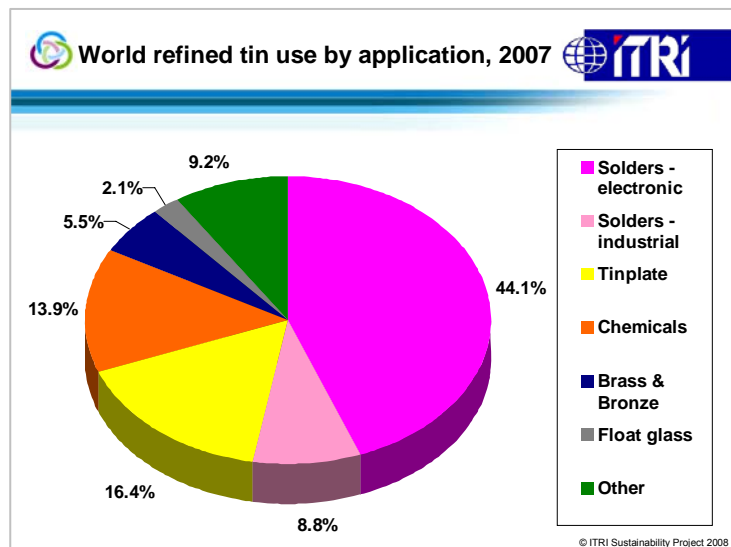




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## ITRI Reports New Data On Global Tin Use and Recycling

ITRI today released new data on global tin use by market sector in 2007, together with information on use trends from 2004-2008. Information from this unique industry study, carried out as part of ITRI's Sustainability Project, is based not only on published statistics and expert estimates, but also a direct large-scale survey of individual downstream tin users carried out over the past few months.



This year's industry survey has benefited from a big increase in the number of participating companies and has achieved significantly increased direct coverage of over 42% of estimated global tin usage in 2007. The following main findings of this, our fourth annual study are:

- World refined tin usage reached an all-time record level of 363,100 tonnes in 2007;
- World use of tin in all forms in 2007 is estimated at over 450,000 tonnes, of which 20% is directly accounted for by secondary materials. In addition about 10% of the refined tin used is produced from recycling;
- Producers of solders, bronzes and other alloys in particular used considerable volumes of secondary alloy, scrap and drosses as a source of tin;
- The share of the solder business in total tin consumption edged up further in 2007 to 53%. Electronic solders alone accounted for over 44% of all refined metal usage;

- “Apparent consumption” data (derived mainly from production and trade figures) had already indicated a downturn in tin demand last year, but our survey data indicates that this was initially due to de-stocking of the supply pipeline, rather than reduced usage;
- De-stocking has accelerated, but there has also been a real fall in usage in the final quarter of 2008, particularly in solders and tin chemicals. World usage in 2008 is provisionally estimated at 350,000 tonnes, down 3.6% on last year.

ITRI’s Manager of Environmental Affairs, Kay Nimmo, commented: “By contributing their data on tin use and recycling, 127 companies worldwide who used 153,000 tonnes of refined tin have shown their commitment to working towards a responsible and sustainable industry. We are particularly pleased to be able to suggest a provisional figure of 27% for the recycling rate of tin – something that has not been possible in the past due to lack of information”

Refined Tin Consumption by End-Use, 2004-2008					
tonnes	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008e
<b>Usage by application</b>					
Solder	147,400	166,600	184,600	192,100	183,000
Tinplate	59,900	59,600	61,500	59,400	60,000
Chemicals	49,700	48,700	50,000	50,600	49,000
Brass & Bronze	18,700	18,500	20,200	19,900	20,000
Float Glass	6,800	6,400	6,700	7,700	7,000
Others	35,700	33,000	35,900	33,500	31,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,200</b>	<b>332,700</b>	<b>358,900</b>	<b>363,100</b>	<b>350,000</b>

Data: ITRI

- ENDS -



**About ITRI:**

ITRI is the world's foremost authority on tin with over 70 years' experience of research and development in tin applications. It is a membership based organisation representing major tin producers and smelters and is the premier source of tin related information.

ITRI members funding the Sustainability Project include Malaysia Smelting Corp Bhd (Malaysia), Metallo-Chimique NV (Belgium), Minsur SA (Peru), PT Koba Tin (Indonesia), PT Timah (Indonesia), Talison (Australia), and Thailand Smelting and Refining (Thailand).

Further information on the Sustainability Project and the end-use survey can be obtained from ITRI (<http://www.itri.co.uk>) and more may be published in due course. Work to extend and refine the knowledge of tin and its life cycle will continue during 2009 and beyond as the ITRI Sustainability Project develops and the impact of new EU regulations such as REACH begin to be felt.

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