

STONE (DIMENSION)¹

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Approximately 1.83 million tons of dimension stone, valued at \$377 million, was sold or used by U.S. producers in 2009. Dimension stone was produced by 173 companies, operating 237 quarries, in 37 States. Leading producer States, in descending order by tonnage, were Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, and Arizona. These five States accounted for about 57% of the production and contributed about 36% of the value of domestic production. Approximately 34%, by tonnage, of dimension stone sold or used was limestone, followed by granite (26%), sandstone (19%), miscellaneous stone (18%), marble (2%), and slate (1%). By value, the leading sales or uses were for granite (33%), followed by limestone (27%), miscellaneous stone (15%), sandstone (15%), marble (5%), and slate (5%). Dressed stone represented 49% of the tonnage and 61% 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 (29%), ashlars and partially squared pieces (27%), and flagging (15%). Rough stone mainly was sold for building and construction (47%) and irregular-shaped stone (30%), by tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States:²

Sold or used by producers:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009^e</u>
Tonnage	2,000	1,850	1,920	1,800	1,830
Value, million dollars	329	334	346	324	377
Imports for consumption, value, million dollars	2,180	2,500	2,540	2,150	1,470
Exports, value, million dollars	66	76	74	66	111
Consumption, apparent, value, million dollars	2,440	2,760	2,810	2,400	1,740
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)	87	88	88	87	78
Granite only:					
Production	491	505	536	464	460
Exports (rough and finished)	135	108	112	103	103
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 (2005-08 by value): Dimension stone: Brazil, 20%; Italy, 19%; China, 18%; Turkey, 17%; and other, 26%. Granite only: Brazil, 36%; China, 23%; Italy, 18%; India, 14%; and other, 9%.

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 2009. 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 in value to about \$1.5 billion, a decline of 32%, compared with those of 2008. Dimension stone exports increased to about \$111 million. Apparent consumption, by value, was \$1.7 billion in 2009—a \$672 million, or 28%, decrease from that of 2008. Dimension stone for construction and refurbishment is being used commonly in both commercial and residential markets. The devaluation of the U.S. dollar has aided the U.S. export market for dimension stone, but the global economic downturn will tend to decrease demand for and imports of dimension stone in the near term.

World Mine Production and Reserves:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009^e</u>	
United States	1,800	1,830	Adequate except for certain special types and local shortages.
Other countries	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>	
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: 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.

⁵[See Appendix C for definitions.](#) Reserve base estimates were discontinued in 2009; see [Introduction](#).