

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MARCH 2011

Domestic consumption of primary tin in March 2011 was estimated to be 2,310 metric tons (t), an increase of 3% compared with that in February 2011, and an increase of 13% from that in March 2010. Imports of refined tin in the first quarter of 2011 were 12,100 t, an increase of 60% from those in the comparable period of 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in March 2011 was \$18.43 per pound, compared with \$10.74 per pound in March 2010.

Update

On July 1, 2011, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$15.54 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011			
	2010 ^p	February	March	January - March
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	11,100	922	922	2,770
Consumption:				
Primary	26,900	2,250	2,310	6,820
Secondary	6,220	519	523	1,560
Imports for consumption, metal	35,300	2,650	5,120	12,100
Exports, metal	5,630	751	440	1,520
Stocks at end of period	6,920	6,710 ^r	6,740	6,740
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,239.64	1,885.16	1,842.63	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	954.13	1,462.50	1,433.17	XX
London, standard grade, cash	925.15	1,429.11	1,393.19	XX
Kuala Lumpur	922.17	1,436.84	1,396.04	XX

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. 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

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

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		January - March ²
		February	March	
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	--	2	1	253
Bolivia	6,060	290	867	1,860
Brazil	75	--	150	250
Chile	641	--	--	60
China	887	360	182	935
Indonesia	3,970	268	702	1,230
Malaysia	4,500	--	1,630	1,790
Peru	16,500	1,330	1,230	4,120
Singapore	996	--	--	76
Thailand	1,310	400	360	1,490
Other	327	1	5	5
Total	35,300	2,650	5,120	12,100
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,290	106	216	569
Bars and rods	3,190	254	235	700
Foil, tubes, pipes	80	1	4	19
Plates, sheets, strip	135	--	--	5
Waste and scrap	57,300	4,640	3,910	13,500
Miscellaneous	3,540	201	100	448
Total	65,500	5,200	4,460	15,200
Exports (metal)	5,630	751	440	1,520

-- 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	2010 ^p	2011						January - March ²
		February			March			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	6,070	561	W	561	562	W	562	1,690
Babbitt	220	16	W	16	16	W	16	57
Bar tin and anodes	239	6	--	6	6	--	6	19
Bronze and brass	2,000	113	67	181	139	71	209	547
Chemicals	2,590	213	W	213	228	W	228	660
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	3,710	171	142	313	171	142	313	939
Tinning	331	25	--	25	30	--	30	87
Tinplate ⁴	6,600	502	--	502	514	--	514	1,540
Tin powder	192	15	W	15	15	W	15	48
White metal ⁵	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	416	28	11	38	28	11	39	92
Total reported	22,400	1,650	219	1,870	1,710	223	1,930	5,680
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	2,700
Grand total	33,200	2,250	519	2,770	2,310	523	2,830	8,380

^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.

³Includesterne 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.