

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN NOVEMBER 2012

Domestic consumption of primary tin in November 2012 was estimated to be 2,160 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in October 2012 and a decrease of 12% from that in November 2011. For the first 11 months of 2012, imports of refined tin were 33,200 t, an increase of 5% from that in the comparable period of 2011. Peru, Indonesia, Bolivia, and Malaysia, in

descending order, were the leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States in the first 11 months of 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in November was \$12.56 per pound, compared with \$12.96 per pound in October 2012, and \$12.96 per pound in November 2011.

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2012			
	2011 <sup>P</sup>	October	November	January– November
Production, secondary <sup>e,2</sup>	11,100	922	922	10,100
Consumption:				
Primary	28,300	2,200	2,160	24,700
Secondary	6,280	524	524	5,790
Imports for consumption, metal	34,200	2,680	2,980	33,200
Exports, metal	5,450	751	182	5,480
Stocks at end of period	5,230	7,310	7,420	7,420
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	1,574.67	1,296.34	1,256.35	XX
Metals Week New York dealer	1,215.90	996.33	971.69	XX
London, standard grade, cash	1,184.05	966.72	938.69	XX
Kuala Lumpur	1,187.54	972.53	935.20	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. 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
2011	1,884.94	856.78	1,574.67
2012:			
January	1,461.15	1,181.94	1,298.79
February	1,533.15	1,432.52	1,472.78
March	1,719.32	1,020.42	1,398.32
April	1,400.86	1,288.87	1,345.29
May	1,374.59	1,182.00	1,244.92
June	1,204.60	1,137.01	1,176.26
July	1,165.45	1,074.68	1,134.50
August	1,257.65	1,084.62	1,137.31
September	1,310.50	1,191.92	1,257.23
October	1,362.26	1,214.18	1,296.34
November	1,318.78	1,235.77	1,256.35

<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)	
2011	21,500	1,230,000	6,330	5.2	1,680,000
2012:					
January	1,070	64,000	461	7.2	107,000
February	1,430	71,900	498	6.9	121,000
March	1,250	96,300	556	5.8	156,000
April	1,240	86,700	522	6.0	140,000
May	1,290	65,600	521	7.9	155,000
June	1,330	86,000	530	6.2	153,000
July	1,430	84,700	523	6.2	134,000
August	1,250	82,700	516	6.2	170,000
September	1,650	74,600	490	6.6	127,000
October	1,740	74,200	489	6.6	134,000
November	1,140	62,700	472	7.5	117,000

<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	2012		
		October	November	January– November <sup>2</sup>
<b>Imports:</b>				
<b>Metal (unwrought tin):</b>				
Belgium	261	--	1	525
Bolivia	5,680	575	429	4,800
Brazil	676	227	226	2,670
Chile	60	--	--	--
China	1,490	(3)	10	154
Indonesia	4,930	765	718	5,300
Malaysia	3,980	200	300	3,970
Peru	14,000	814	1,220	13,100
Singapore	645	--	75	323
Thailand	2,310	100	--	1,750
Other	156	1	1	626
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,200</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>33,200</b>
<b>Other (gross weight):</b>				
Alloys	2,000	200	135	1,400
Bars and rods	2,620	173	151	1,700
Foil, tubes, pipes	113	7	14	80
Plates, sheets, strip	52	7	9	53
Waste and scrap	57,700	5,850	6,600	67,900
Miscellaneous	2,740	315	143	2,070
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,300</b>	<b>6,550</b>	<b>7,060</b>	<b>73,200</b>
Exports (metal)	5,450	751	182	5,480

-- 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>Less than ½ unit.

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	2011 <sup>P</sup>	2012						
		October			November			January– November <sup>2</sup>
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>3</sup>	6,550	622	3	625	543	3	546	6,090
Babbitt	222	57	W	57	57	W	57	303
Bronze and brass	3,410	73	70	143	70	70	140	1,950
Chemicals	2,640	146	W	146	202	W	202	2,290
Solder	3,630	143	9	152	143	9	152	1,910
Tinning	325	21	--	21	21	--	21	237
Tinplate <sup>4</sup>	6,350	489	--	489	472	--	472	5,580
Other <sup>5</sup>	701	50	143	193	50	143	193	2,210
Total reported	23,800	1,600	224	1,830	1,560	224	1,780	20,600
Estimated undistributed consumption <sup>6</sup>	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	9,900
Grand total	34,600	2,200	524	2,730	2,160	524	2,680	30,500

<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 terne metal.

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

<sup>5</sup>Includes bar tin and anodes, collapsible tubes and foil, tinpowder, type metal and white metal.

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