

# Intro to Copper Fundamentals

ACC Spring Copper College 2024

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#### **Disclaimer**

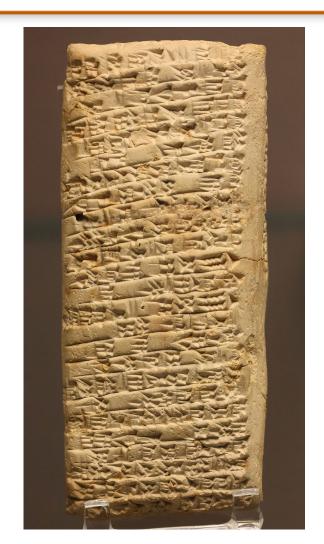


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### **Complaint Tablet to Ea-nāṣir**

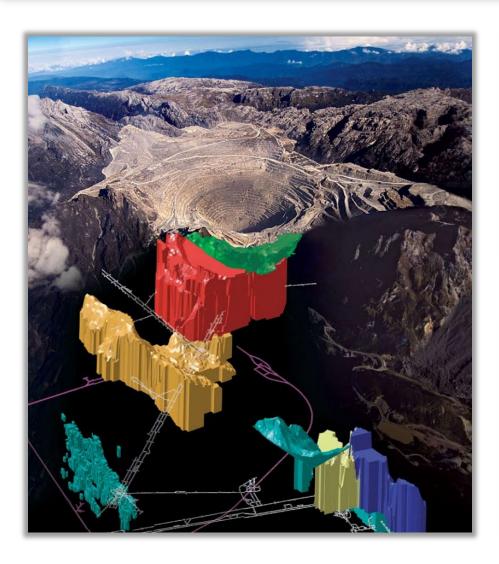


- Clay tablet to a merchant from a customer for copper ingots in ancient city state Ur (Iraq)
- Ingots were sub-standard and not accepted.
- Tablet was sent to the merchant in c 1750 BCE
- On display at British Museum
- Recognized by the Guinness World Records as the Oldest Customer Complaint



#### Mining 101 – Open Pit vs. Underground





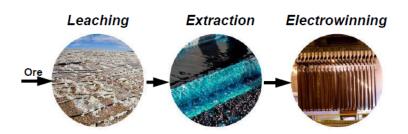




# **Copper Processing Technologies**



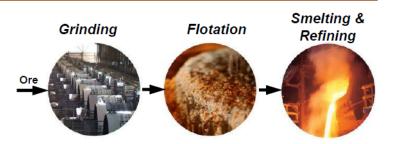
#### Leaching & SX/EW



# Process used to recover Cu from oxide & secondary sulfide ores

- <u>Leaching</u>. Acid placed on ore stockpiles to dissolve Cu; Cu solution comes out of the bottom of the stockpile
- Extraction. Cu solution is mixed with a diluent & extraction solution to extract the Cu & then mixed with electrolyte
- <u>Electrowinning.</u> Electrolyte is sent to tankhouse where electrical current plates Cu out of electrolyte into cathode

#### Concentrating



#### Process used to recover Cu from sulfide ores

- Grinding. Ore crushed & mixed with water to form a slurry with small Cu particles broken out of the rock
- Flotation. Slurry mixed with reagents so Cu attaches to bubbles & separated from worthless rock; Cu slurry dried to form concentrate
- Smelting & Refining. Concentrate smelted to produce molten Cu & form anodes; anodes refined in tankhouse to produce cathodes

