

**Antwerp's January imports and exports indicates a decline in price per-carat again.**

After a price per-carat decline in December 2011, this trend was continued in the first month of 2012.

The U.S. dollar value of exports of polished diamonds in January soared 0.93 percent to 819.934.022 dollar compared to January 2011. In volume terms, there was a 21.7 percent decline to 468.858 carats.

The average price per carat in January 2012 for polished exports was therefore 1749 dollar compared to an average price of 1837 dollar in December 2011. Exactly one year ago, in January 2011 this was 1357 dollar.

As for exports of rough diamonds, the U.S. dollar value decreased compared to January 2011 with 4.82 percent to 986.144.101 dollar. In volume terms there was a 28.47 percent fall to 8.121.943 carats.

In polished diamond imports, Belgium brought in 776.344 carats, a decline from 8 percent from January 2010 but a 18.5 percent rise to 1.16 billion dollar.

In rough diamonds, Belgium imported 7.67 million carats worth 1.05 billion dollar in January, a drop of 27.7 percent in volume terms from January 2011 but only of 0.5 percent in financial terms on a year earlier.