
WARNINGS FOR THE STATISTICS TABLES

The following tables are based on official data provided by local institutes and/or associations. These are all governmental institutes responsible for the collection of statistics for the import-export of goods and sometimes associations of local producers or other official sources for production. Whenever the statistics are estimates which cannot be proven this is indicated each time using italics. In addition, particularly with regard to imports and exports amongst the various countries which are classified in the C tables, there are further indications which may seem trivial but do help to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings.

The figures in the import-export tables C1, C2, C3 and C4 refer to the overall figures for each country from/to all the countries so the total imports and total exports may not coincide.

Moreover, the quantities recorded by each country in relation to each partner country hardly ever coincide with those recorded by the partner countries. This is true not only of stone products but of all goods and so all sources of international import-export data tend to give both declarations in cross-reference tables with up to four items per cross-reference (quantity and value for each declaration) in imports and exports. The reason being that rarely is there any correspondence, and sometimes not even any approximation, between the import data from one country, declared by the importer country, and the export data towards that country, declared by the exporting country, even if the data concerns the same category of goods and time period. Moreover, there are other influences such as transport times and customs procedures and methods (which are not always the same despite important formal agreements) used to classify and deal with statistics concerning goods among the institutions of individual countries.

The tables below include two tables showing import-export figures for materials, marble and granite, without recalculating finished products as raw materials, and two tables showing import-export figures according to the type of material, i.e. raw materials and finished products, with finished products recalculated as raw materials and no distinction between marble and granite. The totals of the table are clearly only possible two by two: marble and granite or raw materials and finished products, with a correspondence of the results only where the finished products recalculated as raw materials are eliminated. If the tables are combined in any other way two mistakes are made: the absolute quantities are doubled and the finished products recalculated as raw materials are added. Again the total imports cannot correspond to the total exports for the reasons already mentioned. Our tables, as we already pointed out, are not cross-reference tables amongst countries; they simply quantify imports and exports for the major players in the industry. However they do serve as a tool to estimate the imports and exports of natural stone amongst countries and as such are useful to whoever wishes to consider statistics in the industry.

Another drawback is that often the data sources are not updated at the same time or the time period is calculated differently (e.g. the Islamic year used in some countries). We have tried to indicate this each time it occurs. In addition, the data provided often has many corrections and this means that updates have to be made even on a year to year basis with a continuous review of the results. We have in fact used different calculation methods for the different items in the various countries. This is because the classification methods adopted by the various customs offices differ and we have therefore corrected the most obvious mistakes.

We have indicated this each time.

The collection of production data is becoming ever more difficult and uncertain, even for Italy.

Although there are regions which use accurate survey tools there are others that refuse to make any attempt at analysis which makes it difficult for the few local sources that would be willing to. In these

cases we have hazarded an estimate based on the prevailing economic trends and local sources but we are aware that the result remains an estimate.

In addition, all the tables with references to Italy, both in terms of machinery and stone, give the value figures in thousands of Euros. Figures have therefore been rounded off/cut and this leads to an unavoidable technical error. This is only a very limited error however as it is limited to the final number of the totals. The “Chips and powders” item has been changed with the elimination of the HS code which clearly gave figures which had nothing to do with the industry. Hence the figures for previous years have been calculated again too.

THE 2007 ISTAT DATA HAS BEEN RECALCULATED BY THE INSTITUTE ITSELF, WITH SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR. HENCE THE FIGURES IN THESE TABLES SHOW SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES FROM THOSE GIVEN FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN VOLUME FOR LAST YEAR.