

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MARCH 2013

Domestic consumption of primary tin in March 2013 was estimated to be 2,480 metric tons (t), a slight increase compared with that in February 2013, and an increase of 6% from that in March 2012. Imports of tin in the first quarter of 2013 were 11,200 t, an increase of 6% from those in the first quarter of 2012.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in March 2013 was \$14.13 per pound, compared with a price of \$13.98 per pound in March 2012.

Update

On May 31, 2013, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$12.75 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2012 ^p	2013		
		February	March	January– March
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,000	918	918	2,750
Consumption:				
Primary	27,300	2,440	2,480	7,360
Secondary	6,200	530	529	1,590
Imports for consumption, metal	36,900	3,250	3,770	11,200
Exports, metal	5,560	547	554	1,800
Stocks at end of period	6,470	6,640	6,590	6,590
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,283.37	1,471.11	1,412.80	1,411.96
Metals Week New York dealer	989.60	1,125.50	1,089.13	1,121.08
London, standard grade, cash	957.26	1,103.61	1,058.34	1,093.74
Kuala Lumpur	958.44	1,102.99	1,059.65	1,091.57

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary.

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
2012	1,719.32	1,020.42	1,283.37
2013:			
January	1,515.09	1,438.85	1,485.79
February	1,506.82	1,405.01	1,471.11
March	1,448.13	1,375.21	1,412.80

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)	
2012	16,300	922,000	6,020	6.5	1,620,000
2013:					
January	1,440	89,800	506	5.6	131,000
February	1,190	92,500	516	5.6	127,000
March	1,540	89,400	546	6.1	128,000

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	2012	2013		
		February	March	January– March
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	625	3	--	203
Bolivia	5,100	121	1,070	2,570
Brazil	2,930	51	416	843
China	174	489	59	548
Indonesia	6,180	395	777	1,930
Malaysia	4,590	25	150	275
Peru	14,500	1,590	820	3,150
Singapore	424	--	--	--
Thailand	1,750	575	475	1,700
Other	677	3	3	7
Total	36,900	3,250	3,770	11,200
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,480	103	92	323
Bars and rods	1,800	119	128	382
Foil, tubes, pipes	83	1	17	21
Plates, sheets, strip	60	13	(2)	33
Waste and scrap	72,500	3,910	5,850	13,800
Miscellaneous	2,260	302	345	963
Total	78,200	4,440	6,440	15,500
Exports (metal)	5,560	547	554	1,800

-- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
CONSUMPTION OF TIN IN THE UNITED STATES, BY FINISHED PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2013							
	2012 ^p	February			March			January– March
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	7,130	661	4	665	661	4	665	1,990
Babbitt	328	55	W	55	55	W	55	548
Bronze and brass	2,090	92	82	174	113	82	195	541
Chemicals	2,600	249	W	249	238	W	238	736
Solder	1,980	186	W	186	186	W	186	592
Tinning	257	23	--	23	22	--	22	68
Tinplate ³	5,980	516	W	516	546	W	546	1,570
Other ⁴	2,320	60	144	204	60	143	203	194
Total reported	22,700	1,840	230	2,070	1,880	229	2,110	6,240
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	2,700
Grand total	33,500	2,440	530	2,970	2,480	529	3,010	8,940

^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.

²Includes terne metal.

³Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

⁴Includes bar tin and anodes, collapsible tubes and foil, tinpowder, type metal and white metal.

⁵Estimated consumption of plants reporting on an annual basis.