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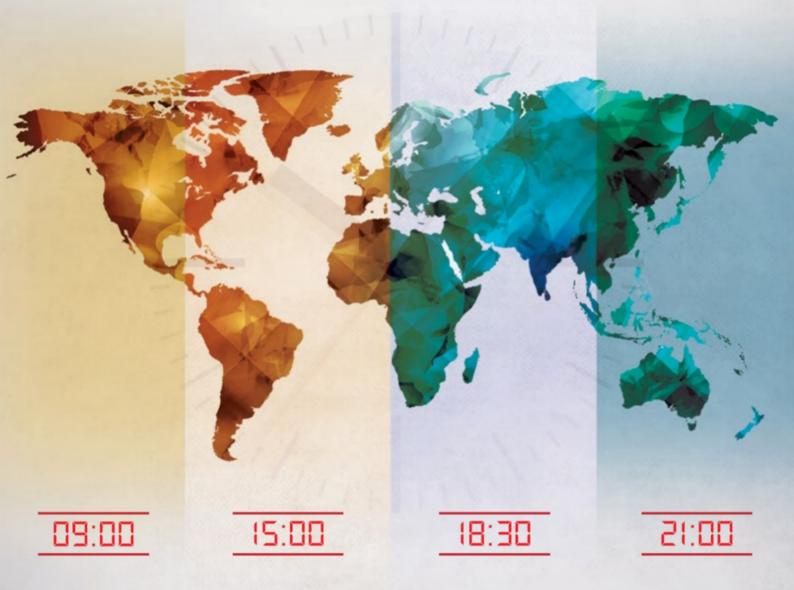
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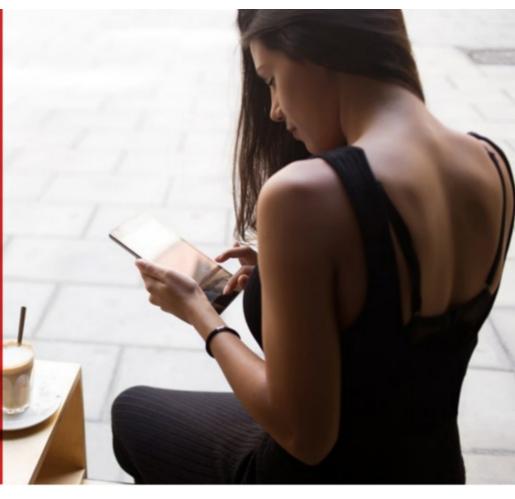
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### EDITOR'S NOTE

## The End Of Shopping As We Have Always Known It?

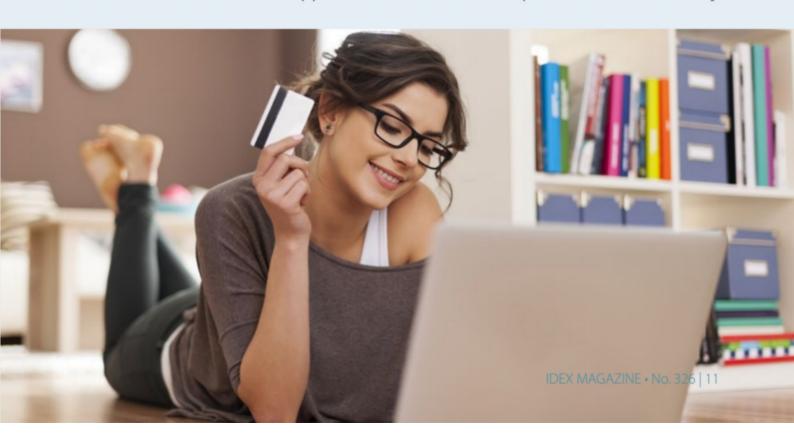
Remember the old days when we used to go to shopping malls to buy products? When we would leisurely walk through the mall, looking into endless shops and checking booths, enjoying the experience before loading up and heading home?

We may not have approached that point yet, and the above may possibly relate more to 2027 than 2017, but the countdown for the demise of shopping malls has been underway for some years. In the United States, the sight of crumbling monstrosities built in the 1960s that nobody is interested in reviving is not uncommon.

The retail sector continued to build too much space into the 1990s and early 2000s, and that created a bubble similar to the housing bubble which burst with such disastrous results in the great financial crisis of 2008. The result was doors closing and rents dropping, and eventually closures.

In the United States, Macy's, Sears, JCPenney, Kmart and Guess are on the list of well-known national retailers to have announced mass store closings totaling in the thousands so far this year. Women's clothes chain Bebe is closing all of its 180 stores. Target Corp. has decided that smaller format stores are the answer, while market giant and cash-rich Wal-Mart simply continues a shopping spree, buying online firms, such as jet.com, to correct any weaknesses.

Like it or not, shopping today needs to be a fun experience, such as that provided at Apple stores which, not by chance, has the highest turnover per square foot. Experts say there are several other crucial factors involved in persuading potential customers to spend their money. Are stores seeing their premises from the viewpoint of the client, and do they feel what the potential customer is feeling? In other words, a one-size fits all approach doesn't work. People are far more choosy



#### EDITOR'S NOTE

than they used to be regarding how and where they spend their money. Stores need to work on their approach to customers.

Digitally native brands are creating a new kind of retail store based on no inventory and excellent experiences: customers enter a dazzling store, receive a high-level brand experience and purchase items that are shipped to them. Huge stores, with enormous inventories and sky-high payrolls are increasingly a thing of the past.

Then there is the factor that goods need to be given space to shine and stand out because customers feel more comfortable when they have room to move comfortably. It also highlights the goods on display and gives a subliminal message that this is what justifies the premium being demanded.

And there's also the need to tell a story. It's become something of a clich, but stores need to tell a tale to clients to persuade them to swipe their credit card. Assuming a store is not selling bread and milk or other groceries, but rather an expensive item that is not essential to human existence, they have to work hard on that story.

Businesses also need to be using data analytics on a much larger scale. This was a point made by Antwerp World Diamond Centre President Stephane Fischler in an excellent presentation at the Mines to Market conference in Mumbai in March. Most data goes unused, but when used properly it can help businesses enormously.

Shopping malls are increasingly being replaced by huge, faceless companies that will take your order online or on the phone and mail it or ship it to you the same day or tomorrow. Seems consumers are willing to forgo the whole shopping experience in order to receive the product at home or at the office quickly with maximum convenience.

For the time being, however, shoppers are still hitting the stores, but mixing that with online price checking before committing to purchasing. And that's making the ability of retailers to squeeze a premium out of customers increasingly difficult to achieve. The times keep a'changing, but just where are we heading?





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## MARKETSNAPSHOT



#### POLISHED DIAMONDS

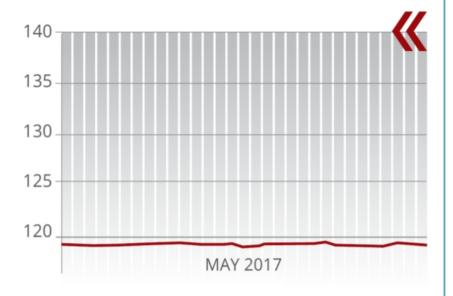
IN MAY, POLISHED PRICES WERE LARGELY UNCHANGED. ON A MONTH-TO-MONTH BASIS, GLOBAL POLISHED DIAMOND PRICES IN MAY SAW A **DECREASE OF 0.7 PERCENT** OVER APRIL.



ON A MONTH-TO-MONTH BASIS, COMPARING PRICES DURING MAY 2017 TO APRIL 2017, **ALL SIX SIZE CATEGORIES OF DIAMONDS** SHOWED DECLINES.

#### POLISHED DIAMONDS DAILY INDEX

THE INDEX BEGAN THE MONTH AT 119.49 AND ENDED AT 119.33.



