

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN APRIL 2013

Domestic consumption of primary tin in April 2013 was estimated to be 2,460 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in March 2013 and an increase of 7% from that in April 2012. Imports of refined tin in the first 4 months of 2013 were 13,700 t, an increase of 8% from those of the comparable period of 2012. The leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States during the first 4 months of 2013 were, in descending order, Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in April 2013 was \$13.19 per pound, compared with \$14.13 per pound in March 2013 and \$13.45 per pound in April 2012.

Yunnan Tin Corp. (Gejiu City, Yunnan Province, China) produced 182,000 t of nonferrous metals (including an unspecified quantity of refined tin), a 27% increase from production in 2011. It also produced 17,400 t of tin chemicals in 2012, an increase of 23% from that produced in 2011, and 19,600 t of tin products, an increase of 9% from that produced in 2011. Yunnan Tin has a production capacity of 80,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of refined tin, 24,000 t/yr of tin chemicals, and 27,000 t/yr of tin products (Shair, 2013).

In April, Elementos Ltd. (Brisbane, Queensland, Australia), an exploration company, acquired Rockwell Minerals Ltd., an Australian unlisted public company, to create a diversified metals mining company whose assets included the advanced stage Cleveland tin and tungsten project in Tasmania. The

underground mine had been operated by Aberfoyle Ltd. between 1968 and 1986 and had produced a total of 9,690 t of copper and 23,500 t of tin in concentrates. Substantial resources remained in the copper and tin deposit, a separate tungsten deposit, and a low-grade tailings impoundment. According to a Joint Ore Reserves Committee-compliant resource report issued in mid-April, the Cleveland Mine resources, principally hosted in semi-massive sulfide lenses, contained 42,000 t of tin [6.12 million metric tons (Mt) grading 0.68% tin], and the tailings resources contained 11,600 t of tin (3.85 Mt grading 0.3% tin) (Elementos Ltd., 2013).

Update

On July 19, 2013, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$11.90 per pound.

References Cited

- Elementos Ltd., 2013, Cleveland tin, copper and tungsten JORC resources: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Elementos Ltd. news release, April 18, 5 p. (Accessed July 27, 2013, at [http://www.elementos.com.au/PDF/ASX_18Apr13_Cleveland Tin, Copper & Tungston JORC Resources.pdf](http://www.elementos.com.au/PDF/ASX_18Apr13_Cleveland%20Tin,%20Copper%20&%20Tungston%20JORC%20Resources.pdf).)
- Shair, Wendy, 2013, China Yunnan Tin's 2012 nonferrous output up 27%: Platts Metals Daily, v. 2, issue 81, April 26, p. 13.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2013			
	2012 ^p	March	April	January– April
Production, secondary ^{e, 2}	11,000	918	918	3,670
Consumption:				
Primary	27,300	2,480	2,460	9,820
Secondary	6,200	529	529	2,120
Imports for consumption, metal	36,900	3,770	2,420	13,700
Exports, metal	5,560	554	629	2,430
Stocks at end of period	6,470	6,590	6,640	6,640
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,283.37	1,412.80	1,318.70	1,388.91
Metals Week New York dealer	989.60	1,089.13	1,020.50	1,094.46
London, standard grade, cash	957.26	1,058.34	983.62	1,065.78
Kuala Lumpur	958.44	1,059.65	987.74	1,063.62

^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
April	1,393.02	1,238.56	1,318.70

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
April	1,730	75,800	513	6.8	144,000

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		
		March	April	January– April
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	625	--	2	205
Bolivia	5,100	1,070	425	3,000
Brazil	2,930	416	251	1,090
China	174	59	109	657
Indonesia	6,180	777	616	2,550
Malaysia	4,590	150	100	375
Peru	14,500	820	645	3,800
Singapore	424	--	--	--
Thailand	1,750	475	275	1,980
Other	677	3	1	8
Total	36,900	3,770	2,420	13,700
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,480	92	75	398
Bars and rods	1,800	128	128	510
Foil, tubes, pipes	83	17	3	23
Plates, sheets, strip	60	(2)	11	43
Waste and scrap	72,500	5,850	7,270	21,100
Miscellaneous	2,260	345	320	1,280
Total	78,200	6,440	7,810	23,300
Exports (metal)	5,560	554	629	2,430

-- 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	March			April			January– April
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	7,130	661	4	665	661	4	665	2,660
Babbitt	328	55	W	55	16	W	16	568
Bronze and brass	2,090	113	82	195	91	82	173	713
Chemicals	2,600	238	W	238	270	W	270	1,010
Solder	1,980	186	W	186	224	W	224	948
Tinning	257	22	--	22	23	--	23	92
Tinplate ³	5,980	546	W	546	513	W	513	2,090
Other ⁴	2,320	60	143	203	60	145	205	260
Total reported	22,700	1,880	229	2,110	1,860	229	2,090	8,330
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	3,600
Grand total	33,500	2,480	529	3,010	2,460	529	2,990	11,900

^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.