

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TIN IN MAY 2014

Domestic reported consumption of primary tin in May 2014 was 1,680 metric tons (t), slightly lower than in April 2014 and a decrease of 31% from May 2013. Note, that owing to a change in consumption accounting in June 2013, unreported tin consumption was removed from the calculation for domestic consumption. Comparing May 2014 consumption with May 2013 adjusted consumption indicates a decrease of 11%. Imports of refined tin in May 2014 were 2,360 t, a 30% decrease from imports in the previous month, and a 23% decrease from those in May 2013. Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia were, in descending order, the leading sources of refined tin imports in May 2014.

The Platts Metals Week New York dealer Grade A price of tin for May 2014 was \$10.86 per pound, slightly lower than in April 2014, and an increase of 12% from the May 2013 average price. During May 2014, global London Metal Exchange Ltd. stocks of tin increased by 1,310 t to 10,850 t.

In Indonesia, 17 private smelters formed a new representative group, the Association of Indonesia Tin Exporters (AETI). This group has been set up to replace the Indonesian Tin Association, which had been inactive. AETI will focus on relations with the Federal and local governments and with the Indonesia Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (ITRI Ltd., 2014a).

ITRI Ltd. had its annual conference on May 14–15, 2014. One of the main themes was focusing on investment for a sustainable supply of tin. Other possible future consumption was also highlighted, including the automotive sector and light emitting diode lighting (ITRI Ltd., 2014b).

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## References Cited

- ITRI Ltd., 2014a, Indonesian smelters form new group—Request information on impurities: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, May 20. (Accessed August 13, 2014, at [https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_zoo&task=item&item\\_id=3013&category\\_id=3&Itemid=143](https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=3013&category_id=3&Itemid=143)).
- ITRI Ltd., 2014b, International Tin Conference round-up: Frogmore, United Kingdom, ITRI Ltd. news release, May 23. (Accessed August 13, 2014, at [https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_zoo&task=item&item\\_id=3017&category\\_id=3&Itemid=143](https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=3017&category_id=3&Itemid=143)).

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

(Metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

	2014			
	2013 <sup>p</sup>	April	May	January– May
Production, secondary <sup>q, 2</sup>	11,200	931	931	4,660
Reported consumption:				
Primary	23,500	1,730 <sup>r</sup>	1,680	8,370
Secondary	2,700	208	208	1,040
Imports for consumption, unwrought tin	34,900	3,370	2,360	15,600
Exports, unwrought tin and tin alloys	5,870	698	672	2,960
Stocks at end of period	6,520	6,490	6,500	6,500
Prices (average cents per pound): <sup>3</sup>				
Metals Week composite <sup>4</sup>	1,352.43	NA	NA	NA
Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	1,040.43	1,095.19	1,086.44	1,068.43
London Metal Exchange cash	1,011.92	1,061.99	1,056.98	1,040.32
Kuala Lumpur	1,011.85	1,055.08	1,055.14	1,035.93

<sup>q</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

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

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE TIN PRICES

(Cents per pound)

Period	Metals Week composite <sup>1</sup>	Metals Week New York dealer, Grade A	London Metal Exchange cash	Kuala Lumpur
2013:				
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	1,317.71	1,015.23	984.81	985.08
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
April	NA	1,095.19	1,061.99	1,055.08
May	NA	1,086.44	1,056.98	1,055.14
January–May	NA	1,068.43	1,040.32	1,035.93

NA Not available.

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

Source: Platts Metals Daily.

TABLE 3  
TINPLATE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(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 <sup>2</sup> (gross weight)
		Gross weight	Tin content		
<b>2013:</b>					
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	16,700	857,000	4,680	5.5	1,030,000
<b>2014:</b>					
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
April	1,080	93,900	511	5.4	122,000
May	1,640	96,600	514	5.3	132,000
January–May	4,400	426,000	2,390	5.7	579,000

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

<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	2013	2014		
		April	May	January– May <sup>2</sup>
Imports:				
Metal (unwrought tin):				
Belgium	218	2	--	7
Bolivia	6,510	726	315	2,360
Brazil	3,100	155	366	911
China	1,610	149	80	1,360
Indonesia	5,560	309	735	3,070
Malaysia	4,190	881	250	3,300
Peru	11,300	999	597	4,430
Singapore	101	--	--	--
Thailand	2,380	--	--	--
Other	31	154	15	175
Total	34,900	3,370	2,360	15,600
Other (gross weight):				
Alloys	1,390	137	151	637
Bars and rods	1,590	153	180	801
Foil, tubes, pipes	85	1	2	26
Plates, sheets, strip	100	11	5	62
Waste and scrap	63,700	3,840	4,050	22,800
Miscellaneous <sup>4</sup>	3,080	291	257	1,120
Exports (unwrought tin and tin alloys)	5,870	698	672	2,960

-- 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 to previously published data.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>4</sup>Includes 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 PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons of contained tin)

Product	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2014						January– May
		April			May			
		Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	
Alloys (miscellaneous) <sup>2</sup>	8,280	155	2	157	122	2	124	2,040
Babbitt	731	18	W	18	18	W	18	111
Bronze and brass	2,000	48	61	109	47	61	108	547
Chemicals	4,080	218	W	218	230	W	230	1,170
Solder	3,830	252 <sup>r</sup>	W	252 <sup>r</sup>	219	W	219	1,810
Tinning	238	24	--	24	29	--	29	118
Tinplate <sup>3</sup>	6,250	511	W	511	514	W	514	2,390
Other <sup>4</sup>	787	500	146	646	500	146	646	1,230
Total reported	26,200	1,730 <sup>r</sup>	208	1,930 <sup>r</sup>	1,680	208	1,890	9,410

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. 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>Includes terne metal.

<sup>3</sup>Includes secondary pig tin and tin components of tinplating chemical solutions.

<sup>4</sup>Includes britannia metal, collapsible tubes and foil, jewelers' metal, pewter, tin powder, type metal and white metal.