## METAL PRICES IN MAY US\$ PER OUNCE

\*Prices as of 31.05.17 Source: Amark.com



Palladium 844.0 (+2.7%) Platinum 948.0 (-4.0%) Gold 1,279 (+2.0%) Silver 17.55 (+0.2%)

#### **ROUGH DIAMONDS**

THE ASSORTMENTS IN THE MAY DE BEERS SIGHT WERE STABLE. THE SIGHT WAS NOT A LARGE ONE,. IN GENERAL, ALLOCATIONS FELL FOR MOST CUSTOMERS WITH DE BEERS MAKING IT CLEAR TO ITS CLIENTS THEY SHOULD NOT SELL THE ROUGH ALLOCATED FOR PRODUCTION IN AFRICA.

#### **US JEWELRY SALES**

FINE JEWELRY SALES **ROSE BY AN ESTIMATED 3.3%** IN MARCH, WHILE FINE WATCH SALES **INCREASED BY 0.4 PERCENT**. TOTAL U.S. JEWELRY SALES **ROSE BY 1.6%**, WHILE TOTAL SALES OF FINE JEWELRY AND FINE WATCHES ON THE YEAR WERE **\$5.5 BILLION**. SPECIALTY JEWELERS POSTED A SALES **DECREASE OF 3.3 PERCENT** IN MARCH.

#### BY ALBERT ROBINSON

## MEMC

## Keep Irrelevant Issues Out



Never a dull moment could, perhaps, become the slogan of the Kimberley Process.

Of all the issues and possible road-bumps that this year's Chair, Australia, might have foreseen, it's safe to assume that nobody thought the Chinese delegation would cause confusion and chaos at the opening session.

The first day of the May 1-4 Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting in Perth was noisily disrupted by the Chinese delegation which was upset by the presence of a group from Taiwan.

The Chinese group reportedly "hijacked the microphone" during a traditional Aboriginal welcoming ceremony, as a senior official was introducing Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.



The Chinese delegation wanted to know whether the rather innocuously titled Taiwan group - Rough Diamond Trading Entity of Chinese Taipei - had been officially invited.

The welcoming ceremony was suspended until the matter had been addressed. However, a discussion session later on the first day was also abandoned because of continual

interruptions by officials from African countries in support of China's position. The Taiwanese delegation was asked to leave the conference.

The timing seems odd on the one hand since the Chinese delegation has never done such a thing at past KP meetings, or, it seems, at any other international business gatherings - at least from what I have been able to find.



Of all the global forums the Chinese could have chosen to make their feelings known about the Taiwan issue, assuming there is somebody out there who is not aware of it, it seems odd that it would choose the Kimberley Process in order to do so.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province which will eventually be reunited with the mainland, and therefore insists that other countries cannot have diplomatic relations with both China and Taiwan.

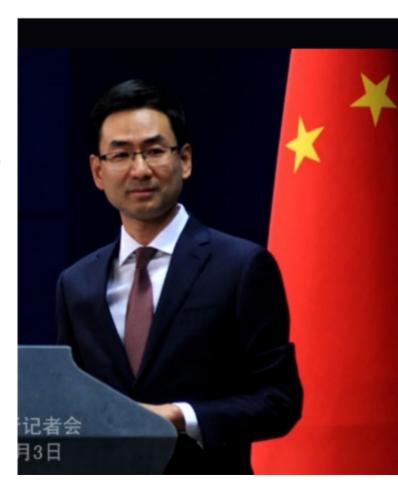
Perhaps it's a new policy dictated from the top to show the world that China does not accept the idea that Taiwan is accorded the rights of a sovereign country following the Chinese leadership's fury with President Trump and Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen after he took a phone call from her congratulating him on his US Presidential election victory.

Whatever the reason, it's unacceptable behavior and completely the wrong forum in which to raise a political issue. Following the disruption, which was described as "extraordinary", Australia complained to China's ambassador to the country. One high-level Australian attendee told the BBC: "It was disgusting."

We all know that keeping political or religious feuds out of certain forums, such as sporting battles, is easier said than done, but it remains the case, nonetheless. And I find it difficult to believe that the Chinese delegation made many new friends or allies as a result of their behavior.

Meetings of the KP are known to be fraught and difficult at the best of times – and that's just dealing with diamond issues – the last thing we need is to bring in issues that are completely irrelevant to its work.





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#### ROUNDS | JUNE 2017

## PRICEREPORT

ROUNDS 0.40-0.44 01-JUNE-17 41.0 34.0 <u>31.5</u> 31.0 28.0 24.5 21.0 13.5 33.5 29.5 27.5 27.0 25.5 23.5 21.0 19.5 11.0 9.0 29.5 27.0 25.5 25.0 <u>24.0</u> 23.0 20.5 18.0 15.5 10.5 8.0 27.5 25.5 24.5 24.0 23.0 22.0 20.0 17.0 15.0 10.5 7.5 24.0 23.5 22.5 21.0 19.5 17.0 15.0 13.5 10.0 7.5 22.0 21.0 20.5 19.0 18.5 17.5 15.5 14.5 13.0 7.5 17.0 16.5 <u>15.5</u> <u>14.5</u> 13.5 6.0 17.0 <u>16.5</u> 15.5 14.5 13.0 15.0 14.5 14.0 **12.5** 12.0 9.5 16.0 15.5 14.5 13.5 12.5 11.5 10.0 7.5 6.5 5.0 4.0 14.5 13.5 13.0 12.5 12.0 10.5 9.0 5.0 4.0 7.0 6.5

0	ROUNDS 0.50-0.69 01-JUNE-1										
	IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	SI3	- 11	12	13
D	78.0	60.5	48.0	44.0	41.0	33.0	28.0	27.0	22.0	20.5	13.0
Ε	59.5	51.5	41.5	40.5	37.0	31.5	24.5	24.0	20.5	19.0	12.0
F	51.5	46.5	40.5	38.5	35.5	30.5	24.0	21.5	19.5	18.0	12.0
G	44.5	41.0	38.0	36.5	33.0	29.0	23.5	21.0	19.0	16.5	11.0
Н	40.5	35.0	33.5	32.5	31.0	27.0	22.0	20.5	18.0	15.0	10.5
1	36.0	30.0	28.0	26.5	26.0	23.5	20.5	19.0	16.5	13.5	8.0
J	29.0	25.5	24.5	23.5	22.0	21.0	19.5	18.0	14.0	10.0	8.0
K	24.5	23.5	23.0	20.0	19.0	18.5	17.0	15.0	13.0	8.0	8.0
L	20.5	19.5	19.0	18.5	17.0	16.5	15.0	13.5	11.0	8.0	6.5
М	20.0	19.0	18.5	18.0	16.5	14.5	13.0	12.0	9.0	8.0	6.5
Ν	19.5	18.5	18.0	17.0	16.0	14.0	12.5	10.5	8.0	8.0	6.5

© ROUNDS 2.00-2.99 01-JUNE-1										IE-17	
	IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	SI3	- 11	12	13
D	487	374	310	273	201	159	124	90	73	43	21
Е	328	292	267	237	182	150	113	86	62	36	18
F	278	<u>270</u>	229	202	178	138	108	82	58	35	16
G	222	211	191	168	150	129	98	79	56	29	16
Н	179	166	152	146	131	114	96	76	56	27	16
1	130	129	120	114	107	97	84	70	53	26	15
J	109	101	93	89	88	84	74	63	50	24	15
K	88	82	80	74	73	67	58	53	46	16	15
L	82	74	70	62	59	53	50	44	33	16	14
M	68	66	61	58	50	48	43	37	28	16	14
N	61	60	59	57	47	42	37	30	26	16	13

Diamond price movements in May were in line with the previous two months, with relatively few changes in prices of round goods overall. There were declines of 3% in 0.50-0.69 carat goods in better colors and clarities, and increases in 2.00-2.39 carat goods in E-G colors in IF-VVS2 clarities.

