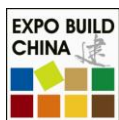


In the first half of 2011, the production of ceramic tile in China increased by more than 20%.

According to the *China Building Materials* report, the total added value of the building materials industry in May grew 27.7% more than the corresponding period last year. The building and sanitary ceramics industry added more than 20% growth value during the period from January to May.

During January to May, the production of ceramic brick was 3.24 billion cubic metres, an increase of 17.1%. The production in the main ceramic brick areas, such as Guangdong, Fujian and Shandong, accounted for 60% of the national production during that period. Guangdong ceramic tile production was 8.3 billion cubic metres, up 22.2%; Fujian ceramic tile production was 700 million cubic metres, up 23.9%; but because of impact of limited electricity, Shandong ceramic tile production was 420 million cubic metres, down 13.9%. In addition, new ceramic-producing areas of the central region have also shown strong growth. In the same period, the ceramic production of the central region, i.e. Henan, Hubei and Jiangxi increased by 130%, 67.5% and 26%, respectively. The central regions of China have become the main areas for rapid growth in the production of ceramic tiles. Tile production in the central region rose 52.1%, far higher than the average growth for the eastern region (12.2%) and the western region (13.5%).

During the period from January to May, the production of national health ceramic was 60.62 million units, an increase of 4.1%. The main production areas of health ceramic, Guangdong, Henan and Hebei all decreased in production. Compared to last year they were down 1.3%, 2.9% and 1%, respectively.



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