

source – with rough production sold at \$805.24/ct in 2013, compared with \$552.87/ct in 2012.

Many other African countries fetched prices of more than \$250/ct for their rough diamonds, including Lesotho, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

The diamond production from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the world's cheapest, with rough selling at \$8.84/ct. In terms of volume, the DRC is the world's third-largest producer, with 15.68-million carats produced in 2013.

Zimbabwe, which joined the league of diamond mining heavyweights only a few years ago, registered a sharp drop in its production in 2013. Output declined by 16% year-on-year to \$538.5-million. Its volume of production eased 14% to 10.41-million carats and its average rough prices declined 3% to \$51.72/ct.

Zimbabwe diamond miners have complained that the quality of diamonds at their mines is declining and requested that government allocate new concessions. China-owned Anjin, which is the largest diamond miner in the 85 000 ha Marange field, reported in March 2014 that the company was in survival mode, as it recovered only low-grade diamonds that were not worth much on the market. Anjin is one of seven diamond mining companies operating in Marange. Some of the mining firms claim alluvial deposits are running out and that they are required to invest in new technology to switch to conglomerate and kimberlitic diamond mining, which takes place in deep underground mines.

Industry analysts estimate that production will increase by between 3% and 6% in 2014, led by the new production from Russia and a recovery in the DRC. The year will mark the first full 12 months of production at LUKoil's four-million-carat-a-year Grib mine, in Russia. Gem Diamonds also commissioned a new mine in Botswana, Ghaghoo, in mid-2014.

The largest new diamond mine set to enter production in the near future is the Gahcho Kué project, in Canada's Northwest Territories, which De Beers is developing in partnership with a Canadian junior. The operation is expected to produce four-million carats a year by the end of 2017.

Stornoway Diamonds is also developing the Renard project, in Canada, which will produce between 1.5-million to 2-million carats a year when it enters production in 2017.

Together, Gahcho Kué and Renard will more than double Canada's diamond output. Independent analyst Paul Zimnisky estimates the two new mines will increase the country's share of the global market to 25.2% in value, and 15.1% in volume by 2018.

Other large-scale commercial mines scheduled to start operations in the next four years include Lace, in South Africa; Liqobong, in Lesotho; Botuobinskaya, in Russia; and Bunder, in India.

The Lace mine, which DiamondCorp is developing, will ultimately produce 500 000 ct/y and is scheduled to start production in late 2015. Alrosa owns the Botuobinskaya mine, which will produce 1.5-million carats a year. The mine is nearing completion and will start operations in the middle of 2015. Rio Tinto is advancing studies on the Bunder project and should the company move ahead with mine development, the mine will enter production in 2017, with a production profile of 700 000 ct/y.

Petra Diamonds is also expanding its existing mines in Africa, which will increase its production by two-million carats a year by 2019.

Reports by De Beers, McKinsey & Company and Bain & Company, as well as other industry participants, all point to a projected decline in diamond production in the second half of the decade.

Bain & Company is forecasting peak diamond production of 169-million carats in 2018, after which it estimates

Top diamond-producing countries 2013

Country ranking in terms of volume				Country ranking in terms of value			
Rank	Country	Volume (ct)		Rank	Country	Value (\$)	
1	Russia	37.88-million	↑	1	Botswana	3.63-billion	↑
2	Botswana	23.19-million	↑	2	Russia	3.11-billion	↑
3	DRC	15.68-million	↓	3	Canada	1.91-billion	↓
4	Australia	11.73-million	↑	4	Namibia	1.36-billion	↑
5	Canada	10.56-million	↑	5	Angola	1.28-billion	↑
6	Zimbabwe	10.41-million	↓	6	South Africa	1.19-billion	↑
7	Angola	9.36-million	↑	7	Zimbabwe	538.48-million	↑
8	South Africa	8.14-million	↑	8	Australia	381.14-million	↓
9	Namibia	1.69-million	↑	9	Lesotho	242.15-million	↓
10	Sierra Leone	0.61-million	↑	10	Sierra Leone	184.48-million	↑

Compiled from Kimberley Process Certification Scheme data