

STONE (DIMENSION)¹

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Dimension stone totaling 1.08 million tons (1.19 million short tons) valued at \$205 million was sold or used (herein considered to be production) in 1998 by 137 companies from 187 quarries in 33 States and Puerto Rico. By tonnage, the dimension stone sold or used was for rough blocks in building, 26%; rough blocks for monuments, 11%; ashlar (relatively small, thin dressed blocks), 11%; flagging, 11%; curbing, 10%; dressed monumental, 4%; and other, 27%. Leading producing States were Georgia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin, which combined accounted for more than 50% of the tonnage output. The portion of total tonnage attributed to granite was estimated to be about 40%; limestone, 30%; sandstone, 15%; marble, 3%; slate, 2%; and other, 10%.

Salient Statistics—United States:²	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998^e
Production: Tonnage	1,190	1,160	1,150	1,180	1,080
Value, million dollars	218	233	234	225	205
Imports for consumption, value, million dollars	440	478	462	548	500
Exports, value, million dollars	53	52	50	55	52
Consumption, apparent, value, million dollars	605	659	646	718	653
Price	Variable, depending on type of product				
Stocks, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, quarry and mill, number ³	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Net import reliance ⁴ as a percent of apparent consumption (based on value)	64	64	64	69	69
Granite only:					
Production	499	495	501	444	420
Imports for consumption	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Exports (rough and finished)	170	158	137	166	154
Consumption, apparent	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Price	Variable, depending on type of product				
Stocks, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, quarry and mill, number ³	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Net import reliance ⁴ as a percent of apparent consumption (based on tonnage)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Recycling: Small amounts of dimension stone are recycled principally by restorers of old stone work.

Import Sources (1994-97) (based on value): Dimension stone: Italy, 40%; India, 15%; Canada, 15%; Spain, 10%; and other, 20%. Granite only: Italy, 45%; Canada, 15%; India, 10%; Brazil, 10%; and other, 20%.

Tariff: Dimension stone tariffs ranged from free to 6.3% ad valorem for countries with normal trade relations (NTR, formerly most favored nation) in 1998 according to type, degree of preparation, shape, and size. Most crude or rough trimmed stone is imported for 3.6% ad valorem or less. Tariffs on stone from nations without normal trade relations (non-NTR) ranged up to 60% ad valorem.

Depletion Allowance: 14% (Domestic and Foreign); 5% if used for rubble and other nonbuilding purposes.

Government Stockpile: None.

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Domestic production has been trending downward for several years, but imports continue trending upward with a significant increase in 1997. Wider applications in residential markets; improved quarrying, finishing, and handling technology; and a greater variety of stone, as well as rising costs of alternative construction materials, are among the factors that indicate an increased demand for dimension stone during the next 5 to 10 years. Furthermore, current high commercial vacancy rates and increased competition have caused an increased use of stone to upgrade the appearance of buildings.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves and reserve base ⁵
	1997	1998 ^e	
United States	1,180	1,080	Adequate except for certain special types and local shortages.
Other countries	NA	NA	
World total	NA	NA	

World Resources: Dimension stone resources of the world are sufficient. Resources can be limited on a local level or occasionally on a regional level by the lack of a particular kind of stone that is suitable for dimension purposes.

Substitutes: In some applications, substitutes for dimension stone include concrete, steel, aluminum, resin agglomerated stone, plastics, and glass.

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

¹See also Stone (Crushed).

²Includes Puerto Rico.

³Excluding office staff.

⁴Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Changes in stocks were assumed to be zero in the net import reliance and apparent consumption calculations because data on stocks were not available.

⁵See Appendix D for definitions.