



## ANTWERP DIAMOND FACT SHEET

In a very difficult 2020, the Antwerp diamond industry stood tall, proving to continue to be the most important diamond trading hub worldwide. During a year in which the world stood still, its critical mass enabled the Antwerp diamond industry to trade 164.4 million carats rough and polished diamonds worth 24.9 billion USD – which is 85% of the volume and 67% of the value of 2019 – displaying its resilience once again.

With respect to total trade, diamonds occupy the 4th place in the ranking of trade goods. Moreover, in regard to the trade outside the EU, diamonds are the most important trade products, both for import and export transactions. Diamonds represent approximately 5 % of Belgian exports and about 12 % of all Belgian exports outside the EU. In tax year 2018, the diamond industry paid 119 million USD in taxes. Each year, 30.000 Kimberley Process certificates are issued in the EU and thus in Antwerp, or almost half of all the KP certificates issued worldwide. In 2017, the diamond sector has generated an added value of \$838 million. The diamond sector accounts for a total of 6,600 direct jobs and 26,000 indirect jobs.

Demonstrated by the recent KP figures, Antwerp still remains the world's most important centre for the diamond trade. Approximately 86% of the total world production of rough diamonds is being traded in Antwerp, as is an estimated 50% of all polished diamonds worldwide. Every day, approximately 210 million dollars in diamonds pass through Antwerp. That's an average of 550 shipments each day.

Antwerp has 570 years of illustrious heritage as diamond trading and manufacturing hub, embodied in the slogan 'Cut in Antwerp', which still is the diamond trademark for supreme quality and exquisite craftsmanship. With a financial, technical and intellectual infrastructure that is unrivalled in the industry, Antwerp is the centre from which a multinational industrial and commercial network is coordinated, enabling the transformation of rough diamonds into the sparkling showpieces sold in jewellery shops around the globe.

Antwerp is home to over 1,400 diamond firms officially registered with the Federal Public Service Economy, including rough diamond producers and dealers, manufacturers, polished diamond wholesalers and some 2,400 diamond and jewelry related businesses. The city also headquarters the industry's leading financial institutions, insurance companies, security, shipping and logistics providers, gem labs, etc. Its multicultural community of diamond dealers from various religious backgrounds in a politically stable and neutral setting is truly unique.

At the core of Antwerp's unique trade infrastructure lies Diamond Office, the in-house customs office that streamlines the vast flow of diamonds in and out of Antwerp. Through a sophisticated system of procedures and controls, Antwerp is continuously focused on maintaining internationally recognized high levels of compliance and transparency relating to AML, KP, and CSR. On top of the procedures that are customary in the diamond business, Antwerp is subject to an additional compliance layer as

# Diamonds love Antwerp

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a result of EU legislation and regulations. The city is internationally recognized as the ethical benchmark and rolemodel for the entire diamond and jewellery industry.

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