



Press release

Antwerp diamond sector expansion policy bears fruit

Antwerp, 14 March 2014 – February import and export figures of the Antwerp diamond sector continue to indicate a high trade performance. Following the excellent kick-off of the year in January, the positive trend continued last month with soaring trade as compared to February 2013.

The surge in the rough diamond trade figures of February exceeds that of January. The exported volume of rough diamonds rose by a whopping 46,23% and the imported volume increased by 34,96%, as compared to February 2013. This translates to a value boost of 29,34% en 17,70%, respectively.

A key driver of the rough diamond import volume increase is among others the second tender of Zimbabwean goods that took place in February in the Antwerp Diamond Tender Facility. As was the case in January, higher imports of rough diamonds from Botswana and Canada were also recorded. Imports of rough diamonds from Russia also rose. The export of diamonds also follows the January-trend, with an overall increase to the usual consumer markets India, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong. Finally the export of rough diamonds to Singapore also rose as compared to 2013.

Trade figures for polished diamonds also indicate a positive development in comparison with 2013. The volume of polished diamonds exported increased by 13,58%, yielding a value increase of 33,41%. And although the import volume figures declined by 0,90% this resulted in an 11,08% boost in value.

Exports of rough diamonds to Hong Kong rose due to the 'Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem and Pearl Show', which took place in March and saw a strong presence of Antwerp, with 67 diamond companies participating.

As was the case in January, we also observe an increase in the export of polished diamonds to EU countries Italy, France and the United Kingdom. The import of polished diamonds also follows the highly positive trend from the beginning of the year, with a rise in polished diamonds imports especially from India and Israel.

For more information on the figures please refer to our [website](#)

AWDC, Antwerp World Diamond Centre, is an industry-established foundation, whose mission is to serve and support the diamond business in Antwerp, the world's most important diamond trade hub. AWDC is the coordinating body and the official representative of the Antwerp diamond sector, and as such is recognized internationally as the host, spokesperson and intermediary for the Belgian diamond community. In this capacity, AWDC liaises on behalf of the Belgian diamond sector with governments and actively promotes support for the diamond sector at home and abroad.

Diamonds love Antwerp

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84% of all rough diamonds and 50% of all polished diamonds pass through Antwerp. Diamonds represent 5% of the total Belgian exports and 15% of all Belgian exports outside the EU, making diamonds the most important export product outside the EU.

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