

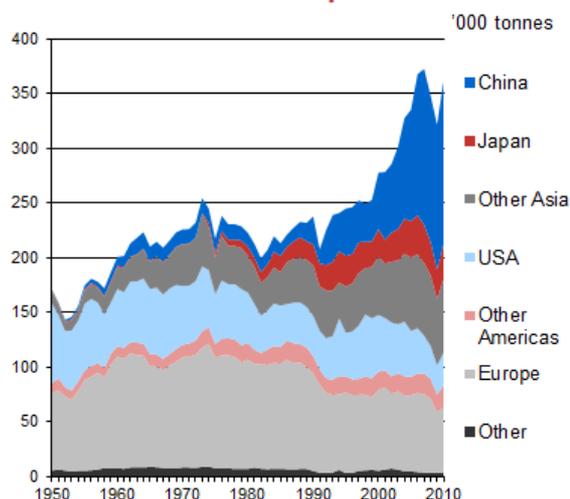
Historical trends in tin usage

Generally tin demand growth in the last few decades has been mainly in newly industrializing countries in Asia, while tin usage in the older OECD countries has been at best stable and more often declining. This partly reflects differing patterns of end-use applications. Asian demand is strongly focused on solders for the electronics sector, which as a result of globalization has increasingly concentrated production in relatively low-cost Asian countries. As electronics solder production has shifted to Asia, this has left the old industrialized countries relatively specialised in slow or no growth markets such as tinplate and industrial lead and copper alloys.

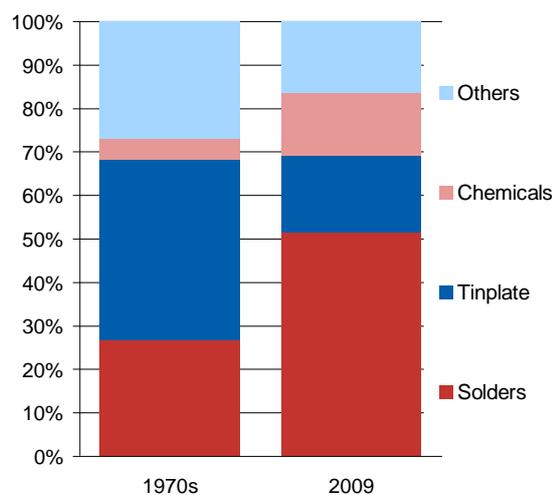
From the immediate post Second World War period to the early 1970s, demand grew in all regions, reaching a peak of over 254,000 tonnes in 1973. Following the first oil crisis demand then fell sharply in the next few years, after which substitution pressures kept usage on a long-term downward trend into the mid 1980s. The peak level of world tin consumption reached in 1973 was not exceeded again until 2000. In the early 1970s Europe (including the USSR and Eastern Europe) and the USA accounted for 66% of global usage. In 2000 that share had dropped to 44% and since 2007 has been less than 30%.

From the 1970s through to the early 1990s, rising demand in Asia just about offset falling demand in Europe and North America. However in the last decade or so consumption in the mature markets has stopped falling, while growth in new Asian markets has accelerated. As the chart shows, the Chinese contribution to this latest phase has been enormous

World tin consumption 1950-2010



Long-term changes by application



Decade average refined tin consumption						
'000 tonnes	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
China	3.4	12.6	13.4	13.0	34.5	92.2
Japan	1.3	0.8	3.4	13.4	24.9	29.6
Other Asia	11.9	26.1	38.4	35.4	42.8	59.2
USA	56.4	57.3	52.2	38.0	44.6	42.7
Other Americas	9.2	10.6	14.1	15.5	15.2	17.2
Europe	78.6	97.9	103.6	96.6	73.4	69.0
Other	5.8	7.7	7.6	6.8	4.2	4.6
Total World	166.5	212.9	232.8	218.7	239.6	314.5

Data: WBMS, USGS, ITRI