**ROUNDS 0.40-0.44 CARATS** 

K-L / VS1-VS2 UP 3%

👖 D / SI1-SI2 DOWN 2%

**ROUNDS 0.50-0.69 CARATS** 

K/VVS2 UP 2%

E-I / IF-VVS2 DOWN 2-3%

ROUNDS 2.00-2.99 CARATS

E-H / IF-VVS2 UP 1-3%

N / SI1 DOWN 2%





#### FANCIES | JUNE 2017

## **PRICEREPORT**

01-JUNE-17 FANCIES 0.80-0.89 84.0 66.0 59.0 53.0 51.0 49.0 66.0 57.5 53.5 52.5 48.0 45.0 38.5 33.0 31.5 22.0 12.0 61.5 56.5 51.5 48.0 47.5 41.5 34.0 30.5 29.0 11.0 54.0 50.5 49.5 43.5 43.0 41.0 32.5 29.5 27.0 11.0 50.0 48.0 45.0 40.5 40.0 34.5 29.5 26.0 9.5 43.5 40.5 36.5 34.5 34.0 32.5 <u>27.0</u> 22.5 21.0 8.0 35.5 31.0 30.0 26.0 25.5 22.5 27.5 16.5 15.0 8.0 6.0 20.5 20.0 18.5 11.0 26.0 24.0 22.0 21.5 15.5 7.0 5.0 22.5 18.5 17.0 16.5 15.5 15.0 14.5 13.5 10.5 4.5 21.0 17.5 16.5 15.5 13.0 12.0 11.5 10.5 5.5 4.5 8.0 19.0 14.5 13.5 11.5 10.5

Ц	FANCIES 2.00-2.99 01-JUNE-17											
	IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	SI3	11	12	13	
D	352	281	246	208	173	142	109	77	60	34	19	
Ε	281	232	213	182	160	136	107	72	54	29	15	
F	228	201	188	162	152	130	103	69	44	26	12	
G	179	170	161	137	133	119	100	66	44	24	11	
н	142	127	120	112	110	99	86	60	44	23	11	
1	118	107	98	94	90	89	83	57	41	22	11	
J	90	84	78	77	76	75	66	52	35	21	10	
K	64	63	62	61	60	59	55	42	29	16	10	
L	54	53	52	49	48	46	38	31	23	15	10	
М	49	48	47	42	40	37	30	24	20	14	10	
Ν	43	41	38	36	30	28	26	22	19	13	9	

	FANCIES 3.00-3.99 01-JUNE-17										
	IF	VVS1	VVS2	VS1	VS2	SI1	SI2	SI3	l1	12	13
D	638	398	376	301	264	183	121	81	66	37	19
E	<u>424</u>	343	323	275	224	179	111	75	60	33	16
F	<u>347</u>	316	263	244	216	157	107	72	51	29	13
G	278	266	256	214	182	133	102	69	48	25	13
Н	230	222	198	169	144	113	100	61	46	23	12
1	169	162	154	138	122	103	87	60	42	22	12
J	142	123	120	111	94	87	75	55	37	22	11
К	90	89	88	85	80	68	57	43	29	19	10
L	66	65	58	57	56	48	39	32	23	16	10
N	56	53	48	47	45	38	34	26	23	14	10
Ν	44	42	39	37	31	29	28	24	21	13	9

In the fancy diamond sector, there were again few price movements as has been the case over the past two months, particularly for items of half a carat and below. Diamonds of 2.00-2.99-carats in a range of sizes and clarities saw declines, while 5.00-5.99 carat diamonds in G-J color and SI2-I2 clarities posted rises.

**FANCIES 0.80-0.89 CARATS** 

TD / SI3-I2 UP 2-3%

🛉 H / SI2-I1 DOWN 2-3%

FANCIES 2.00-2.99 CARATS

F / I2 UP 4%

D-I / IF-SI2 DOWN 2-3%

**FANCIES 3.00-3.99 CARATS** 

H-1 / SI3 UP 1-3%

H-I / IF-VVS1 DOWN 1-3%









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## GROWING NUMBER HISPANICS MARKET

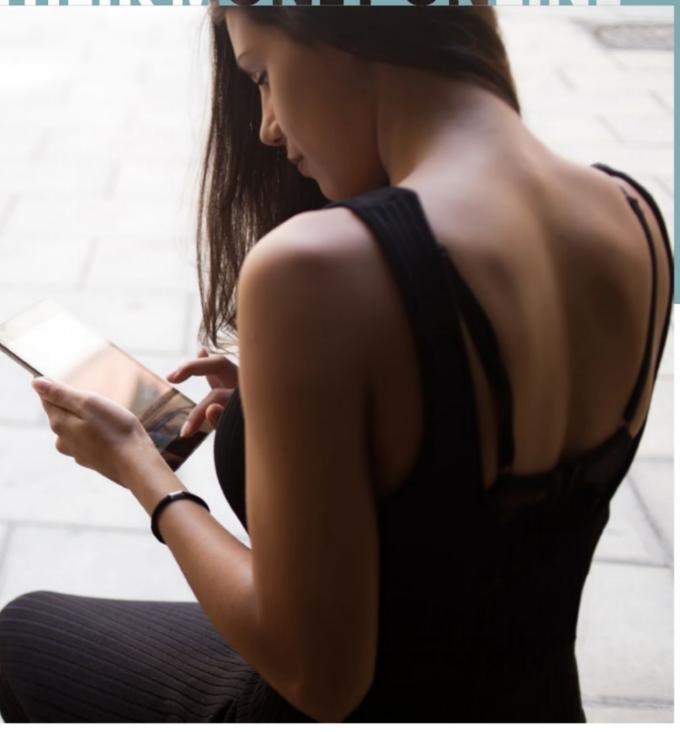
The United States' Hispanic population has become an important demographic for retailers, with its strength continuing to grow as the ethnic group becomes larger.

Hispanics account for 25 percent or more of all buying visits, in-store or online, in the jewelry, off-price and footwear specialty retail channels, according to a study carried out in recent years by two bodies, Univision and the NPD Group. Jewelry retailers included in the study were Kay Jewelers, Pandora, Zales, Fossil, Jared the Galleria of Jewelry, Cartier, Tiffany & Co. and similar industry businesses.

The research also showed that bilingual Hispanics spend 20 percent of their money online. That is higher than for white Americans of European descent, who spend 17 percent of their dollars online, and non-Hispanics, who spend 16 percent online. Hispanics spend an average of \$72 per online visit, higher than the total market average of \$68.



HISPANICS SPEND 20% OF THEIR MONEY ONLINE



"We know that Hispanics tend to have larger households and that shopping is a family affair, and we know this has a significant impact on what they buy, how they buy and where they buy," said Roberto Ruiz, executive vice president of strategy and insights at Univision Communications, which conducted The Hispanic Shopping Activity Service study alongside NPD Group.

Since the U.S. Hispanic population is growing rapidly, understanding Hispanic consumers is becoming ever more crucial to the long-term growth strategy for any retailer.

The NPD Group/Univision research also found that Hispanics are more than twice as likely as non-Hispanics to buy footwear, accessories, video games, sporting goods, music and software.

Furthermore, shoppers who are Spanish-language dominant, meaning they reported that Spanish is the primary language they use at home, spend more per buying visit than non-Hispanics, at \$61 compared to \$53.

"When bilingual and Spanish-language dominant consumers buy, they really buy," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at NPD Group. "Their shopping behaviors don't conform to the patterns of other Americans, and it's important for retailers and marketers to understand the differences"

The rise in the birthrate of the Hispanic population – and others such as the Asian community – has come as that of white Americans has declined in recent decades. Census Bureau data estimates that the U.S. Hispanic population topped 56 million as of 2015. Meanwhile, the Asian population grew to 15 million, or five percent of the population, while African-



Americans account for more than 38 million people, or about 12 percent. The white population is around 200 million, or 64 percent.

