



2011 Gemstone Price Index

COMPILED BY
SHARON ELAINE THOMPSON, G.G., F.G.A.

The Gemstone Price Index is limited to gem rough available to amateurs and semi-professional cutters at shows, on the Internet, and from wholesalers. For this reason it does not include rough such as emerald, ruby, exceptional quality blue sapphire, or Imperial topaz — materials that are not readily available except to professionals.

There are a growing number of online merchants buying close to the mines, and their prices may be very good. However, when buying from these sources for the first time, always check payment options, guarantees, and return policies. Overseas shipping, insurance, and credit card charges may not be refundable; you may have a very short time in which to examine the material; and you'll have to pay return shipping. Remember that photos and grading terminology may not be accurate. If you decide to buy, always make a small purchase first to verify quality of material and veracity of seller. As always, caveat emptor.

TRANSPARENT FACETED STONES & FACET ROUGH IN COMMERCIAL AND GEM GRADES

Weights are in carats unless otherwise noted.

ALMANDINE GARNET	AMETHYST ¹	AMETRINE ^{2,3}	ANDALUSITE	APATITE (Blue Green)
Cut, commercial, 1-3 cts.	\$2.50-\$12.50	\$2.50-\$32	\$45-\$70	\$6-\$70
Cut, commercial, 3-5 cts.	\$2.50-\$12.50	\$5.50-\$43	\$45-\$70	\$8-\$80
Cut, commercial, 5-10 cts.	n/a	\$5-\$32	\$45-\$70	\$45-\$60
Cut, commercial, 10+ cts.	n/a	\$9-\$12.50	\$2-\$25	\$30-\$45
Cut, gem, 1-3 cts.	\$12.50-\$20	\$20-\$70	\$100-\$180	\$60-\$100
Cut, gem, 3-5 cts.	\$12.50-\$20	\$30-\$70	\$150-\$240	\$140-\$400
Cut, gem, 5-10 cts.	\$12.50-\$100	\$30-\$70	\$220-\$270	\$70-\$200
Cut, gem, 10+ cts.	n/a	\$30-\$300	\$160+	\$150-\$250
Rough, commercial	\$1-\$14/gram	\$2.50-\$15.00/gram	\$6-\$15/gram	\$1.50-\$25/gram
Rough, gem	n/a	\$15-\$17.50/gram	n/a	\$25-\$50/gram

NOTES

¹ A great deal of amethyst on the market is synthetic; prices are for natural material.

² Large sizes of ametrine are scarce. Price depends on color and a sharp delineation between colors. Lots of synthetic material on the market.

³ Prices are for clean ametrine rough. Low quality rough about \$1.25-\$4/gram.

Prices from Internet sources and published catalogs. All prices in U.S. dollars per carat unless otherwise noted. Rough is usually sold by the gram, kilogram, or pound. One kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds. n/a either prices or material not available at this time.

TRANSPARENT FACETED STONES & FACET ROUGH IN COMMERCIAL AND GEM GRADES

Weights are in carats
unless otherwise noted.

