

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2010

Domestic consumption of primary tin in April 2010 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 2,050 metric tons (t), slightly more than that in March 2010, and 9% more than that in April 2009. Imports of refined tin in the first 4 months of 2010 were 9,830 t, with Peru, Bolivia, and Indonesia (in decreasing order) as the leading suppliers.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for tin in April 2010 was \$11.43 per pound, compared with \$7.25 per pound in April 2009.

Kasbah Resources Ltd. (South Perth, Western Australia, Australia) signed an agreement with Traxys Projects LP [a subsidiary of metals trader Traxys Worldwide (New York, NY)] making Traxys a major shareholder in Kasbah. Kasbah indicated that the transaction was aimed at advancing its Moroccan tin project. Kasbah's Achmmach tin project is on the western edge of El Hajeb Province, about 140 kilometers southwest of Rabat (Platts Metals Week, 2010).

Wolf Minerals Ltd. (West Perth, Western Australia, Australia) announced continuing progress at its Hemerdon Ball tungsten and tin project in Devon, United Kingdom. Recent

work included metallurgical test work to confirm the process flowsheet design, plant design and engineering work, and drilling of six water monitoring bores to determine the hydrogeology of the orebody. The company's feasibility study was scheduled to be completed by the third quarter of 2010. Wolf planned a 3-million-metric-ton-per-year processing plant for the project, which officials anticipate could produce 500 t of tin-in-concentrate annually (Wolf Minerals Ltd., 2010).

Update

On August 6, 2010, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.50 per pound.

References Cited

- Platts Metals Week, 2010, Kasbah/Traxys fund Morocco mine: Platts Metals Week, v. 81, no. 17, April 26, p. 13.
Wolf Minerals Ltd., 2010, Hemerdon Ball tungsten and tin project update: Wolf Minerals Ltd. news release, April 20, 6 p. (Accessed April 30, 2010, at http://www.wolfminerals.com.au/images/pdf/0137_asx_hemerdon_project_update_r1.pdf.)

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2009 ^p	2010		
		March	April	January - April
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	11,500	955	955	3,820
Consumption:				
Primary	21,100	2,040	2,050	8,140
Secondary	10,800	649	648	2,600
Imports for consumption, metal	33,000	3,390	2,260	9,830
Exports, metal	3,170	498	350	1,480
Stocks at end of period	XX	7,060	7,080	XX
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	837.08	1,073.64	1,142.59	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	641.62	821.60	872.16	XX
London, standard grade, cash	615.15	795.10	846.80	XX
Kuala Lumpur	609.34	791.61	848.06	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
2009	1,030.42	647.98	837.08
2010:			
January	1,109.84	1,054.27	1,087.07
February	1,042.04	937.69	1,008.92
March	1,108.16	1,041.15	1,073.64
April	1,162.79	1,110.30	1,142.59

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)	
2009	14,500	1,150,000	6,200	5.4	1,540,000
2010:					
January	983	97,400	470	4.8	152,000
February	1,090	91,800	456	5.0	153,000
March	1,270	92,400	472	5.1	211,000
April	1,660	94,200	470	5.0	172,000

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	2010		
		March	April	January - April ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Bolivia	6,300	898	76	1,760
Brazil	1,050	50	--	75
China	1,210	80	75	195
Indonesia	3,220	235	394	1,250
Malaysia	169	--	75	75
Peru	20,300	2,070	1,450	5,890
Singapore	451	50	50	272
Thailand	15	--	50	50
Other	343	14	89	271
Total	33,000	3,390	2,260	9,830
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,230	56	104	324
Bars and rods	3,020	326	262	1,220
Foil, tubes, pipes	55	4	10	26
Plates, sheets, strip	3,370	1	4	104
Waste and scrap	80,600	5,330	5,990	21,600
Miscellaneous	3,830	163	459	945
Total	92,100	5,880	6,830	24,200
Exports (metal)	3,170	498	350	1,480

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previous month(s) data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2009 ^p	2010						
		March			April			January -
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	April ²
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	1,910	236	W	236	237	W	237	1,010
Babbitt	427	16	W	16	17	W	17	76
Bar tin and anodes	270	20	--	20	20	--	20	80
Bronze and brass	2,110	98	87	185	93	86	179	663
Chemicals	3,080	334	W	334	341	W	341	1,350
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	6,210	195	237	432	198	237	435	1,740
Tinning	318	26	--	26	31	--	31	108
Tinplate ⁴	6,200	472	--	472	470	--	470	1,870
Tin powder	193	15	W	15	15	W	15	64
White metal ⁵	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	379	28	25	53	28	25	52	175
Total reported	21,100	1,440	349	1,790	1,450	348	1,800	7,140
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	3,600
Grand total	31,900	2,040	649	2,690	2,050	648	2,700	10,700

^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 to previous month(s) data.

³Includes terne metal.

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

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

⁶Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.