

Stronger diamond market boosts Alrosa's Q1 sales

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Russian diamond miner Alrosa reported a stronger sales performance in the first quarter of 2017 compared to late 2016 on the back of steady demand from major markets.

Cost-control programmes also played a significant role in the company's first-quarter performance, [noted](#) Sergey Ivanov, CEO of Alrosa.

"Q1 2017 was another period of sustainable growth in the global diamond market, which is not over yet. Our sales almost reached RUB 85 billion (US\$1.4 billion), up 40 percent from the previous quarter, regardless of the strong ruble," remarked Ivanov. "Due to a more robust diamond market, we have increased year-to-date rough diamond prices by 3 percent."

He said recovery in India's diamond demand helped the company destock substantially, with inventories dropping from 19.4 million carats to 13.7 million carats. "We delivered better results due to the recovery of demand from Indian rough diamond consumers after a temporary decline caused by the monetary reform. The company's margins were affected by the ruble appreciation. But what I would like to emphasise here is the success of our cost-control programme, which ensured a minimum increase in our production costs," added Ivanov.

Diamond sorting at Alrosa

