Press release no. 8

GOLD - JEWELLERY SECTOR: INDUSTRY GROWTH TOWED BY EXPORTS

In the first six months of 2019, exports registered an overall increase of + 6.2%. The districts of Alessandria (+10.1%), Arezzo (+11.4%) and Vicenza (+3.4%) are growing

Vicenza (Italy), 17th to 22nd January 2020 – While waiting for all the new ideas that will be presented at Vicenzaoro January 2020, the Italian Exhibition Group event which will see the entire international gold and jewellery production chain gather at Vicenza Expo Centre, Confindustria Fashion's Research Centre, in collaboration with Federorafi, traces the progress of exports, the main driving force of the Italian manufacturing industry, over the first six months of 2019.

As emerges from the data processed for Federorafi by Confindustria Fashion's Research Centre, jewellery exports grew in the first six months by +6.2%. From a geographical viewpoint, Switzerland, the main outlet for export values, saw a change of pace recording a drop pf -6.5% after having grown in the first 6 months of 2018. The Arab Emirates showed an increase of +18.5%, with positives results also from Hong Kong (+4.8%) and the United States (+7.1%). The good performances of the first six months of 2018 were scarred by a downturn in exports to the United Kingdom in 2019. In the EU area, Germany and Spain were both favourable. Canada was still in great form with a +66.3% increase. It should be remembered that this country applies the CETA free trade agreement ("0" tariffs).

In reference to the sector's main districts, Alessandria recorded a +10.1% growth in foreign sales. Similarly, Arezzo knocked up +11.4%. Vicenza also grew and highlighted an increase of +3.4%, contributing to 18.6% of the total. As for the top destinations for exports from the main Italian districts, Switzerland is the first outlet for Alessandria and Milan (although dropping). The United Arab Emirates are the number one market for Arezzo and second for Vicenza. The United States is still the main partner for the majority of the districts under examination.

"*As I was able to ascertain at Vicenzaoro September*," says the President of Italian Exhibition Group, **Lorenzo Cagnoni**, "*the sector is undergoing considerable movement. Growth in exports tangibly reflects the increase in the number of foreign brands and exhibitors attending Italian jewellery trade shows, starting from Vicenzaoro and OroArezzo. The 1300 brands at the Vicenza Expo Centre,"* Cagnoni continues, "*have led to a 10% growth in the number of foreign traders arriving from 117 countries worldwide, in line with the already positive trend of the last two editions of Vicenzaoro. In general, the increase in foreign traders sees the Middle East in first place (+23%), followed by North America (+22%), Russia and the Ukraine (+19%) and then Asia (+18%) with a particular increase from Japan (+43%). Europe, which is still Vicenzaoro's main catchment basin (59%)"* Cagnoni concludes, *"is stable with particularly positive signs from Portugal (+51%), Romania (+28%) and Austria (+9%).*

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FOCUS ON ITALIAN EXHIBITION GROUP SPA

Italian Exhibition Group (IEG), listed on the Milan Stock Exchange organized and managed by Borsa Italiana S.p.A. (Italy's stock exchange), is the Italian leader in the organization of trade expos and one of the main players in Europe in the expo and conference sector, with its venues in Rimini and Vicenza. The IEG Group stands out for the organization of events in five categories: Food & Beverage; Jewellery & Fashion; Tourism, Hospitality & Lifestyle; Wellness, Sports and Leisure; Green & Technology. In recent years, IEG has launched an important process of foreign expansion, also by means of joint ventures inked with local players (e.g. in the United States, Arab Emirates and China). IEG ended the 2018 financial year with a total consolidated turnover of 159.7 million euros, an EBITDA of 30.8 million and a net consolidated profit of 10.8 million euros. In 2018, IEG held an overall total of 53 exhibitions organized or hosted and 181 conferences events in its Rimini and Vicenza expo and conference venues. www.iegexpo.it

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