

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN JULY 2011

Domestic consumption of primary tin in July 2011 was estimated to be 2,440 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in June 2011 and 18% more than that in July 2010. Imports of refined tin were 22,000 t in the first 7 months of 2011, 15% more than in the comparable period of 2010. Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Malaysia, in decreasing order, were the leading sources of tin imports in the first 7 months of 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in July 2011 was \$16.41 per pound, compared with \$15.45 per pound in June 2011 and \$11.09 per pound in July 2010.

Gippsland Ltd. (Claremont, Western Australia, Australia) announced further progress in evaluating its Abu Dabbab tin-tantalum-feldspar deposit in Egypt. The company completed a program of sampling and size analysis of alluvial material as a prelude to the trial mining, which it planned to commence in 2011. The deposit was first explored during the early 1970s by a joint Egyptian-Soviet expedition. Based on evaluations, Gippsland announced several updates—open pit plans were

reoptimised and redesigned, based on higher tin and tantalum prices; planned production was increased to 3 million metric tons of ore per year; the new expected life-of-mine is 13.8 years; tin contained in ore increased by 11.8% to 46,800 t; and expected average annual production of tin-in-concentrate increased to 2,340 t (Gippsland Ltd., 2011a, b).

Update

On December 2, 2011, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.22 per pound.

References Cited

- Gippsland Ltd., 2011a, Abu Dabbab—Alluvial tin project update initial results highly encouraging: Claremont, Western Australia, Australia, Gippsland Ltd. news release, July 27, 4 p.
Gippsland Ltd., 2011b, Abu Dabbab increases ore reserves: Claremont, Western Australia, Australia, Gippsland Ltd. news release, June 8, 5 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011			
	2010 ^p	June	July	January– July
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	11,100	922	922	6,450
Consumption:				
Primary	26,900	2,460	2,440	16,400
Secondary	6,220	523	521	3,650
Imports for consumption, metal	35,300	2,650	2,860	22,000
Exports, metal	5,630	582	160	3,700
Stocks at end of period	6,920	6,860	6,840	6,840
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,239.64	1,544.58	1,641.43	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	954.13	1,188.94	1,277.44	XX
London, standard grade, cash	925.15	1,159.41	1,237.94	XX
Kuala Lumpur	922.17	1,159.71	1,235.81	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
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
April	1,982.96	1,884.94	1,942.35
May	1,967.66	1,615.32	1,752.83
June	1,673.32	1,492.92	1,544.58
July	1,727.07	1,542.52	1,641.43

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
April	1,230	90,900	470	5.2	146,000
May	1,400	104,000	512	4.9	141,000
June	2,540	127,000	573	4.5	161,000
July	1,590	112,000	531	4.8	150,000

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		
		June	July	January– July ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	--	1	--	255
Bolivia	6,060	806	541	3,540
Brazil	75	--	75	376
Chile	641	--	--	60
China	887	224	45	1,380
Indonesia	3,970	325	719	3,220
Malaysia	4,500	26	525	2,340
Peru	16,500	991	933	8,680
Singapore	996	51	--	255
Thailand	1,310	225	--	1,890
Other	327	3	18	27
Total	35,300	2,650	2,860	22,000
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,290	167	195	1,250
Bars and rods	3,190	233	194	1,620
Foil, tubes, pipes	80	1	1	39
Plates, sheets, strip	135	5	9	26
Waste and scrap	57,300	4,470	5,220	30,800
Miscellaneous	3,540	420	410	1,880
Total	65,500	5,290	6,030	35,700
Exports (metal)	5,630	582	160	3,700

-- 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	2010 ^P	2011						January– July ²
		June			July			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ³	6,070	562	W	562	563	W	563	3,950
Babbitt	220	16	W	16	16	W	16	132
Bar tin and anodes	239	6	--	6	6	--	6	44
Bronze and brass	2,000	233	69	302	248	68	316	1,660
Chemicals	2,590	238	W	238	236	W	236	1,600
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	3,710	171	142	313	171	142	313	2,190
Tinning	331	22	--	22	21	--	21	166
Tinplate ⁴	6,600	573	W	573	531	W	531	3,640
Tin powder	192	15	W	15	15	W	15	112
White metal ⁵	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	416	28	12	39	28	11	39	214
Total reported	22,400	1,860	223	2,090	1,840	221	2,060	13,700
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁶	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	6,300
Grand total	33,200	2,460	523	2,990	2,440	521	2,960	20,000

^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.

³Includes terre metal.

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

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

⁶Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.