	AQUAMARINE	BLUE SAPPHIRE (Montana-like)	CHROME TOURMALINE	CITRINE ⁴ (Yellow/Orange)	CHRYSOBERYL (Transparent Golden)
Cut, commercial, 1-3 cts.	\$20-\$225	\$115-\$450	\$75-\$375	\$2-\$20	\$45-\$90
Cut, commercial, 3-5 cts.	\$20-\$150	\$25-\$450	\$75-\$300	\$2-\$20	\$55-\$90
Cut, commercial, 5-10 cts.	\$20-\$120	\$115-\$550	\$75-\$300	\$2-\$20	\$50-\$100
Cut, commercial, 10+ cts.	\$75-\$300	n/a	\$75-\$300	\$2-\$20	n/a
Cut, gem, 1-3 cts.	\$200-\$1300	\$200-\$3600	\$200-\$1100	\$20-\$40	\$75-\$140
Cut, gem, 3-5 cts.	\$600-\$1500	\$400-\$3600	\$200-\$1100	\$20-\$40	n/a
Cut, gem, 5-10 cts.	\$350-\$1000	\$1500-\$2400	\$900-\$1100	\$10-\$60	\$360-\$1100
Cut, gem, 10+ cts.	\$200-\$1900	\$2200+	n/a	\$40-\$60	n/a
Rough, commercial	\$10-\$100/gram	\$5-\$45/gram	\$25-\$135/gram	\$4-\$20/gram	n/a
Rough, gem	n/a	n/a	\$250-\$350/gram	n/a	n/a
	GREEN SAPPHIRE ⁵	GREEN TOURMALINE ⁶	HELIODOR (Golden Beryl)	HESSONITE GARNET	IOLITE
Cut, commercial, 1-3 cts.	\$135-\$300	\$40-\$205	\$30-\$60	\$30-\$75	\$12-\$60
Cut, commercial, 3-5 cts.	\$135-\$300	\$40-\$205	\$30-\$60	\$30-\$75	n/a
Cut, commercial, 5-10 cts.	n/a	\$30-\$70	\$30-\$60	\$75-\$130	n/a
Cut, commercial, 10+ cts.	n/a	\$30-\$115	\$30-\$60	\$75-\$140	n/a
Cut, gem, 1-3 cts.	\$80-\$280	\$90-\$200	n/a	\$150-\$300	\$40-\$120
Cut, gem, 3-5 cts.	\$240-\$2000	\$105-\$2000	n/a	\$150-\$300	\$40-\$120
Cut, gem, 5-10 cts.	\$1000-\$2000	\$45-\$300	n/a	\$150-\$300	n/a
Cut, gem, 10+ cts.	n/a	\$30-\$400	n/a	\$150-\$300	n/a
Rough, commercial	\$30-\$150/gram	\$34-\$190/gram	\$8.75-\$35/gram	n/a	\$4.50-\$25/gram
Rough, gem	\$150-\$200/gram	\$145-\$300/gram	n/a	n/a	\$20-\$25/gram
	KUNZITE ⁷	MALAYA GARNET	MORGANITE ⁸	PERIDOT ^{9,10}	PINK TOURMALINE
Cut, commercial, 1-3 cts.	n/a	\$60-\$135	\$15-\$25	\$10-\$30	\$25-\$120
Cut, commercial, 3-5 cts.	\$10-\$60	\$60-\$150	\$15-\$25	\$10-\$45	\$45-\$150
Cut, commercial, 5-10 cts.	\$10-\$80	\$60-\$150	\$20-\$30	\$10-\$100	\$60-\$125
Cut, commercial, 10+ cts.	\$4-\$112	\$100-\$135	\$25-\$100	\$60-\$160	\$80-\$125
Cut, gem, 1-3 cts.	n/a	\$150-\$225	\$50-\$200	\$60-\$300	\$100-\$300
Cut, gem, 3-5 cts.	\$50-\$180	\$200-\$500	\$80-\$200	\$150-\$200	\$200-\$300
Cut, gem, 5-10 cts.	\$60-\$150	\$500-\$1100	\$80-\$200	\$100-\$340	\$100-\$300
Cut, gem, 10+ cts.	\$60-\$250	\$500-\$1000	\$100-\$200	\$100-\$540	\$100-\$240
Rough, commercial	\$3-\$5/gram	\$16-\$60/gram	\$.60-\$25/gram	\$5-\$20/gram	\$14-\$37.50/gram
Rough, gem	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



NOTES

⁴ Some citrine may be synthetic.

⁵ Commercial material usually zoned and an unattractive green; prices depend on color intensity. Green sapphire rough may not be readily available.

⁶ Price depends on clarity and cut. Large, clean crystals priced individually. "Mint" colored tourmaline tends to run higher than most green tourmaline.

⁷ Kunzite usually found in large sizes only; color is usually pale and may fade.

⁸ Prices for pale colored, slightly included morganites are \$5-\$15/ct.

⁹ Price depends on size of stone. Commercial peridot usually shows minor inclusions.

¹⁰ Gem peridot prices are for clean, bright, deeply colored stones. Large stones are rare with no upper limit on price.

Prices from Internet sources and published catalogs. All prices in U.S. dollars per carat, or as noted. Rough is usually sold by the gram, kilogram, or pound. One kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds. N/A: either prices or material not available at this time.

TRANSPARENT FACETED STONES & FACET ROUGH IN COMMERCIAL AND GEM GRADES

Weights are in carats unless otherwise noted.

