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New data has found that India exported more polished lab-created diamond carats than natural diamond, a significant symbolic shift for the global jewellery trade. | Source: Shutterstock

Tipping the scales: New milestone for lab-created diamonds

Posted June 02, 2026 | By Jeweller Staff

New data has found that India exported more polished lab-created diamond carats than natural diamond, a significant symbolic shift for the global jewellery trade.

According to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), lab-created diamond exports increased by 31 per cent to 18.84 million carats in the year ending March 2026. In contrast, natural diamond exports declined by 4 per cent to 16 million carats.

"As recent trends suggest, consumer demand in natural diamonds continues to move upscale. It is possible that lab-grown diamond exports crossed the 50 per cent threshold earlier, although historical volume data is not yet available," writes industry analyst Edahn Golan of [Tenoris](#).

"The more important question is not exactly when it happened, but why.

"This reflects a weakness in the positioning of natural diamonds. When consumers want a diamond, yet prefer a factory-made product in order to save money rather than purchase a smaller natural diamond, it points to a blind spot in natural diamond marketing. What appears to be missing is strong status positioning for natural diamonds.

"For lab-grown diamonds, the message of 'we are the same as natural diamonds' successfully exploited that blind spot."

Around a decade ago, India exported just 10,000 carats of polished lab-created diamonds between 2015 and 2016, compared with far higher volumes today.

According to the report, despite losing volume leadership to lab-created diamonds, natural diamonds continue to dominate in value, reflecting a significant price difference – about \$USD760 (\$AUD1,060) per carat for natural diamonds compared with about \$USD60 (\$AUD83) per carat for lab-created diamonds.

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