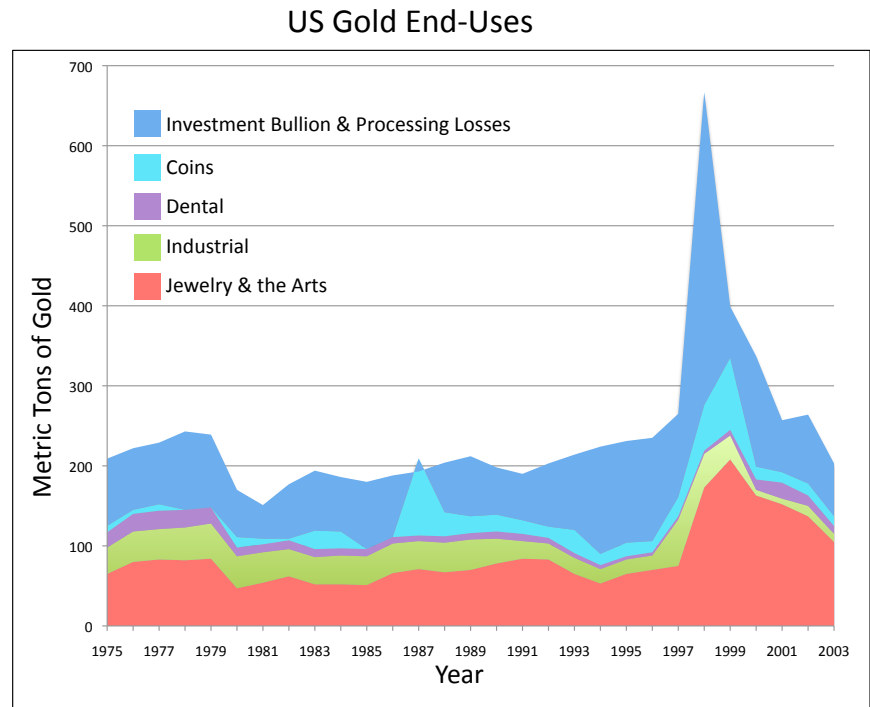


Group 4: Global Gold Mining and Use Trends/Recycling

- 1) In his interview, Michael George from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) mentions that as the price of gold rises, various things happen in regard to the production of new ore and in regard to recycling of ore. Note and explain these trends.
- 2) Recycling tiny amounts of gold from cell phones and other electronics is time consuming. How does the amount of gold recovered in this fashion compare to the amount of gold recovered from gold mining?
- 3) Note some of the differences in (a) processing methodology and (b) success rates of recycling gold from e-waste in more developed countries such as Japan and less developed countries such as China.

This is a “stacked” graph that shows the amounts of gold that went into certain industrial and product sectors in the United States (USGS, 2005). In stacked graphs, the thickness of the line tells you how much gold is going into a certain sector. As uses for gold in the United States have fluctuated through time, so do the thicknesses of the lines. The top of the uppermost line indicates the cumulative amount of gold used for all included sectors. Industrial uses include the production of electronics



Lines in the graph, from bottom to top, are in the same order as in the legend (Jewelry & the Arts is at the bottom of the graph as well as on the legend, etc.).

- 4) According to the graph above, what was the largest use of gold in the United States in 1998? Approximately how many metric tons of gold were used for that purpose?

What is the largest use of gold in the United States in 2003? Approximately how many metric tons of gold were used for that purpose?

- 5) It has been noted that during the global recession, many banks and individuals purchased gold bullion (gold bars, coins, etc.) as a type of investment. This, in turn, drove up the price of gold, which increased to over \$1500/ounce. As the price of gold increases due to this type of demand, what impacts might be felt in gold production and the other end uses of gold (i.e., industrial use in electronics, etc?)?

Source of graph data: U.S. Geological Survey. 2005. "Gold Statistics," in Kelly, T. D., and Matos, G.R. comps., *Historical statistics for mineral and material commodities in the United States*, U.G. Geological Survey Data Series 140, available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/2005/140/>.