



Press release

Antwerp's diamond industry trade figures see slight uptick in first half of 2016

Antwerp, July 11 2016 – From January to June, 111.1 million carats of rough and polished diamonds were traded on the Antwerp diamond market, as compared to 102.8 million carats in the first half of 2015. The trade figures for polished diamonds remained stable but were lower than last year. The rough trade increased as compared to 2015. During the first six months this year, a total of 6.2 million carats of polished diamonds, valued at more than 13 billion dollars, were traded in Antwerp. The rough trade from January to June was good more 104.9 million carats worth 13.2 billion dollars.

When we look at the rough diamond trade figures, we notice varying results for the first six months of the year. Imports as well as exports fluctuated from month to month.

On the import side, for instance, we see a decline in January, followed by three to four months in which the figures rose, only to fall again in June. In general we note the amount of imported rough diamonds rose 5.61% in comparison to last year, resulting in a 2.44% increase in value.

Rough diamond exports also got off to a slow start in January, only to peak in February. Exports declined gradually in the months that followed, though their value continued to fluctuate above the billion dollar mark until June, when the value of exported rough diamonds sank under a billion dollars for the first time since January. Compared to the first six month of last year, the volume of rough diamond exports increased 12.90%, with their value increasing 4.80%.

The polished diamond trade figures followed approximately the same pattern as that of rough diamonds. Stronger months, such as February for exports and March for imports, were alternated with less favorable months. During the first half of the year, 10.83% fewer polished diamonds were imported than last year, leading to a 9.49% decline in value. On the export side, we note 8.78% decline in carats traded and an 8.41% decline in value.

Therefore, our conclusion is that the rough diamond market has experienced a modest recovery with regard to last year, while during the first six month of the year, fewer polished diamonds were traded than in the same period last year. The significant monthly fluctuations demonstrate that it is too early to conclude that the diamond trade is making a complete recovery.

Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) 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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