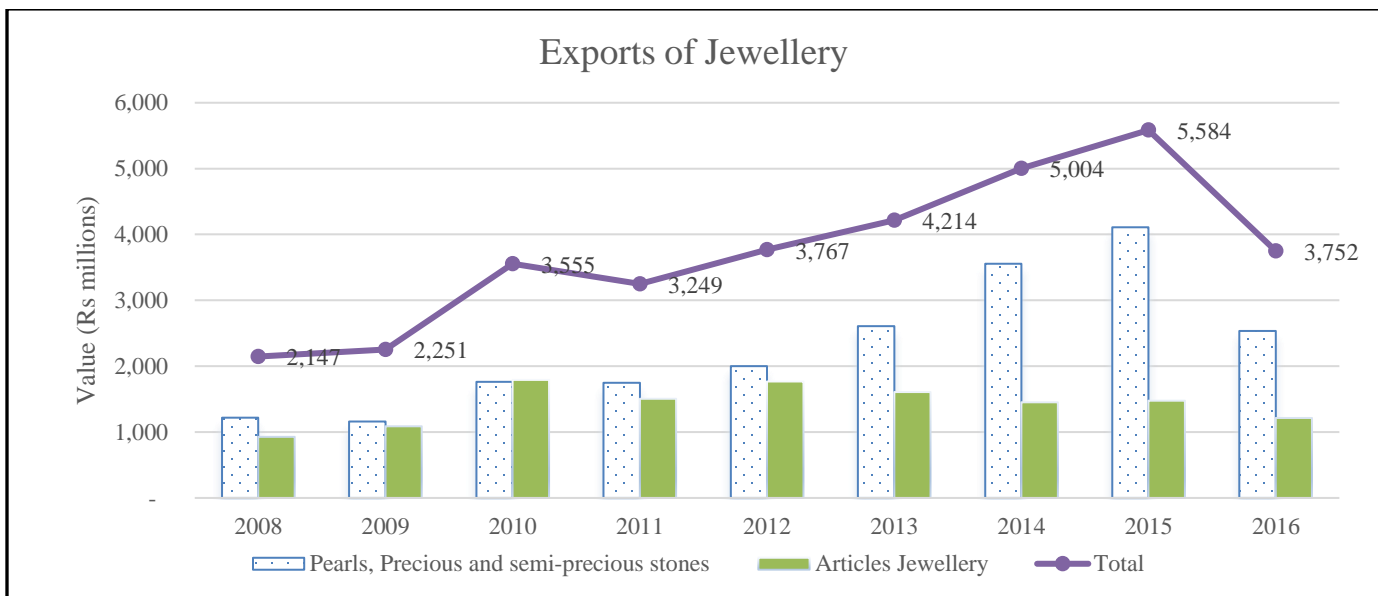


## Jewellery Sector

The Jewellery Sector is the third export pillar of the manufacturing sector. Despite the global economic uncertainties and the high price of gold, exports have shown much resilience. For the period 2008 to 2015, Jewellery exports grew steadily from Rs. 2.147 bn to Rs. 5.52 bn registering an average annual growth of 23%. However, in 2016, exports of jewellery products witnessed a decline of Rs. 1.77 bn which is mainly attributed to the decrease in export of higher carat of diamonds and lower export price of articles of jewellery.



Jewellery products are exported to the following markets:

- (i) 53% to Vietnam which has emerged as the main export destination for semi-finished diamond which are further processed and re-exported to the USA
- (ii) France (15%); exports comprising primarily articles of jewellery
- (iii) United States of America (9%)
- (iv) Belgium (9%)
- (v) Switzerland (6%) among other countries

The main products exported from Mauritius are jewellery chains, cut and polished diamond or set, imitation jewellery of base metal, synthetic and semi-precious stones, jewellery and parts of silver among others.

The Government has identified the Jewellery sector as one of the priority sectors in the manufacturing industry as having a good scope for development. The 2017/2018 budgetary measures address some of the most pressing issues impeding the development of the Jewellery sector.

- **Addressing acute shortage of labour: Government will relax the criteria and speed up the processes for SMEs and cooperatives to employ foreign labour.**

The Manufacturing sector is at crossroads where skilled manpower is concerned. Local workforce is not attracted to this industry and this has caused a bane to the growth of the manufacturing sector. There is an acute shortage of skilled workers in the Jewellery Sector. The younger generation is not attracted to blue collar jobs. This has been the situation for more than 15 years. There is great demand of several categories of skills in the Jewellery industry ranging from unskilled to highly technical labour requirements. This budgetary measure will provide a great relief to Jewellery Manufacturers amongst other manufacturing enterprises. It is considered as a quick convenient solution which will allow SMEs to be more competitive.



- **Speed to market scheme extended to the Jewellery sector**

One of the challenges for Exports Oriented Companies is to deliver the right product at a competitive price and On-time. Mauritius being isolated from its main markets, is bound to offer a competitive freight cost. It is important to note that jewellery products are exported by air only. The budget 2017/18 has announced the extension of the Speed-To-Market Scheme for the jewellery sector which will definitely act as a booster to encourage more exports.

- **3D Printing Services in the Jewellery Sector**

The setting up of 3D Printing Service Centre at the National Computer Board will be a major boost for SME jewellery manufacturers. This support will enable jewellery manufacturers to produce prototypes rapidly compared to traditional manufacturing methods. Complex designs can be uploaded from a CAD model and printed in a few hours which will enable rapid verification and development of design ideas.

- **Transfer of the School of Jewellery to the Fashion Design Institute**

The transfer of the School of Jewellery from MITD to the Fashion Design Institute will aim addressing skills mismatch in the Jewellery sector. The initiative will enable the School of Jewellery to be more industry driven.

