

Change in building stone industry structure of Japan interpreted from business paper back issues and trade statistics

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Available back issues of business papers of the Japanese quarrying and stone manufacturing industries inform us of how their industrial structure changed since 1950's. Back issues of the business paper "Nihon Sekizai Kogyo Shin-bun" from 1953 to 1975 and "Sekizai sangyo nenkan" from 1991 to 1997 revealed that the stone industry in Japan most prospered around 1960 to 1970. The number of advertisements of mining equipments increased during the 1950's and started to decrease in the late 1960's. On the other hand, the number of advertisements of stone manufacturing equipments (cutting and polishing) increased in the late 1960's. It is supposed that the stone industry in Japan is divided into two fields and mining industry flourished around 1960, manufacturing around 1970. Foreign trade statistics also revealed that export of building stones from Japan increased in the middle of 1960's, which supports that the stone manufacturing industry in Japan prospered in the late 1960's.

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