



Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

STONE PRODUCT INDUSTRY REPORT RELEASED

Data Shows U.S. Stone Consumption on the Rise

San Diego, CA, September 16, 2003 -- In a joint effort, Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants (CTaSC) and Catalina Research Inc. have announced the release of a report on the Stone Products Industry that offers comprehensive market information not previously available.

The Stone Product Industry Report is a 186-page report containing current and historical data on U.S. production, shipments and imports of granite, marble, limestone, travertine and other rough and fabricated stone products. It also breaks down sales by market segment and application and includes an extensive analysis of trends in manufacturing, imports, end-usage, installation and pricing. Statistics for this study were obtained from U.S. government sources and independently conducted industry surveys. The stone report provides forecasts and trends, and lists major importers and their foreign suppliers, as well as U.S. mines and quarries.

Results of this research show that the stone industry, as a whole, is on the rise, and significantly exceeds ceramic tile consumption in dollars. The report also shows that imports make up the majority of the stone supply to the U.S., with granite appearing to be the preferred stone and marble declining in use as other types of stone become popular.

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“The *Stone Product Industry* report is significant because in the past, this type of information was difficult to pinpoint, and so no one ever attempted to compile it for our industry,” says Donato Pompo, founder of CTaSC. “I believe this report is an essential tool for companies in the stone industry that are committed to growing their businesses, and it’s also valuable for those who are looking for good investment opportunities in the stone industry,” he added.

Further information about how to purchase the Stone Product Industry Report can be obtained by visiting Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultant’s website at www.CTaSC.com.

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