

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN AUGUST 2011

Domestic consumption of primary tin in August 2011 was estimated to be 2,290 metric tons (t), 6% less than that in July 2011 and 10% more than that in August 2010. Imports of refined tin were 23,700 t in the first 8 months of 2011, 8% more than those in the comparable period of 2010. Peru, Bolivia, and Indonesia, in descending order, were the leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States in the first 8 months of 2011.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in August 2011 was \$14.72 per pound, compared with \$16.41 per pound in July 2011 and \$12.56 per pound in August 2010.

Production of silver at Silver Standard Resources Inc.'s (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) Pirquitas Mine in Argentina increased in the second quarter of 2011. The company announced that it had to delay the startup of byproduct tin production at the mine. Pirquitas produced 62,200 kilograms of silver and 500 t of zinc during the second quarter of 2011. Silver Standard continued test work on the tin circuit to improve the tin recovery while maintaining a satisfactory final concentrate tin grade. Preliminary results from the tests were expected to be available by yearend 2011. Silver Standard believed that the mine has the potential to achieve annual production of tin-in-concentrate of 2,500 t (Silver Standard Resources Inc., 2011).

The Republic of Korea's Public Procurement Service (PPS), a Government commodities stockpile agency, announced that it had purchased 300 t of tin from LG International Corp. (Seoul, Republic of Korea) for delivery by November 4. In recent years,

the PPS has maintained a tin stock of around 2,000 t as a service to small- and medium-sized manufacturers using the metal and bought a similar volume each year through tenders. In February 2011, the agency reportedly was planning to increase its stocks of tin and some other metals (CRU Week in the News, 2011).

Kasbah Resources Ltd. (South Perth, Western Australia, Australia) announced it had signed an agreement with the Moroccan Government to assign 100% of two mining permits for the Achmmach Tin Project, Morocco, to Kasbah's wholly owned Moroccan subsidiary. The Achmmach project was expected to start up in 2013, with a planned annual production capacity of about 5,600 metric tons per year of tin-in-concentrate (Kasbah Resources Ltd., 2011).

### Update

On December 9, 2011, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.35 per pound.

### References Cited

CRU Week in the News, 2011, Tin: CRU Week in the News, August 24.  
Kasbah Resources Ltd., 2011, Minister approves assignment of Achmmach tin project: South Perth, Western Australia, Australia, August 5, 2 p.  
Silver Standard Resources Inc., 2011 Silver Standard reports second quarter 2011 results: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Silver Standard Resources Inc. press release, August 10. (Accessed December 14, 2011, at <http://ir.silverstandard.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=598529>.)

TABLE 1  
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011			
	2010 <sup>p</sup>	July	August	January– August
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	11,100	922	922	7,380
Consumption:				
Primary	26,900	2,440	2,290	18,700
Secondary	6,220	521	534	4,180
Imports for consumption, metal	35,300	2,860	1,700	23,700
Exports, metal	5,630	160	513	4,220
Stocks at end of period	6,920	6,880 <sup>r</sup>	6,860	6,860
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	1,239.64	1,641.43	1,471.85	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	954.13	1,277.44	1,124.06	XX
London, standard grade, cash	925.15	1,237.94	1,106.99	XX
Kuala Lumpur	922.17	1,235.81	1,110.28	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>Includes tin recovered from alloys and tinplate. The detinning of tinplate (coated steel) yields only a small part of the total.

<sup>3</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week.

<sup>4</sup>The 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 PRICE<sup>1</sup>

(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
August	1,702.85	1,339.10	1,471.85

<sup>1</sup>The 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 STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste (waste, strips, cobble, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Gross weight	Tin content	Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments <sup>2</sup>
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
August	1,530	85,400	545	6.4	NA

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4  
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2010	2011		
		July	August	January– August <sup>2</sup>
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	--	--	--	255
Bolivia	6,060	541	269	3,810
Brazil	75	75	--	376
Chile	641	--	--	60
China	887	45	20	1,400
Indonesia	3,970	719	499	3,720
Malaysia	4,500	525	--	2,340
Peru	16,500	933	625	9,300
Singapore	996	--	140	395
Thailand	1,310	--	150	2,040
Other	327	18	1	28
Total	35,300	2,860	1,700	23,700
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,290	195	187	1,440
Bars and rods	3,190	194	192	1,810
Foil, tubes, pipes	80	1	53	92
Plates, sheets, strip	135	9	16	42
Waste and scrap	57,300	5,220	5,030	35,900
Miscellaneous	3,540	410	188	2,070
Total	65,500	6,030	5,670	41,300
Exports (metal)	5,630	160	513	4,220

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2010 <sup>P</sup>	2011						
		July			August			January– August <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	6,070	563	W	563	562	W	562	4,510
Babbitt	220	16	W	16	16	W	16	151
Bar tin and anodes	239	6	--	6	6	--	6	50
Bronze and brass	2,000	248	68	316	96	68	164	1,830
Chemicals	2,590	236	W	236	232	W	232	1,840
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Solder	3,710	171	142	313	171	142	313	2,500
Tinning	331	21	--	21	21	--	21	187
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	6,600	531	W	531	545	W	545	4,200
Tin powder	192	15	W	15	15	W	15	128
White metal <sup>5</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Other	416	28	11	39	28	24	52	243
Total reported	22,400	1,840	221	2,060	1,690	234	1,930	15,600
Estimated undistributed consumption <sup>6</sup>	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	7,200
Grand total	33,200	2,440	521	2,960	2,290	534	2,830	22,800

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions.

<sup>3</sup>Includes terre metal.

<sup>4</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>5</sup>Includes pewter, britannia metal, and jewelers' metal.

<sup>6</sup>Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.