

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN OCTOBER 2011

Domestic consumption of primary tin in October 2011 was estimated to be 2,540 metric tons (t), the same as the revised estimate for September 2011 and 22% more than that in October 2010. For the first 10 months of 2011, imports of refined tin were 28,400 t, a slight decrease from that in the comparable period of 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in October 2011 was \$13.23 per pound, compared with \$13.78 per pound in September 2011 and \$15.82 per pound in October 2010.

Tin producers on Indonesia's Bangka Island announced plans to establish a tin market to gain greater control of supply and prices. The tin producers felt that the existing tin markets, the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market in Malaysia and the London Metal Exchange Ltd., failed to support the welfare of tin producers in Bangka. Plans call for the new physical market to be based in Bangka and dedicated solely to tin produced on the island. Indonesia is the world's second leading refined tin producer (Wijaya, 2011).

Government officials in Congo (Kinshasa) were reportedly discussing a joint venture with Malaysia Smelting Corp. BHD (MSC) (Penang) to build a tin smelter in eastern Congo (Kinshasa). The smelter would be built in Kalima, Maniema Province, about 1,200 kilometers east of Kinshasa. The Congolese Government expected that the project would initially have the aim of rehabilitating existing structures for an output of

500 t in the startup year. Part of the plan was to collect between 5,000 and 7,000 metric tons per year of tin in concentrate from small-scale miners in Maniema Province (CRU Tin Monitor, 2011, p. 9–10).

Deutsche Rohstoff AG (Heidelberg, Germany) spun off its tin assets into a new company, Tin International Ltd. (TIN), with the aim of attracting Asia-Pacific investors and planned an initial public stock offering on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2012. The tin assets, the Gottesberg and Geyer deposits, in the Erzgebirge region of Saxony, near the German–Czech border, were explored by the German Democratic Republic in the 1970s and the 1980s and were estimated to contain about 180,000 t of tin. TIN would focus on the confirmation of tin deposits, to be followed by the development of the tin resources. A drilling program was set to begin in late 2011 (CRU Tin Monitor, 2011, p. 10).

### Update

On January 13, 2012, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.75 per pound.

### References Cited

CRU Tin Monitor, 2011, Industry news: CRU Tin Monitor, October, 10 p.  
Wijaya, Megawati, 2011, Indonesia tin miners will set up physical market in Bangka: Metal Bulletin, no. 9221, October 10, p. 4.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2011			
	2010 <sup>p</sup>	September	October	January– October
Production, secondary <sup>e, 2</sup>	11,100	922	922	9,220
Consumption:				
Primary	26,900	2,540 <sup>r</sup>	2,540	23,700
Secondary	6,220	524	521	5,230
Imports for consumption, metal	35,300	2,550	2,150	28,400
Exports, metal	5,630	486	304	5,010
Stocks at end of period	6,920	6,860	6,800	6,800
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	1,239.64	1,378.31	1,323.47	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	954.13	1,057.17	1,019.75	XX
London, standard grade, cash	925.15	1,026.71	987.55	XX
Kuala Lumpur	922.17	1,026.70	989.45	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
September	1,542.20	1,190.36	1,378.31
October	1,389.64	1,237.99	1,323.47

<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)			Shipments <sup>2</sup>
		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
August	1,530	85,400	545	6.4	156,000
September	1,550	98,200	561	5.7	137,000
October	1,090	86,800	528	6.1	129,000

<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	2011			
	2010	September	October	January– October <sup>2</sup>
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	--	2	--	257
Bolivia	6,060	729	688	5,230
Brazil	75	75	--	451
Chile	641	--	--	60
China	887	41	20	1,460
Indonesia	3,970	601	302	4,620
Malaysia	4,500	800	190	3,330
Peru	16,500	149	794	10,200
Singapore	996	--	--	395
Thailand	1,310	150	50	2,240
Other	327	4	104	135
Total	35,300	2,550	2,150	28,400
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,290	129	194	1,760
Bars and rods	3,190	219	224	2,250
Foil, tubes, pipes	80	1	1	94
Plates, sheets, strip	135	9	1	52
Waste and scrap	57,300	5,730	6,070	47,700
Miscellaneous	3,540	272	193	2,540
Total	65,500	6,360	6,690	54,400
Exports (metal)	5,630	486	304	5,010

-- 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							January– October <sup>2</sup>
		September			October				
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total		
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	6,070	561	W	561	561	W	561	5,640	
Babbitt	220	16	W	16	16	W	16	189	
Bar tin and anodes	239	6	--	6	6	--	6	63	
Bronze and brass	2,000	346 <sup>r</sup>	72 <sup>r</sup>	418 <sup>r</sup>	350	69	419	2,660	
Chemicals	2,590	211	W	211	240	W	240	2,290	
Collapsible tubes and foil	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Solder	3,710	172	142	313	171	142	313	3,130	
Tinning	331	23	--	23	24	--	24	234	
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	6,600	561	W	561	531	W	531	5,290	
Tin powder	192	15	W	15	15	W	15	160	
White metal <sup>5</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
Other	416	28	11	39	28	11	39	304	
Total reported	22,400	1,940 <sup>r</sup>	224 <sup>r</sup>	2,160 <sup>r</sup>	1,940	221	2,160	20,000	
Estimated undistributed consumption <sup>6</sup>	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	9,000	
Grand total	33,200	2,540 <sup>r</sup>	524 <sup>r</sup>	3,060 <sup>r</sup>	2,540	521	3,060	29,000	

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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 terne 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.