2009. This was partly offset by a large increase in production by small-scale garimpeiro operations (CRU International, Ltd., 2009).

Liuzhou China Tin Group Ltd. (Liuzhou, Guangxi Province, China) was expected to be the fourth major world tin smelter to adopt Ausmelt tin smelting technology. Two of the world's

leading producers, Minsur and Yunnan Tin, already operate large Ausmelt plants, and Bolivia's Vinto tin smelter planned to install a new unit in 2010–11. Liuzhou's new 20,000-metric-ton-per-year (t/yr) capacity tin smelter was to be built alongside the existing facility at Liabing City in China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. China Tin produced 12,000 t of refined tin in 2008 (CRU Tin Monitor, 2009a).

Bolivia's state mining organization, Empresa Minera Huanuni (EMH), announced plans to invest \$2 million to build a tailings dam at the Huanuni Mine. Until December 2009, waste from the concentrator at the operation had been discharged straight into the local river, from which local community members scavenge tin not recovered at the mill. EMH planned to substantially expand production at the mine over the next few years. Production of tin-in-concentrate from January through September of 2009 rose to 6,400 t, which was 12% higher than the comparable period of 2008 (CRU Tin Monitor, 2009a).

PT Latinusa Tbk (Jakarta, Indonesia) announced plans to nearly double its tinplate production capacity to 250,000 t/yr by 2013–14. Production capacity in 2009 was 130,000 t/yr, with actual production expected to rise from 90,000 t in 2009 to 120,000 t in 2010. PT Latinusa was divesting 55% of its equity to a consortium headed by Nippon Steel Corp. (Tokyo, Japan) and a public offering of another 20% to raise funds for the expansion (CRU Tin Monitor, 2009b).

Update

On June 4, 2010, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$10.65 per pound.

References Cited

- CRU International Ltd., 2009, CRU Week in the News: CRU International Ltd., November 19. (Accessed November 19, 2009, via <http://www.crumonitor.com>.)
CRU Tin Monitor, 2009a, Industry news: CRU Tin Monitor, December, p. 9.
CRU Tin Monitor, 2009b, Industry news: CRU Tin Monitor, December, p. 10.
Platts Metals Week, 2009, Metals X sells Tasmanian tin: Platts Metals Week, v. 80, no. 49, December 7, p. 7.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2009			
	2008 ^p	November	December	January-December
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	12,200 ^r	955 ^r	959	11,500
Consumption:				
Primary	21,100	1,960 ^r	2,150	21,100
Secondary	10,800	715 ^r	414	10,800
Imports for consumption, metal	36,300	2,380	2,490	33,000
Exports, metal	9,800	269	208	3,170
Stocks at end of period	XX	7,470	7,450	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,128.97	920.65	958.21	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	864.53	703.69	830.71	XX
London, standard grade, cash	839.10	676.78	704.40	XX
Kuala Lumpur	837.70	673.97	703.20	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
2008	1,529.29	630.41	1,128.97
2009:			
January	748.18	688.67	711.90
February	712.54	670.97	692.57
March	698.72	647.98	668.86
April	781.18	661.48	725.34
May	874.60	785.83	849.13
June	970.28	891.14	924.85
July	909.95	780.62	864.70
August	945.24	881.50	909.91
September	925.48	872.29	904.70
October	933.14	894.98	915.40
November	929.94	912.46	920.65
December	1,030.42	926.60	958.21

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)	
2008	30,900	2,280,000	6,690	2.9	1,770,000
2009:					
January	1,440	118,000	562	4.8	103,000
February	1,170	86,500	523	6.0	94,400
March	1,350	96,000	547	5.7	107,000
April	372	87,900	527	6.0	122,000
May	402	78,600	479	6.1	132,000
June	508	73,600	452	6.1	140,000
July	1,550	98,300	511	5.2	136,000
August	1,710	94,500	478	5.1	142,000
September	1,730	96,200	498	5.2	151,000
October	1,290	103,000	509	4.9	145,000
November	2,040	97,300	482	5.0	132,000
December	993	117,000	628	5.4	135,000

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	2009			
	2008	November	December	January- December
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	4,980	639	758	6,300
Brazil	1,570	--	100	1,050
China	2,380	90	99	1,210
Indonesia	2,000	320	155	3,220
Malaysia	1,740	48	--	169
Peru	20,900	1,270	1,290	20,300
Singapore	706	--	51	451
Thailand	1,670	--	--	15
United Kingdom	225	--	(2)	(2)
Other	152	9	34	343
Total	36,300	2,380	2,490	33,000
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,720	96	69	1,230
Bars and rods	4,190	284	256	3,020
Foil, tubes, pipes	97	(2)	2	55
Plates, sheets, strip	1,150	660	829	3,370
Waste and scrap	23,300	4,050	3,940	80,600
Miscellaneous	2,940	490	283	3,830
Total	33,400	5,580	5,380	92,100
Exports (metal)	9,800	269	208	3,170

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2008 ^P	2009						
		November			December			January- December
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	1,800	130	W	130	296	W	296	1,910
Babbitt	459	19 ^r	W	19 ^r	21	W	21	427
Bar tin and anodes	218	22 ^r	--	22 ^r	22	--	22	270
Bronze and brass	2,250	88	93	181	89	96	185	2,110
Chemicals	2,940	281	W	281	258	W	258	3,080
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	5,750	275 ^r	276 ^r	551 ^r	160	8	168	6,210
Tinning	322	24	--	24	34	--	34	318
Tinplate ³	6,690	482	--	482	628	--	628	6,200
Tin powder	227	16 ^r	W	16 ^r	15	W	15	193
White metal ⁴	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	389	28 ^r	48 ^r	76	28	11	39	379
Total reported	21,100	1,360 ^r	415 ^r	1,780 ^r	1,550	114	1,660	21,100
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	10,800
Grand total	31,900	1,960 ^r	715 ^r	2,680 ^r	2,150	414	2,560	31,900

^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.

²Includes terne metal.

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

⁴Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

⁵Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.