

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MAY 2013

Domestic consumption of primary tin in May 2013 was estimated to be 2,440 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from that in April 2013 and a slight increase from that in May 2012. Imports of refined tin in the first 5 months of 2013 were 16,700 t, a 4% increase from those of the comparable period of 2012. The leading suppliers of refined tin to the United States during the first 5 months of 2013 were, in descending order, Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price of tin in May 2013 was \$12.62 per pound, compared with a price of \$13.19 per pound in April 2013 and a price of \$12.45 per pound in May 2012.

Update

On August 9, 2013, the Platts Metals Week composite price for tin was \$13.14 per pound.

TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2012 ^p	2013		
		April	May	January– May
Production, secondary ^{e,2}	11,000	918	918	4,590
Consumption:				
Primary	27,300	2,460	2,440	12,300
Secondary	6,200	529	530	2,650
Imports for consumption, metal	36,900	2,420	3,050	16,700
Exports, metal	5,560	629	361	2,790
Stocks at end of period	6,470	6,640	7,110	7,110
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,283.37	1,318.70	1,261.58	1,364.66
Metals Week New York dealer	989.60	1,020.50	972.00	1,068.83
London, standard grade, cash	957.26	983.62	939.83	1,040.30
Kuala Lumpur	958.44	987.74	942.47	1,039.89

^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
May	1,293.89	1,210.20	1,261.58

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
May	1,230	80,900	523	6.5	133,000

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		
		April	May	January– May
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	625	2	4	209
Bolivia	5,100	425	340	3,330
Brazil	2,930	251	284	1,380
China	174	109	473	1,130
Indonesia	6,180	616	480	3,030
Malaysia	4,590	100	450	825
Peru	14,500	645	995	4,790
Singapore	424	--	--	--
Thailand	1,750	275	25	2,000
Other	677	1	1	10
Total	36,900	2,420	3,050	16,700
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,480	75	89	488
Bars and rods	1,800	128	171	681
Foil, tubes, pipes	83	3	15	39
Plates, sheets, strip	60	11	22	65
Waste and scrap	72,500	7,270	5,810	26,900
Miscellaneous	2,260	320	278	1,560
Total	78,200	7,810	6,380	29,700
Exports (metal)	5,560	629	361	2,790

-- Zero.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2012 ^p	2013						January– May
		April			May			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	7,130	661	4	665	662	4	666	3,320
Babbitt	328	16	W	16	17	W	17	588
Bronze and brass	2,090	91	82	173	82	82	164	877
Chemicals	2,600	270	W	270	248	W	248	1,260
Solder	1,980	224	W	224	224	W	224	1,310
Tinning	257	23	--	23	20	--	20	112
Tinplate ³	5,980	513	W	513	523	W	523	2,610
Other ⁴	2,320	60	145	205	60	145	205	324
Total reported	22,700	1,860	229	2,090	1,840	230	2,060	10,400
Estimated undistributed consumption ⁵	10,800	600	300	900	600	300	900	4,500
Grand total	33,500	2,460	529	2,990	2,440	530	2,960	14,900

^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.