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News

Fancy Color Diamond Index: Strong demand for fancy blue diamonds in Q3

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As the diamond industry gears up for its hot selling holiday season, fancy coloured diamond prices are holding steady. According to the Fancy Color Diamond Index, prices of these diamonds remained stable during the third quarter of 2015, at a time when white diamond prices showed declines of 6 to 10 percent. The best performing fancy coloured diamonds were vivid blues, which showed price increases of up to 6 percent over the previous quarter, the Fancy Color Research Foundation (FCRF) said in a press release.

The Fancy Color Diamond Index is published by the non-profit FCRF, and tracks pricing data for yellow, pink and blue fancy coloured diamonds in three key global trading centers – Hong Kong, New York and Tel Aviv.

Between July and September 2015, the Fancy Color Diamond Index remained practically unchanged, despite lower transaction volumes. Yellow diamond prices, especially in the Fancy category, were soft and declined by up to 2 percent. Blue diamonds showed average price rises of up to 2 percent, driven by the Vivid category, with certain sizes (1.5 carats, 2 carats and 5 carats) increasing by 5 to 6 percent over the previous quarter. This marks the most significant quarterly price increase for blue diamonds in the last 12 months. Prices for pink diamonds were on average unchanged.

On a year-on-year basis, when compared to Q3 2014, blue diamonds have been the strongest performer among all colour categories with a 3 to 4 percent price appreciation. The highest single-category year-on-year price increase was for 5-carat Vivid blue diamonds at 11 percent.

“Demand for blue diamonds may have been magnified by the excitement being generated by the upcoming Sotheby’s auction headlined by the ‘Blue Moon,’ one of the world’s important fancy vivid blue diamonds. This has caused increased demand against a shortage of fancy blue diamonds,” FCRF Advisory Board Chairman Eden Rachminov said.

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