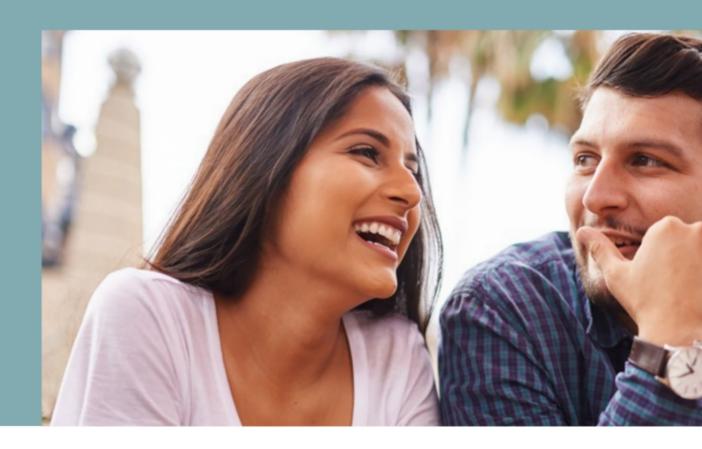
U.S. births have been the primary driving force behind the increase in the Hispanic population since 2000 and that trend has continued, while growth in the Asian-American population has been fueled primarily by immigration.

Marketers of jewelry and just about every other retail sector in the country are having to take a closer look at what this could mean for sales. Which are the new strategies required for the U.S. retail jewelry sector? What are the differences, if any, between the jewelry taste of minorities and the traditional jewelry choices seen since the end of the Second World War when De Beers launched its generic diamond promotion efforts worldwide?

Of course, the traditional, white, sector of the population, descended from European countries, remains the majority and is still the wealthiest part of the population. But it is not a



## HISPANICS TYPICALLY ENJOY SHOPPING AND SAVE LESS THAN THE NONHISPANIC WHITE POPULATION



group that can really be counted on by retailers in the coming 20-30 years in terms of looking for an expanding sector of the population. And that has implications not just for the advertising and marketing industries, but also for jewelry designers who will need to start providing younger designs with an ethnic bent.

A report from the Pew Research Center projects that immigration will propel the U.S. population total to 438 million by 2050, from around 320 million today. Along with this growth, the racial and ethnic profile of Americans will continue to shift - with non-Hispanic whites losing their majority status.

With little immigration and low fertility, the non-Hispanic white population is projected to edge from around 200 million now to 207 million by 2050, while the three other major racial and ethnic groups will see much more growth, rising from 90 million in 2005 to 228 million in 2050. The share of Non-Hispanic whites is slated to slip from 67 percent to 47 percent over the 45-year period. Indeed, they would decline in number by 2050, if not for immigration.

Despite the poor state of the economy

## THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT SELFPURCHASING IS GROWING AMONG HISPANIC CONSUMERS

in recent years, the size of the jewelry market has grown considerably due to the sheer numbers of consumers. And Hispanics typically enjoy shopping and save less than the non-Hispanic white population. The market is far too big for jewelers not to pay special attention to this segment of the population, but it also is far too diverse for a one-size-fits-all approach.

While much media and political attention goes to the social problem of millions of illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central America, who may not be in a position to spend on luxuries like jewelry for a long time,

their numbers are overshadowed by tens of millions of legal immigrants and families who trace their roots in the United States back generations and may have few culturally Hispanic markers other than their family names and the same kinds of sentimental ties to the Old Country that characterize Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans and other ethnic groups.

For MVI Marketing, a jewelry consulting group, carried out a study of the Hispanic retail jewelry market, and this question of acculturation is even more important than categorizing Hispanic consumers by country or region of origin, with all that the differences between Mexican, Central American, Cuban, Dominican, South American and Spanish cultures imply for retail buying behavior. The main ethnic focus of the survey was on consumers of Mexican heritage.

MVI President Liz Chatelain said the survey divided the Hispanic market into three broad categories of acculturation – newcomers, bicultural, where they have a foot in both countries, and people who identify themselves as 'Americans with Hispanic heritage' and are very acculturated.

These three groups "shift in what

they buy, who they buy from and how much they are willing to spend," Chatelain said. "For example, there is the question of loyalty to retail brands. People who come to America have more appreciation for luxury brand names. As they grow more acculturated, their loyalty shifts and they become more willing to look at diverse brands."

As Hispanic consumers become more adjusted to mainstream American culture, "they become more diamond-oriented, but are not necessarily willing to spend more," she added. "[Hispanic immigrants] don't necessarily come to America with the idea of the diamond engagement ring as a given, but wanting to be as Americanized as possible. They want to fit in, to assimilate, so they want the ring."

Some retail jewelry chains specialize in serving immigrants and those with low-to-medium levels of acculturation. "A lot of it is on credit," Chatelain said. "For the un- or low-acculturated consumer, that's a bonus, because it helps them establish credit." That's a benefit not to be taken lightly for a

segment of the population that has suffered a good deal from the down economy of recent years.

Daniel's, a southern California retail jewelry chain known for serving Hispanic consumers, aims at more acculturated consumers, and its president, David Sherwood of Sherwood Management, warned of the danger of stereotyping Hispanic consumers. "When we look at our customers, we segment them by needs and age, but not by whether they are Hispanic or not," he said. "There is no 'Spanish cut' of diamonds, there is no 'Spanish clarity.' The Hispanic customer likes the finest cut of diamond, just like anyone else."

Sherwood acknowledged that first-generation immigrants may come from the Old Country with certain buying habits and expectations, but he said other jewelry chains such as Don Roberto and La Curacao are set up to serve their needs. "But that's true if it's a Hispanic, Chinese or Korean customer. They are more used to a different way of doing business. But our customers are second generation

or later."

Chatelain stressed that brand loyalty is weaker among acculturated consumers of Hispanic heritage.

Among all respondents to MVI's survey, the most popular venue for buying fine jewelry was department stores, the choice of 39 percent. But the findings get more interesting when broken down by level of acculturation, with only 12.4 percent of consumers with a low level of acculturation choosing

to shop in regional or national retail jewelry chain stores, a level that rises to 18.7 percent for the bicultural group and 27 percent of those with a high level of acculturation. The most popular fine jewelry chain store among all respondents was Kay Jewelers at 32 percent, though again "the more acculturated they are, the more they shop there," closely followed by Zale's at 30 percent, Gordon's at 14 percent, Piercing Pagoda at 13 percent and

GROWING NUMBER OF HISPAN CHANGING U.S. JEWELRY MARKET | 35





HISPANIC
CULTURES
CONNECT
JEWELRY
PURCHASING
TO SPECIAL
OCCASIONS.

Helzberg Diamonds at 11 percent.

Jewelers of whatever size seeking to serve Hispanic consumers start with the important advantage that many Hispanic cultures connect jewelry purchasing to all kinds of special occasions. The quinceallera, or 15th-birthday party for girls, is one well-known life event, but births, 21st birthdays, high school and college graduations, golden and other significant wedding anniversaries, and even Easter can be jewelry buying occasions. Earrings are popular gifts, as are crosses set in pendants or earrings and religious medals for Easter and other religion-themed occasions, Chatelain said.

The problem remains that the retail

jewelry trade in general neglects the Hispanic market, failing to educate this important group of consumers even on such basics as the four C's. "Almost 41 percent [of the survey respondents] said they are 'extremely unfamiliar' with the four C's, 22 percent are 'somewhat unfamiliar' and only 18 percent are 'somewhat' or 'extremely familiar.' Only 10 percent of low-acculturated people understand the four C's."

