

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TIN IN MARCH 2014

Domestic consumption of primary tin in March 2014 was 1,670 metric tons (t), a 3% increase from that in February 2014 and a decrease of 11% from March 2013. Domestic consumption of primary tin in the first quarter of 2014 was 4,890 t, a decrease of 12% from that in the first quarter of 2013. For March 2014, imports of refined tin were 2,710 t, a 4% decrease in imports from those in the previous month and a 28% decrease from those in March 2013. Imports of tin in the first quarter of 2014 were 9,880 t, a decrease of 12% from imports in the first quarter in 2013.

Peru, Malaysia, Indonesia and Bolivia were, in descending order, the leading sources of refined tin imports in the first quarter of 2014.

The Platts Metals Week New York dealer Grade A price of tin for March 2014 was \$10.72 per pound, a slight increase from the February 2014 and a slight decrease from the March 2013 average price. During March 2014, global London Metal Exchange Ltd. stocks of tin increased by 465 t to 9,555 t.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT TIN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2013 ^P	2014		
		February	March	January– March
Production, secondary ^{6,2}	11,200	931	931	2,790
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,500	1,610	1,670	4,890
Secondary	2,700	208	208	626
Imports for consumption, unwrought tin	34,900	2,830	2,710	9,880
Exports, unwrought tin and tin alloys	5,870	632	552	1,590
Stocks at end of period	6,520	6,560	6,570	6,570
Prices (average cents per pound): ³				
Metals Week composite ⁴	1,352.43	NA	NA	NA
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,040.43	1,060.69	1,072.33	1,053.51
London Metal Exchange cash	1,011.92	1,034.34	1,047.45	1,027.55
Kuala Lumpur	1,011.85	1,027.36	1,044.18	1,023.15

⁶Estimated. ^PPreliminary. NA not available.

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. Platts discontinued the Metals Week composite price on January 2, 2014.

TABLE 2
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week composite ¹	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash	Kuala Lumpur
2013:				
March	1,412.80	1,089.13	1,058.34	1,059.65
April	1,318.70	1,020.50	983.62	987.74
May	1,261.58	972.00	939.83	942.47
June	1,235.90	957.94	919.04	922.24
July	1,194.01	920.06	888.29	887.70
August	1,308.88	1,011.50	980.68	976.98
September	1,374.22	1,058.56	1,031.43	1,027.11
October	1,402.22	1,070.72	1,048.85	1,052.03
November	1,384.10	1,060.69	1,036.31	1,037.61
December	1,379.80	1,065.07	1,035.27	1,031.88
January–December	1,327.22	1,022.62	992.17	992.54
2014:				
January	NA	1,027.50	1,000.86	998.14
February	NA	1,060.69	1,034.34	1,027.14
March	NA	1,072.33	1,047.45	1,044.18
January–March	NA	1,053.51	1,027.55	1,023.15

NA Not available.

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. Platts discontinued the Metals Week composite price on January 2, 2014.

Source: Platts Metals Daily.

TABLE 3
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Period	Tinplate waste production (strips, cobbles, etc.) (gross weight)	Tinplate (all forms)			
		Production		Tin per metric ton of plate (kilograms)	Shipments ² (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
2013:					
March	1,540	89,400	546	6.1	116,000
April	1,730	95,800	513	5.4	130,000
May	1,230	101,000	523	5.2	121,000
June	1,800	95,900	516	5.4	119,000
July	2,350	89,600	532	5.9	130,000
August	4,360	111,000	551	5.0	125,000
September	1,370	102,000	523	5.1	111,000
October	2,200	84,900	495	5.8	106,000
November	653	87,200	505	5.8	86,400
December	966	89,800	519	5.8	104,000
January–December	18,200	947,000	5,220	5.6	1,150,000
2014:					
January	888	71,700	428	6.0	109,000
February	452	71,000	444	6.2	102,000
March	348	92,300	495	5.4	114,000
January–March	1,690	235,000	1,370	5.9	325,000

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

²Source: American Iron and Steel Institute monthly publication.

TABLE 4
U.S. TIN IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS¹

(Metric tons)

Country or product	2013	2014		
		February	March	January– March ²
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	218	2	2	6
Bolivia	6,510	253	345	1,320
Brazil	3,100	40	99	390
China	1,610	385	39	1,130
Indonesia	5,560	460	550	2,030
Malaysia	4,190	760	895	2,170
Peru	11,300	926	777	2,830
Singapore	101	--	--	--
Thailand	2,380	--	--	--
Other	31	1	3	6
Total	34,900	2,830	2,710	9,880
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,390	85	128	348
Bars and rods	1,590	151	188	468
Foil, tubes, pipes	85	4	(3)	23
Plates, sheets, strip	100	15	9	46
Waste and scrap	63,700	5,320	4,010	14,900
Miscellaneous ⁴	3,080	249	171	576
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,870	632	552	1,590

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Includes tin powders and flakes (HTS code 8007.00.3200) and other articles of tin not elsewhere specified or included (HTS code 8007.00.5000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2013 ^p	2014						January– March
		February			March			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) ²	8,280	583	2	585	582	2	584	1,760
Babbitt	731	18	W	18	18	W	18	67
Bronze and brass	2,000	51	61	112	46	61	107	329
Chemicals	4,080	230	W	230	236	W	236	714
Solder	3,830	196	W	196	196	W	196	989
Tinning	238	21	--	21	23	--	23	65
Tinplate ³	6,250	444	W	444	495	W	495	1,370
Other ⁴	787	69	146	215	69	146	215	219
Total reported	26,200	1,610	208	1,820	1,670	208	1,870	5,510

^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 britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.