

STONE (DIMENSION)¹

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Approximately 1.45 million tons of dimension stone, valued at \$288 million, was sold or used by U.S. producers in 2008. Dimension stone was produced by 124 companies, operating 165 quarries, in 35 States. Leading producer States, in descending order by tonnage and value, were Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, Vermont, and Massachusetts. These five States accounted for about 59% of the production and contributed about 50% of the value of domestic production. Approximately 35%, by tonnage, of dimension stone sold or used was limestone, followed by granite (32%), miscellaneous stone (17%), sandstone (12%), marble (3%), and slate (1%). By value, the leading sales or uses were for granite (38%), followed by limestone (34%), miscellaneous stone (11%), sandstone (8%), marble (5%), and slate (4%). Dressed stone represented 57% of the tonnage and 66% of the value of all the dimension stone sold or used by domestic producers, including exports. The leading uses and distribution of dressed stone, by tonnage, were in panels and veneer, tile, blackboards, exports, and unlisted and unspecified uses (28%), ashlar and partially squared pieces (21%), and flagging (18%). Rough stone mainly was sold for building and construction (50%) and monuments (18%), by tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States:²

Sold or used by producers:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008^e</u>
Tonnage	1,460	1,360	1,330	1,390	1,450
Value, million dollars	281	269	265	275	288
Imports for consumption, value, million dollars	1,790	2,180	2,500	2,540	2,500
Exports, value, million dollars	64	66	76	74	74
Consumption, apparent, value, million dollars	2,010	2,380	2,690	2,740	2,710
Price	Variable, depending on type of product				
Employment, quarry and mill, number ³	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Net import reliance ⁴ as a percentage of apparent consumption (based on value)	86	89	90	90	89
Granite only:					
Production	429	416	428	453	450
Exports (rough and finished)	143	135	108	112	112
Price	Variable, depending on type of product				
Employment, quarry and mill, number ³	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500

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

Import Sources (2004-07 by value): Dimension stone: Italy, 22%; Brazil, 21%; Turkey, 20%; China, 17%; and other, 20%. Granite only: Brazil, 35%; China, 21%; Italy, 19%; India, 15%; and other, 10%.

Tariff: Dimension stone tariffs ranged from free to 6.5% ad valorem, according to type, degree of preparation, shape, and size, for countries with normal trade relations in 2008. Most crude or rough trimmed stone was imported at 3.0% ad valorem or less.

Depletion Allowance: 14% (Domestic and foreign); slate used or sold as sintered or burned lightweight aggregate, 7.5% (Domestic and foreign); dimension stone used for rubble and other nonbuilding purposes, 5% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

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Events, Trends, and Issues: The United States is the world's largest market for dimension stone. Imports of dimension stone decreased slightly in value to about \$2.5 billion compared with those of 2007. Dimension stone exports remained level at about \$74 million. Apparent consumption, by value, was \$2.71 billion in 2008—a \$30 million, or 1%, decrease from that of 2007. Dimension stone for construction and refurbishment is being used commonly in both commercial and residential markets. The global economic downturn will pose a challenge to increased demand, domestic production, and imports of dimension stone in the near term.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves and reserve base ⁵
	2007	2008 ^e	
United States	1,390	1,450	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 certain applications, substitutes for dimension stone include aluminum, brick, ceramic tile, concrete, glass, plastics, resin-agglomerated stone, and steel.

^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.

⁵[See Appendix C for definitions.](#)