As a consequence, many survey respondents said they buy even bridal jewelry at mass marketers like Wal-Mart, "because they don't really have a good knowledge of diamonds," Chatelain said. "I believe they're not spending as much as they would if they knew more. The industry is missing out. The diamond message is that the Hispanic consumer is not knowledgeable enough, so they are not comfortable buying and investing large amounts of money in this product category. No one takes time to educate them on the four C's; [survey respondents] didn't even know that insurance is available for jewelry."

The good news is that self-purchasing is growing among Hispanic consumers, and that coupled with jewelry-buying traditions for special occasions and the burgeoning size of the Hispanic

population can mean a growing market. But it won't grow without effort. "We haven't done as good a job as we could," Chatelain said.

Meanwhile, Phil Lempert from
Nielsen says the way to connect with
Hispanics is to address them as young,
passionate, and family-driven since
their growth rate is three times that of
the U.S. population overall. Two-thirds
of the Hispanic population are under
age 35, and they're 10 years younger
on average than the U.S. populace
overall, so their lifetime spending value
makes them a target for marketers.
Their collective buying power is
expected to grow by more than \$400
billion to around \$1.5 trillion.

They are proud to be seen as consumers, says Lempert, and are aspirational consumers. They have money and like to spend it, whether they need it or not. They buy on impulse and live in the moment. They spend on things they value, he noted. He advocates creating a value proposition for Hispanic consumers – not just for your product, but for your brands and for your company. Companies need to demonstrate that they care and that Hispanics are important to them.





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# RETAILRENDEZVOUS



# DESIGNER FOCUSES ON ONE-OF-A-KIND PIECES

Launching in 2007, **Goshwara** supplies one-of-a-kind pieces to a private clientele. This period allowed for the designer to grow and expose a different side of gemstones, she says. After the success of her exceptional piece line, Designer **Sweta Jain** decided to fill a void in the market for luxuriously fun pieces, enhancing **Goshwara** into a collection based brand.

**Goshwara** is now positioned in retailers around the country, offering over six collections varying in colors and silhouettes.





### HIGHLIGHTING RARE **GEMSTONES AND** DIAMONDS

Founded in 2014, VTse is a design house featuring beautifully crafted precious jewelry collections highlighting rare gemstones and diamonds.

Victoria Tse serves as the Founder, CEO and Creative Director. The VTse collection pieces feature colorful, rare precious and semiprecious gemstones with diamond accents available in platinum and 18K yellow, white and rose gold. Each VTse piece celebrates the natural beauty and vibrant hues of colored gemstones, as well as the unique cuts of these stones, Victoria says.



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# **IDEXO**nline Research



Total US Jewelry Sales up by 1.6% in March, Specialty Jewelers See Stronger Increase

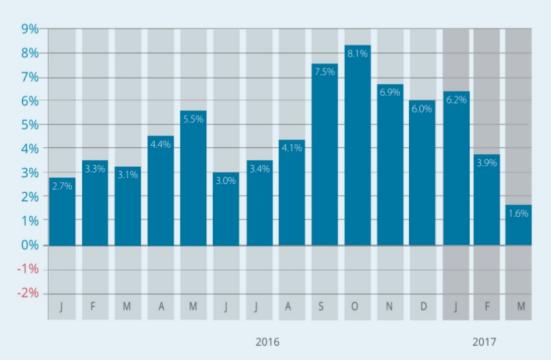
TOTAL SALES OF FINE JEWELRY AND FINE WATCHES IN THE U.S. MARKET ROSE BY AN ESTIMATED 1.6 PERCENT IN MARCH 2017 FROM THE YEAR BEFORE.

SPECIALTY JEWELERS, WHO GENERATE A MAJORITY OF THEIR BUSINESS FROM JEWELRY SALES, POSTED AN INCREASE IN SALES OF 3.3%.

OTHER RETAILERS WHO SELL JEWELRY – MOSTLY MULTI-LINE MERCHANTS SUCH AS WAL-MART, J.C. PENNEY AND OTHERS – POSTED A RISE OF JUST 0.5%.

TOTAL U.S. JEWELRY SALES ROSE BY 1.6% IN MARCH, WHILE TOTAL SALES OF FINE JEWELRY AND FINE WATCHES ON THE YEAR WERE \$5.5 BILLION.





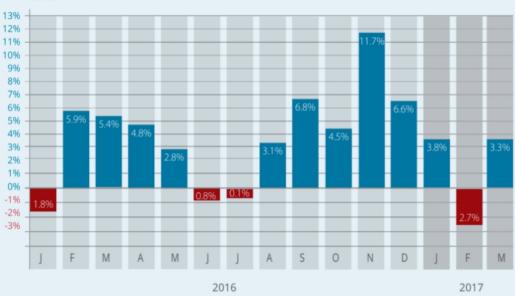
**US TOTAL IEWELRY &** WATCH SALES **TRENDS** 2016 - 2017 % Change Y/Y

Source: US Dept. of Commerce



#### SPECIALTY JEWELERS' SALES RISE IN MARCH

SPECIALTY IEWELERS' SALES DURING MARCH WERE AN ESTIMATED \$2.3 BILLION, COMPARED WITH \$2.58 BILLION IN MARCH 2016.



**US SPECIALTY IEWELERS** SALES TRENDS 2016 - 2017 % Change Y/Y

Source: US Dept. of Commerce

#### JEWELRY'S SHARE OF WALLET WAS UP SHARPLY IN MARCH

TOTAL U.S. JEWELRY SALES ROSE BY 1.6 PERCENT IN MARCH. THIS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE AVERAGE RETAIL SALES (ALL RETAIL CATEGORIES) POSTED BY ALL U.S. RETAIL MERCHANTS WERE DOWN 0.2%. AS A RESULT, THE U.S. JEWELRY INDUSTRY TOOK SHARE OF WALLET FROM OTHER RETAIL MERCHANTS.

#### **OUTLOOK OPTIMISTIC FOR 2017 JEWELRY SALES**

WHILE CHAIN-STORE IEWELERS HAVE BEEN REPORTING GENERALLY SOFT SALES FOR THE MOST RECENT FISCAL QUARTER ENDED JANUARY 2017, INDEPENDENT IEWELERS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN REPORTING STRONGER SALES GAINS. OUR PRELIMINARY FORECAST FOR JEWELRY SALES GAINS IN THE U.S. MARKET FOR 2017 IS A GAIN IN THE FOUR-PERCENT RANGE, YEAR-OVER-YEAR.

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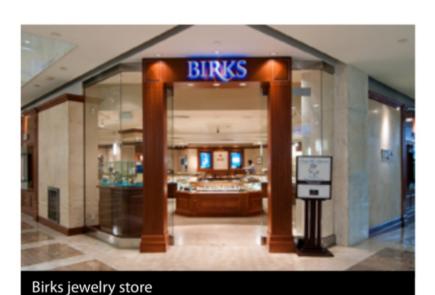
# RETAILNEW

#### STORNOWAY LAUNCHES QUEBEC DIAMOND SALES WITH BIRKS

Stornoway Diamond Corporation carried out the first sale of Quebec-mined diamonds at a launch event hosted by Birks at its Montreal flagship store.

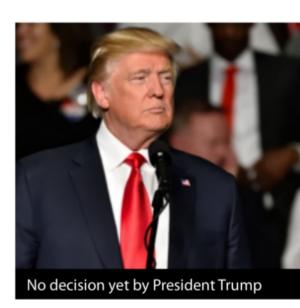
The heads of Birks and Stornoway invited guests to view a collection of diamonds up to 10 carats in size at the event.

READ MORE >>>



JEWELER TIFFANY TO TRUMP: KEEP US IN PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE DFAL

Luxury jeweler Tiffany & Co. appealed to President Trump to keep the United States in the Paris Climate Agreement.







#### SIGNET RESOLVES EEOC CASE ON PAY AND PROMOTIONS

Signet Jewelers Limited, the largest jewelry retailer in the United States, reached an agreement with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to resolve all claims related to the pay and promotion of female retail sales employees at the company in EEOC v. Sterling Jewelers Inc.