#### **2024 Copper Flow**

Cu in Millions of Short Tons









Concentrate – Smelt Sulfides: 21.8



SxEw - Leach Oxides: 3.9



Scrap/Blister: 11.2



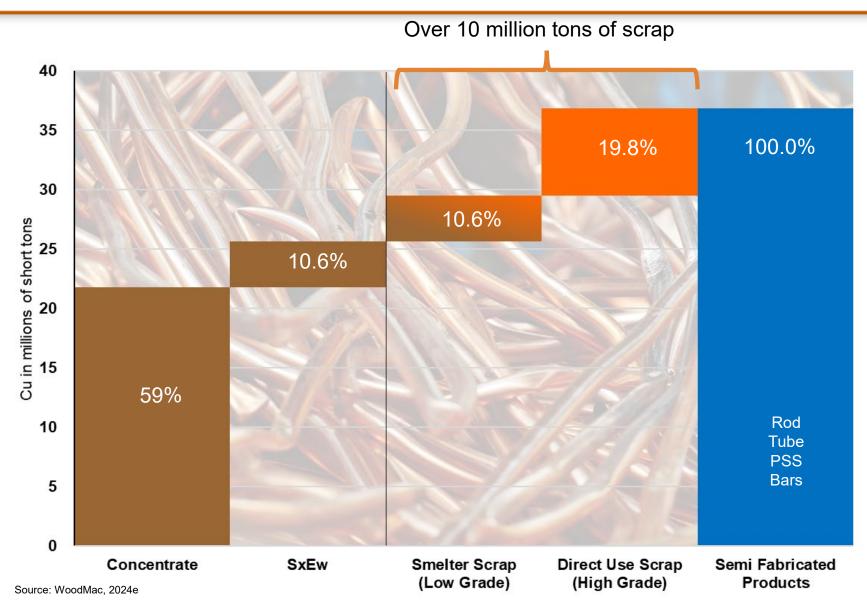
#### Cathode Production: 36.9 M



Source: WoodMac

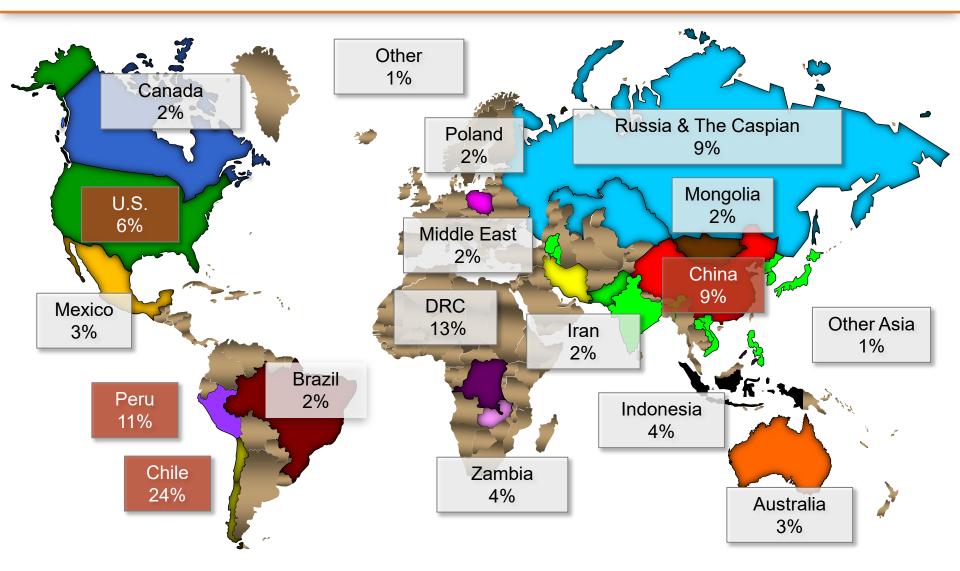
# Scrap is Nearly a Third of Supply





#### Half of Mine Production in the Americas



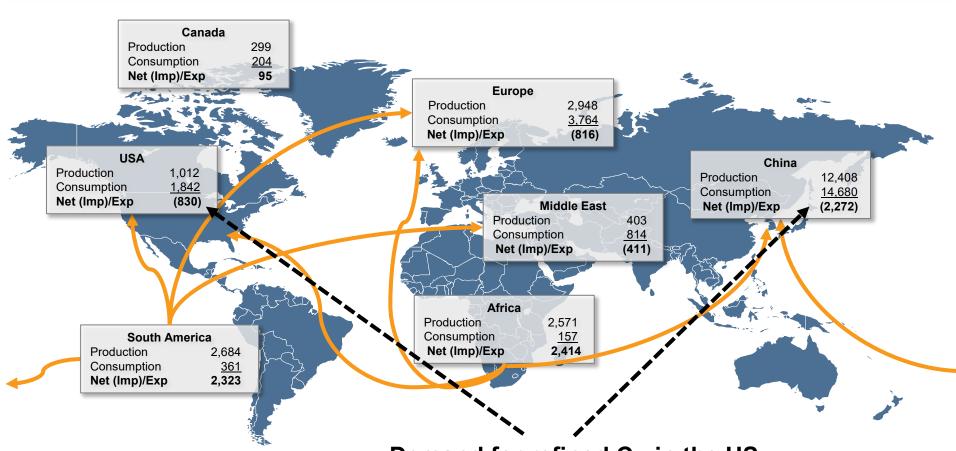


Source: WoodMac

## 2024 Regional Refined Balances

Cu cathode in thousands of tons

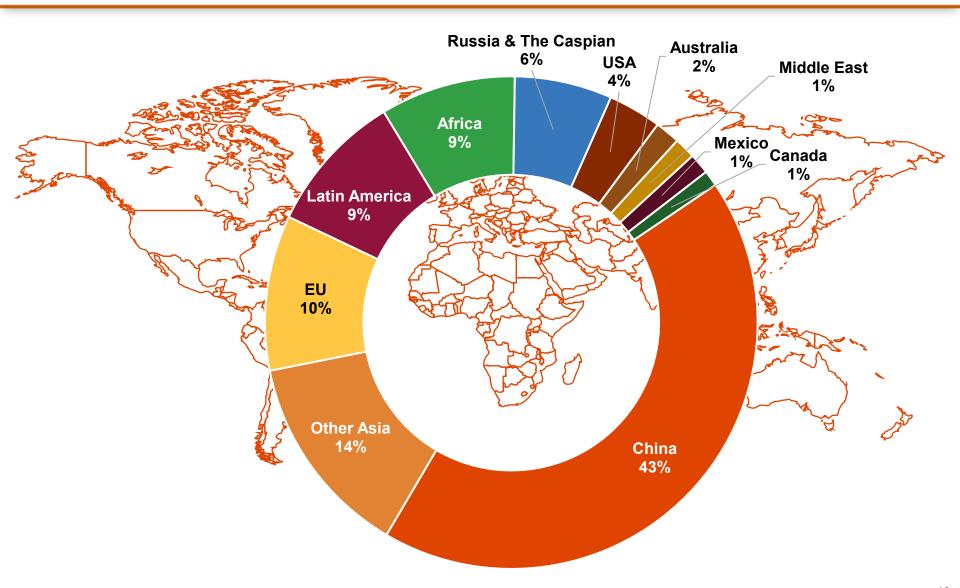




Demand for refined Cu in the US exceeds supply; therefore, the market is a net importer from the global market, competing among other major markets such as China

