

STONE (DIMENSION)¹

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Approximately 2.46 million tons of dimension stone, valued at \$468 million, was sold or used by U.S. producers in 2016. Dimension stone was produced by 236 companies, operating 276 quarries, in 34 States. Leading producer States were, in descending order by tonnage, Texas, Indiana, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Georgia. These five States accounted for about 64% of the production and contributed about 60% of the value of domestic production. Approximately 43%, by tonnage, of dimension stone sold or used was limestone, followed by granite (22%), sandstone (18%), miscellaneous stone (13%), and marble and slate (2% each). By value, the leading sales or uses were for limestone (36%), followed by granite (28%), miscellaneous stone (15%), sandstone (13%), and marble and slate (4% each). Rough stone represented 59% of the tonnage and 48% 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 (58%), and in irregular-shaped stone (31%). Dressed stone mainly was sold for ashlars and partially squared pieces (43%), curbing (19%), and flagging (11%), by tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States:²	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016^e
Sold or used by producers ³					
Tonnage	2,150	2,280	2,470	2,630	2,460
Value, million dollars	452	459	470	461	468
Imports for consumption, value, million dollars	1,740	2,100	2,240	2,350	2,600
Exports, value, million dollars	65	61	70	75	63
Consumption, apparent, value, million dollars	2,130	2,500	2,640	2,740	3,000
Price		Variable, depending on type of product			
Employment, quarry and mill, number ⁴	3,200	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Net import reliance ⁵ as a percentage of apparent consumption (based on value)	79	82	82	83	84
Granite only, sold or used by producers:					
Tonnage	499	496	519	585	580
Value, million dollars	118	132	117	130	130
Imports, value, million dollars	1,080	1,290	1,330	1,340	1,340
Exports (rough and finished)	77	85	88	73	51
Consumption, apparent, value, million dollars	1,170	1,390	1,420	1,440	1,450
Price		Variable, depending on type of product			
Employment, quarry and mill, number ⁴	700	880	880	880	880
Net import reliance ⁵ as a percentage of apparent consumption (based on value)	90	91	92	91	91

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

Import Sources (2012–15 by value): All dimension stone: China, 27%; Brazil, 26%; Italy, 23%; Turkey, 16%; and other, 8%. Granite only: Brazil, 47%; China, 22%; India, 15%; Italy, 11%; and other, 5%.

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 2016. 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.

STONE (DIMENSION)

Events, Trends, and Issues: The United States is one of the world's leading markets for dimension stone. Total imports of dimension stone increased in value to about \$2.6 billion compared with \$2.35 billion in 2015. Slow growth in the U.S. economy in 2016, coupled with mixed to moderate growth in new residential construction, resulted in lower domestic production of dimension stone compared with the previous year. Dimension stone for construction and refurbishment was used in commercial and residential markets; in 2016, the refurbishment and remodeling market of existing homes was healthy and robust compared with those of 2015. These factors contributed to a steady rise in dimension stone imports. Dimension stone exports decreased to about \$63 million. Apparent consumption, by value, was estimated to be \$3 billion in 2016—a 9% increase from that of 2015.

The dimension stone industry continued to be concerned with safety and health regulations and environmental restrictions in 2016, especially those concerning crystalline silica exposure. In 2016, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration finalized new regulations to further restrict exposure to crystalline silica at quarry sites and other industries that use materials containing it. Phased implementation of the new regulations are scheduled to take effect from 2017 through 2021.

According to Italy's Internazionale Marmi e Macchine Carrara S.p.A., world dimension granite and marble production, including the United States, was estimated to be approximately 155 million tons in 2014, the last year for which data were available. Although some small-scale production was likely in many nations, dimension granite and marble was produced and officially reported in 27 countries. The top five producing countries in 2014 were, in descending order by tonnage, China, India, Turkey, Iran, and Italy, and these countries accounted for about 74% of the world's dimension granite and marble production. Global production of dimension granite and marble increased by 12% in 2014 compared with that of 2013. The United States ranked 18th in world production of dimension granite and marble in 2014.

World Mine Production and Reserves:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁶
	2015	2016 ^e	
United States	2,630	2,460	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.

³Includes granite and other types of dimension stone.

⁴Excluding office staff.

⁵Defined as imports – exports.

⁶See [Appendix C](#) for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.