READ MORE >>>

# PANDORA: 9% REVENUE GROWTH IN Q1, AMERICAS DOWN

Pandora reported that group revenue in Q1 of this year increased by 9 percent (8 percent in local currency) on the year to \$760 million, in line with the firm's expectations of single digit growth. Revenue from Pandora-owned outlets increased by 39 percent, while like-for-like store sales were 8 percent higher.







#### LUXURY GROUP KERING'S SALES GROWTH SURGES PAST ESTIMATES

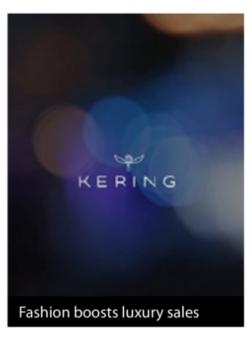
Luxury goods group Kering SA reported first-quarter revenue significantly beyond analysts' estimates, with fashion brands Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent showing strong growth.

READ MORE >>>

## JA APPLAUDS RE-INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN SALES TAX FAIRNESS BILLS

Jewelers of America (JA), the national trade association for businesses serving the fine jewelry marketplace, has welcomed "the growing momentum toward passage of sales tax fairness on Capitol Hill". The Remote Transactions Parity Act was reintroduced in the House of Representatives, while the Senate has reintroduced the Marketplace Fairness Act, aimed at creating a level playing field among all retailers.







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# OLISHEDNEWS



### DE BEERS TO AUCTION POLISHED MADE FROM **OWN ROUGH**

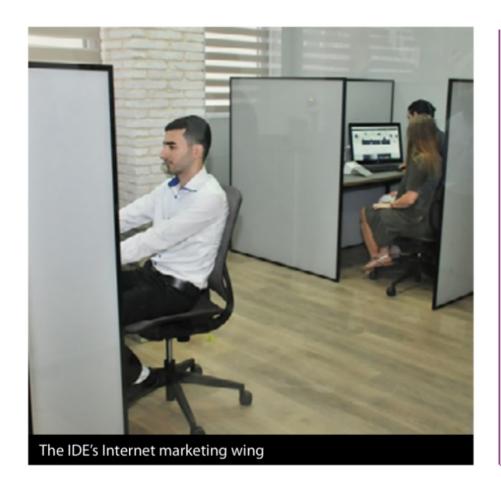
De Beers' Auction Sales business will pilot the sale of its own polished diamonds using auctions for the first time. The sale will comprise a wide range of polished stones manufactured directly from its rough diamonds.

READ MORE >>>



#### WORLD DIAMOND MARK TO HOLD LAUNCH EVENT AT JCK SHOW

The World Diamond Mark Foundation (WDM) will launch Part of You™, its global diamond retailer promotion campaign, and its new B2C website: www.passion.diamonds at JCK LUXURY in Las Vegas on June 4.



# ISRAEL DIAMOND EXCHANGE OPENS INTERNET MARKETING WING

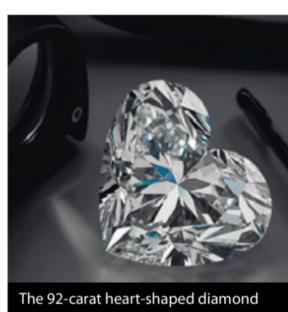
The Israel Diamond Exchange (IDE) has opened a new wing dedicated to promoting internet marketing among its members.

It is the latest Israeli diamond industry electronic commerce initiative which signals a new direction for the industry, the exchange said in a statement released to the media.

READ MORE >>>

# HEART-SHAPED DIAMOND SOLD BY CHRISTIE'S SETS \$15M AUCTION RECORD

La Legende, a heartshaped diamond, bought for just under \$15 million at Christie's in Geneva in mid-May, set a new record for a heart-shaped diamond sold at auction, the well-known auctioneer said in a statement.



#### POLISHED > NEWS

### ISRAFI I DIAMOND **INDUSTRY TO** HAVE STRONG PRESENCE AT ICK SHOW

The Israeli diamond industry will again be among the largest international groups exhibiting at the June 5-8 JCK Show in Las Vegas, the Israel Diamond Institute (IDI) said in a statement.





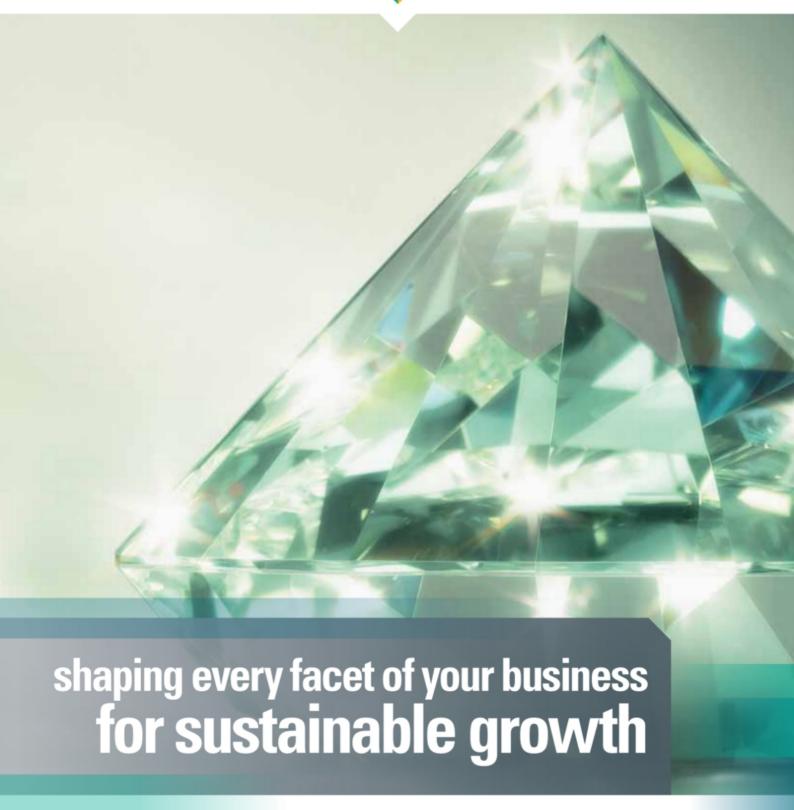
The Israel diamond pavilion at last year's JCK Show

#### APOLLO AND ARTEMIS DIAMONDS: RECORD PRICE FOR EARRINGS SOLD AT AUCTION

The Apollo and Artemis Diamonds have become the most valuable earrings ever sold at auction, selling at Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels in Geneva for a total of \$57,425,478.

The diamonds were acquired by an anonymous buyer who renamed them The Memory of Autumn Leaves and The Dream of Autumn Leaves.