#### 2024 Global Cathode Production

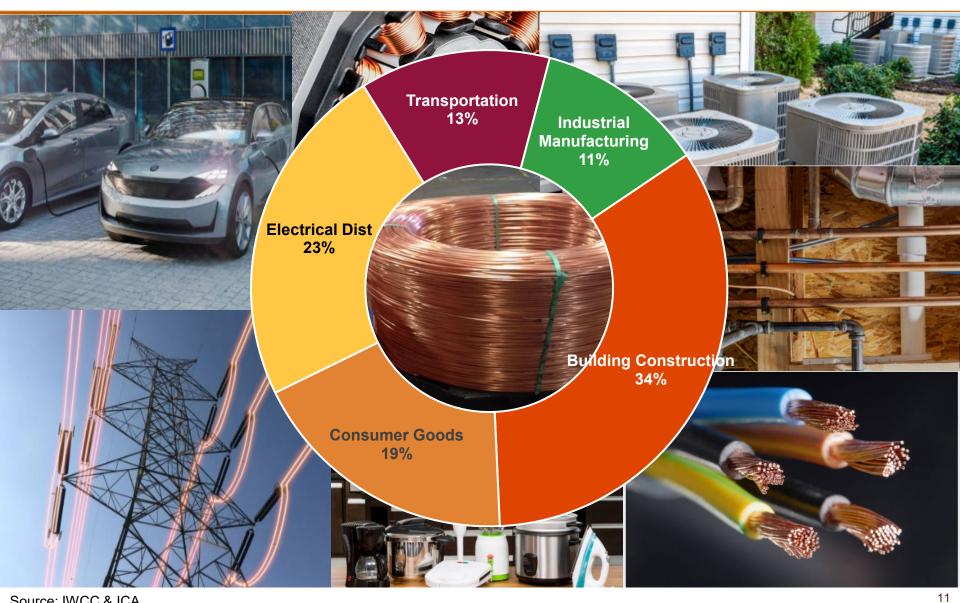




Source: WoodMac

# 2024 Semi-Fabricated Market End Segments THE POWER OF World

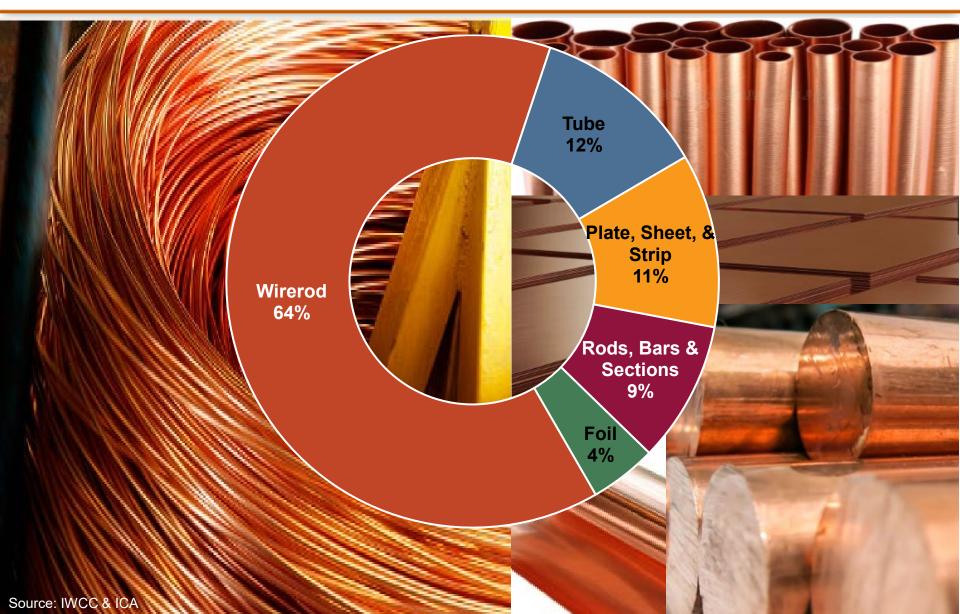




Source: IWCC & ICA

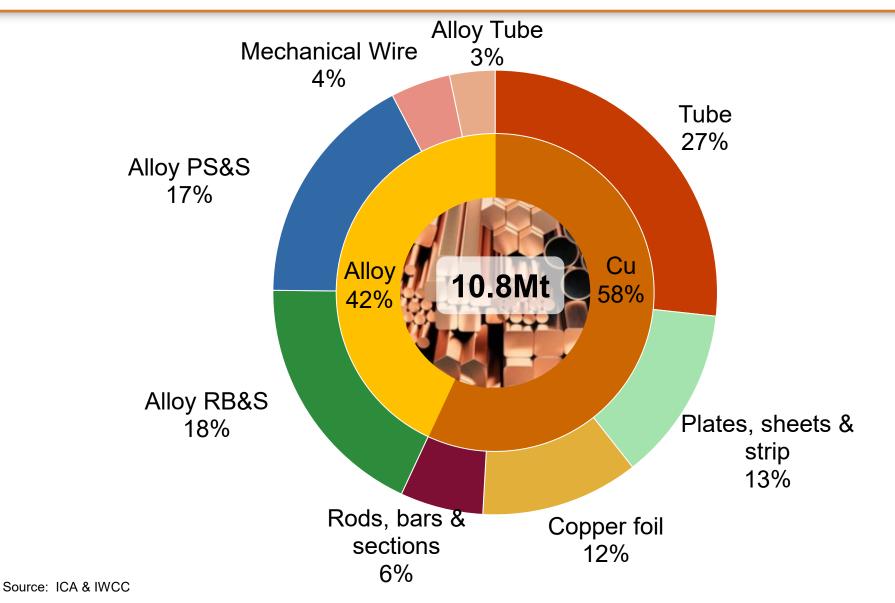
# **2024 Semi-Fabricated Product Segments**





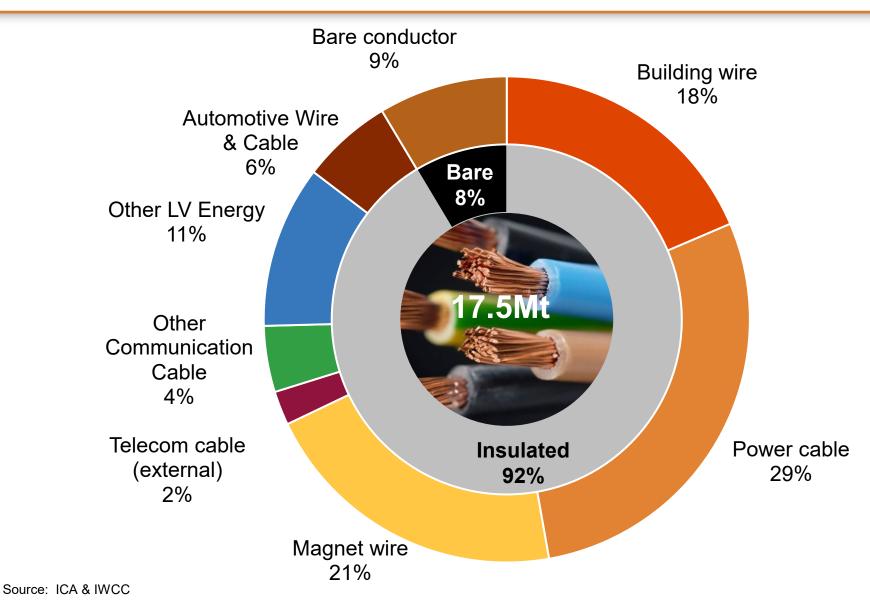
# 2022 Global Semi Production (ex rod)





#### **2024 Global Wire Production**







#### Intensity of Use is Increasing with Decarbonization



More than 70% of the world's copper is used in applications that deliver electricity. (1)

Electric vehicles use up to four times more copper than internal combustion engines. (1)

Renewable energy technologies use four to five times more copper than fossil fuel power generation. (1)

Copper consumption associated with electric vehicles and renewable energy technologies is expected to grow rapidly over the next several years.

# Questions or Complaints?







