

STONE (DIMENSION)¹

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Approximately 1.7 million tons of dimension stone, valued at \$340 million, was sold or used by U.S. producers in 2012. Dimension stone was produced by 141 companies, operating 219 quarries, in 36 States. Leading producer States, in descending order by tonnage, were South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Georgia. These five States accounted for about 52% of the production and contributed about 43% of the value of domestic production. Approximately 38%, by tonnage, of dimension stone sold or used was granite, followed by limestone (27%), miscellaneous stone (16%), sandstone (15%), marble (2%), and slate (2%). By value, the leading sales or uses were for granite (34%), followed by limestone (29%), miscellaneous stone (16%), sandstone (11%), marble (5%), and slate (5%). Rough stone represented 56% of the tonnage and 43% of the value of all the dimension stone sold or used by domestic producers, including exports. The leading uses and distribution of rough stone, by tonnage, were in building and construction (56%), and in irregular-shaped stone (24%). Dressed stone mainly was sold for ashlars and partially squared pieces (31%), curbing (22%), and flagging (20%), by tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States:²

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012^e
Sold or used by producers:					
Tonnage	1,800	1,620	1,670	1,710	1,720
Value, million dollars	326	328	323	323	340
Imports for consumption, value, million dollars	2,150	1,350	1,500	1,590	2,070
Exports, value, million dollars	66	48	55	66	170
Consumption, apparent, value, million dollars	2,410	1,630	1,770	1,840	2,240
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	80	88	83	85
Granite only:					
Production	464	469	699	653	650
Exports (rough and finished)	103	75	96	80	80
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 (2008–11 by value): All dimension stone: China, 31%; Brazil, 27%; Italy, 20%; Turkey, 8%; and other, 14%. Granite only: Brazil, 42%; China, 22%; India, 14%; Italy, 13%; 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 2012. 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 leading market for dimension stone. Imports of dimension stone increased in value to about \$2.1 billion compared with \$1.59 billion in 2011. Slow growth in the U.S. economy coupled with marginal increases in new residential construction starts resulted in a slight increase in production and imports of dimension stone. Dimension stone exports increased to about \$169 million. The weakening of the U.S. dollar has aided the U.S. export market for dimension stone. Apparent consumption, by value, was \$2.2 billion in 2012—a \$390 million, or 21%, increase from that of 2011. Dimension stone for construction and refurbishment was used in commercial and residential markets; 2012 refurbishment activity was slightly higher compared with that of 2011.

World Mine Production and Reserves:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵
	2011	2012 ^e	
United States	1,710	1,720	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: 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 resource/reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.](#)