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## **POLISHEDPRICES**



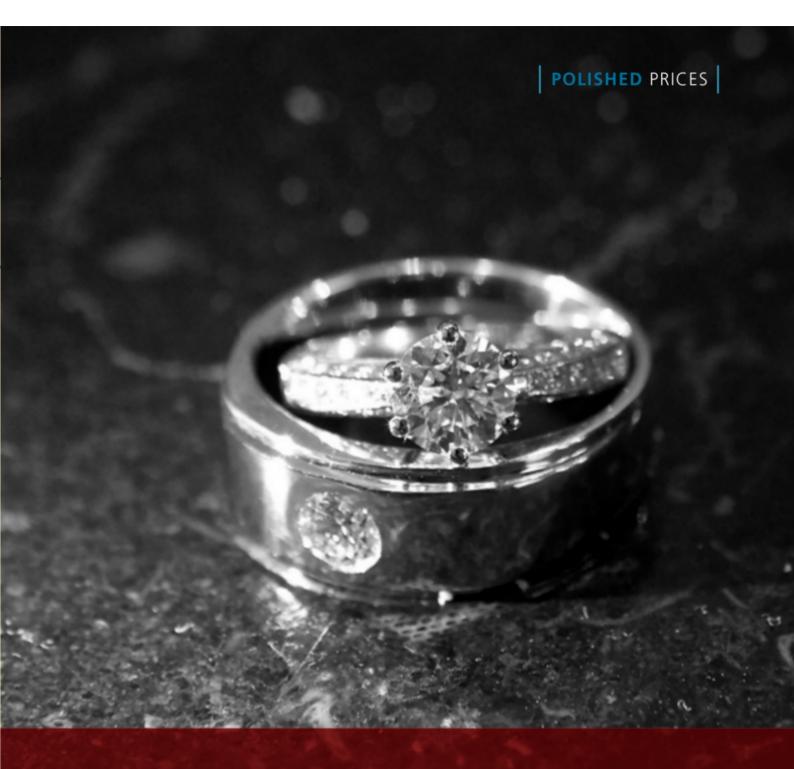
# Polished Diamond Prices Flat in May

IN MAY, THE IDEX POLISHED DIAMOND PRICE INDEX WAS ALMOST UNCHANGED. THE INDEX BEGAN THE MONTH AT 119.49 AND ENDED AT 119.33.



## DAILY IDEX POLISHED DIAMOND PRICE INDEX

ON A MONTH-TO-MONTH BASIS, GLOBAL POLISHED DIAMOND PRICES IN MAY SAW A DECREASE OF 0.7 PERCENT OVER APRIL



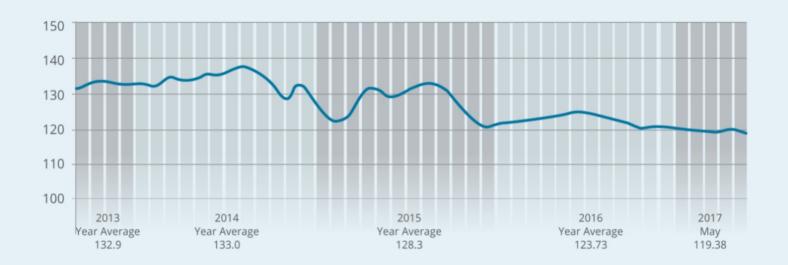
ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS, THE AVERAGE PRICE IN MAY SHOWED A **4.7-PERCENT DECREASE**.

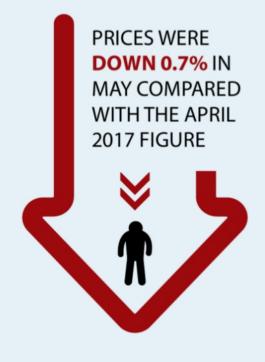
ON A MONTH-TO-MONTH BASIS – COMPARING PRICES DURING MAY 2017 TO APRIL 2017 – ALL SIZES OF DIAMONDS FELL.

#### POLISHED PRICES

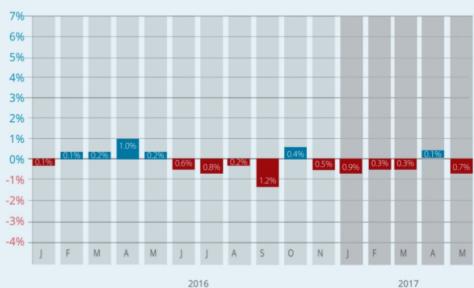
#### IDEX ONLINE POLISHED DIAMOND PRICE INDEX

POLISHED DIAMOND PRICES HAVE BEEN DECLINING SINCE THE MIDDLE OF LAST YEAR AND THAT CONTINUED TO BE THE CASE IN MAY.





#### **IDEX DIAMOND POLISHED PRICE TRENDS**



ON A MONTH-TO-MONTH BASIS –
COMPARING PRICES DURING MAY 2017 TO
APRIL 2017 – ALL SIZES OF DIAMONDS FELL.



ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS, THERE WAS ONE RISER AND FIVE DECLINERS.



#### **OUTLOOK**

The May De Beers sight was the first in the new ITO (Intention to Offer). While the assortments were pretty stable, the sight was not a large one, according to Bluedax. In general, allocations fell for most customers with De Beers making it clear to its clients they should not sell the rough allocated for production in Africa to the international market. Sightholders have a greater production capacity, which accounts for the increase in demand. Even though rough prices are increasing - and even goods sold at tenders are selling at high prices - polished prices are currently stable, without any signs of an increase. As a result, manufacturers are once again not making any profit. In the secondary market, there were fewer goods available which pushed premiums higher.



# The African Connection The Giant Leap of Africa's Gem Business

It is always a thrill to go on a gem-buying spree, isn't it? It is especially so when one travels to the source in search of newly unearthed wonders. A few weeks ago, my son Kobi and I did just that. We traveled to Arusha, Tanzania, to attend the beautiful gem show, auction and gathering in the charming Mount Meru Hotel - the Arusha International Gem. Jewelry & Minerals Fair.

Many miners, dealers and cutters had gathered to display the wonders of Tanzania. Numerous types of gems

were on display, the foremost, of course, being Tanzanite, the queen of all Tanzanian gems. They were there in abundance, from chunks of beads and cabochons in the kilos, to superfine rough and polished gems.

Conversely, chrome tourmaline appeared only in very small quantities and was in great demand. We were told that mining has been hectic and not much rough is being extracted from the mines. Tourmaline of other colors, including "regular" green, pink, red and

earth tones, seemed to be available, though.

Beautiful garnets of all colors were on display, from various qualities of rhodolites, to Malaya, to golden sparkling spessartite and amazing new vivid purple garnets. Mind you, these purple gems were not at all cheap.

Both Tsavorite and green grossular garnets, like the chrome tourmaline, were rarely seen during the show, but wherever they appeared, they were snapped up for quite high prices and were sold immediately (some of them to us, thank goodness).

Other gems, such as aquamarine, iolite and many more, actually did pretty well and sold rather nicely, and pink and purple spinels from both Mozambique and Mahenge created a lot of interest.

Truly lovely gems were listed for auction, comprising various qualities of Tanzanite rough and amethyst. Unfortunately, we did not win any of the bids for any of the items, but despite that, we were not disappointed. We bought well at the show, as well as from the dealers' offices later, which more than compensated for that.

All in all, the show was beautifully prepared, including the events and the

presentations, everything in line with what one would expect from a modern, world-class industry. I took some time to watch the attending dealers, miners and visitors around me and saw some good old friends, whom I've known and cherished for many years. I suddenly realized that we all had our cell phones in our hand, talking and connecting around the globe ... which brought happy memories to mind.

I still recall the first time I set foot in Africa way back in the mid-seventies. I can vividly remember the first lots of amethysts, which were shown to me in a desolate hut in the Kalomo area of Zambia. Their "Siberian purple" colors have continued to startle me and my customers for many years since. Exporting these gems to Idar-Oberstein was a feat, which literally meant spending weeks at the customs' offices in Lusaka.

But life was simple then. I would often set off to visit my suppliers in Africa without receiving their confirmations on time on my telegraph or telex communiquals letting them know I am coming. I would phone home from Africa once a week and only after booking a call from the post office. I can



#### GEMEWIZARD



still hear myself on the phone trying to describe to my customers the amethyst gems I found for them, while being charged \$30 per minute for the call.

And here I am, four decades plus later, in this amazing age of technology. The Arusha fair exemplifies how far we have all come. This once seemingly remote place is thriving, as was clearly seen by the wide accessibility of visitors from all around the globe and the ease of connectivity to the world from the computers and smart phones via the Internet.

To illustrate this even further, here is a small anecdote. Just a few months ago, while I was walking peacefully along the waterfront in my hometown, my son Kobi called me on my cell phone on a WhatsApp video call from the tanzanite mine in the Merelani Hills, Tanzania, thousands of miles away. He was holding a beautiful crystal of tanzanite and asked me what I thought of it. "It weighs 35 grams," he said, "and they want \$350 per gram for it. Do you think it's OK?"

I found a chair to sit on in the street and asked him to tilt it and turn it around so that I could see the rough on my iPhone screen from all angles.

I also asked him to send me the photo image of the gem taken on the MyGemewizard App on his phone and color-analyzed by it. After a couple of minutes, I told him that in my opinion, it should not cost more than \$300. The next 5 minutes were spent haggling back and forth between my son and the dealer and, as haggling goes, the middle ground was reached and we finally bought it for \$325 per gram. The next day it was exported and reached our offices two days later.

If this is not the new world of trading, I do not know what is! Not even James Bond, the famous super spy, a.k.a. 007, could have done this years ago! So, dear Arusha, I salute you for the long road that you have come!

**About Gemewizard®:** Gemewizard® is a pioneer in the development of digital color-based systems, which provide solutions for professionals involved in the fancy color diamond, colored gemstone and jewelry industries, enabling the analysis, description, communication, pricing and trading of color in gems. The suite of products developed by Gemewizard® is based on the company's groundbreaking color communication technology called GemeSquare™, which has been endorsed by GIA, and since 2006, has been incorporated into the GIA® curriculum.





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# ININGNEWS

#### TRANSATLANTIC GEM SALES SELLS 50,000 CARATS OF ROUGH AT DUBAI **TENDER**

The Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) has completed the first of six tenders scheduled for 2017, with the sale of 50,000 carats of rough goods by Trans Atlantic Gem Sales (TAGS). Mike Aggett of TAGS, DMCC CEO Gautam Sashittal and Trans Hex Chairman Marco Wentzel were present for the sale at the DDE.

#### READ MORE >>>



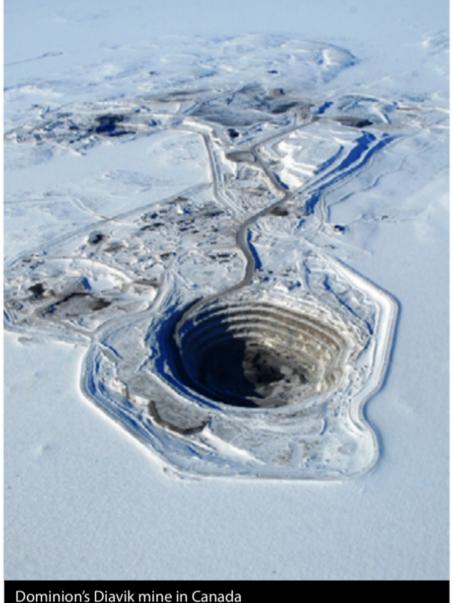
Mike Aggett, Gautam Sashittal and Marco Wentzel

#### STORNOWAY: 1 MILLION CARATS PRODUCED AT **RENARD**

Stornoway Diamond Corporation announced the production of one million carats of diamonds at the Renard diamond mine in Quebec.



#### MINING > NEWS



### DOMINION DIAMONDS' SHARES SURGE ON CANADA PENSION FUND **BID REPORT**

Shares in Dominion Diamond Corp rose in mid-May after a media report said that the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) is considering a bid for the miner and is studying its finances. Neither party commented on the report.





DE BEERS - \$520M OF ROUGH SOLD AT **FOURTH SIGHT** 

De Beers sold rough diamonds with a provisional value of \$520 million in the fourth sales cycle (Global Sightholder Sales and Auction Sales) of 2017.



LUCARA'S FIRST

### **EXCEPTIONAL STONE** TENDER OF 2017: \$54.8M

Lucara Diamond Corp. said its first Exceptional Stone Tender of Karowe diamonds in 2017, and its eleventh since mining began in 2012, totaling 1,765.72 carats, raised \$54.8 million (\$31,010 per carat).

READ MORE >>>



ALROSA employees pre-sorting rough diamonds

#### ALROSA: DROP IN ROUGH SALES ON YEAR TO \$1.7B IN IAN-APRII

Russian diamond mining monopoly ALROSA reported a 12.5-percent decline on the year in rough diamond sales in value terms in the first four months of this year to \$1.7 billion. In volume terms, the firm sold 16.9 million carats of rough and polished diamonds, a rise of 7 percent on January-April 2016.





#### JONATHAN KENDALL

Name: Jonathan Kendall

**Position:** President

#### **Company Name:**

International Institute of Diamond Grading and Research (IIDGR)

### Size of Business:

Confidential

### **Years in Business:**

Launched in 2011

#### **Business Philosophy:**

To maintain trade and consumer confidence in diamonds.

# **PROFILE**

#### WHAT SETS YOUR COMPANY APART FROM OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY?

Innovation and technology

#### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS IN THE FUTURE?

Significant growth via global expansion. A broader product range to support midstream and downstream businesses in the industry.

#### WHAT MAKES YOU MOST PROUD ABOUT YOUR COMPANY?

We have built a very strong reputation in six years for our detection equipment, our verification and grading services, and, this year, our new education programs.

#### WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT BUSINESS. DECISION YOU HAVE EVER HAD TO MAKE?

Removing clients from list of sightholders when I was head of De Beers' rough diamond sales.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST RISK YOU HAVE EVER TAKEN?

Sky-diving. In business, being the first outsider to join De Beers at a senior level in 2001.

### WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

In any job, do your best, even if it is not what you had hoped to be doing. Perform to the best of your abilities in in everything in life.

#### WHAT IS YOUR BEST BUSINESS TIP?

Be entrepreneurial and take risks.

### WHO OR WHAT OTHER BUSINESS OR BUSINESS PEOPLE INSPIRE YOU?

Amazon, Apple, Dyson and Virgin.

IF YOU HAD ONLY ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Entrepreneurial.

### WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?

Success, and the people with whom I work across the whole diamond industry.

#### WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?

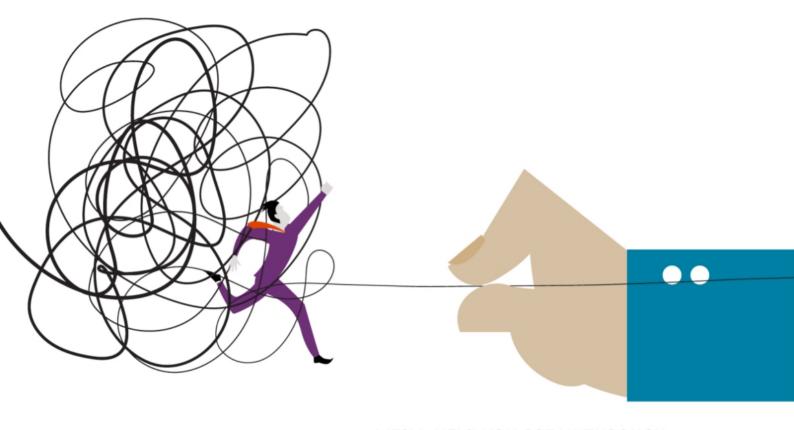
Spend time with family and friends.

#### WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?

I'm seriously enjoying my current position so, for now, that's close to a dream job. I'd like to set up and develop new businesses in the green economy as I am passionate about the planet. I would also like to run a charity later on in life, especially to help children in Africa.

>>> www.iidgr.com

## TRAPPED BY INDUSTRY REGULATIONS & COMPLIANCE?



#### WE'LL HELP YOU BREAK THROUGH.

Non-compliance with regulations can catch a company completely off guard. Being reactive is costly – both financially and to your reputation. JVC membership allows you to be proactive. Our staff attorneys are experts in jewelry industry regulations and compliance and are ready to assist you or your internal legal staff at any time.

BECOME A MEMBER OF JVC.

To join, call 212.997.2002 or visit jvclegal.com





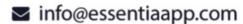


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