	PINK SAPPHIRE ¹¹	PINK TOPAZ ¹²	RHODOLITE GARNET	RUTILATED QUARTZ ¹³	SMOKY QUARTZ
Cut, commercial, 1-3 cts.	\$180-\$900	\$100-\$360	\$10-\$75	n/a	\$1-\$2
Cut, commercial, 3-5 cts.	n/a	n/a	\$35-\$75	n/a	\$1-\$2
Cut, commercial, 5-10 cts.	n/a	n/a	\$10-\$80	\$2.25-\$4.50	\$1-\$2
Cut, commercial, 10+ cts.	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$2.25-\$4.50	\$1-\$2
Cut, gem, 1-3 cts.	\$900-\$3000	\$1000-\$1600	\$60-\$80	n/a	\$2-\$6
Cut, gem, 3-5 cts.	\$2000-\$6600	\$1500-\$1600	\$75-\$130	n/a	\$2-\$6
Cut, gem, 5-10 cts.	\$4200-\$6600	n/a	\$80-\$400	n/a	\$2-\$6
Cut, gem, 10+ cts.	n/a	n/a	\$55-\$180	n/a	\$2-\$6
Rough, commercial	\$180-\$375/gram	\$6-\$30/gram	\$4.50-\$12.50/gram	\$100-\$125/lb.	\$10-\$60/lb.
Rough, gem	n/a	n/a	\$20-\$35/gram	n/a	n/a

	SPINEL ¹⁴ (Red)	SUNSTONE ¹⁵	TANZANITE	TOPAZ ¹⁶ (Yellow to Golden, not Imperial)	TSAVORITE GARNET
Cut, commercial, 1-3 cts.	\$55-\$240	\$30-\$70	\$60-\$400	\$6-\$150	\$175-\$480
Cut, commercial, 3-5 cts.	\$55-\$240	\$30-\$70	\$40-\$400	\$6-\$490	\$175-\$1000
Cut, commercial, 5-10 cts.	\$75-\$240	\$30-\$70	\$40-\$600	\$6-\$490	\$1000-\$1200
Cut, commercial, 10+ cts.	n/a	\$30-\$60	n/a	\$250-\$350	n/a
Cut, gem, 1-3 cts.	\$700-\$8000	n/a	\$200-\$950	\$140-\$500	\$160-\$1900
Cut, gem, 3-5 cts.	\$300-\$3800	\$250-\$400	\$400-\$1050	\$160-\$490	\$1000-\$5000
Cut, gem, 5-10 cts.	\$1300-\$8000	n/a	\$400-\$1100	\$240-\$560	n/a
Cut, gem, 10+ cts.	n/a	n/a	\$500-\$1150	\$525-\$980	n/a
Rough, commercial	\$10-\$275/gram	n/a	\$2-\$60/gram	\$5-\$60/gram	\$75-\$300/gram
Rough, gem	\$325-\$500/gram	n/a	n/a	\$250+/gram	\$300+/gram

NOTES

¹¹ Prices on pink sapphire may be as low as \$20/ct. if color lacks intensity.

¹² Commercial goods very included. Gem-quality pink topaz very rare. No upper limit on large, clean, deeply colored stones. Rough advertised as "pink" topaz varies from virtually colorless to brown.

¹³ Gem quality rutile quartz prices are based on color and pattern of included rutile. Broad, gold needles considered more desirable than fine, thin ones. Red, bronze, pink, and silver colored needles are rarer. Cat's-eyes and star patterns command a premium. Star stones may run \$5/ct. to thousands of dollars per stone.

¹⁴ Cut red spinel is rare above 10 cts. Rough may not be readily available.

¹⁵ Gem quality prices for unzoned stones without schiller.

¹⁶ Prices given are for yellow and light golden topaz, not Imperial, defined as a "fine medium reddish orange" (GIA Gem Reference Guide), which usually commands a premium.

Prices from Internet sources and published catalogs. All prices in U.S. dollars per carat, or as noted. Rough is usually sold by the gram, kilogram, or pound. One kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds. N/A: either prices or material not available at this time.



TRANSLUCENT TO OPAQUE CABOCHONS & CABBING/ CARVING ROUGH: COMMERCIAL & GEM GRADES

Weights are in carats
unless otherwise noted.

	AVVENTURINE	BANDED AGATE ^{17,18}	BLUE CHALCEDONY	BLACK ONYX ¹⁷	CARNELIAN ¹⁷
Cut, commercial	\$20-\$20/stone	\$1-\$35/stone	\$4-\$13/stone	\$2-\$30/stone	\$1-\$35/stone
Cut, gem	n/a	\$25-\$100/stone	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rough, commercial	\$3-\$10/lb.	\$1-\$5/lb.	\$20-\$125/lb.	\$35-\$100/lb.	\$5-\$10/lb.
Rough, gem	n/a	\$10-\$40/lb.	n/a	n/a	n/a
	CHRYSOPRASE ¹⁹	FIRE AGATE	LAPIS	MALACHITE ²⁰	MOONSTONE ²¹ (Orthoclase Feldspar)
Cut, commercial	\$1-\$5/stone	\$7-\$25	\$2-\$25	\$.50-\$20/stone	\$4-\$50
Cut, gem	\$30-\$65/stone	\$12-\$45	\$25-\$60	\$10+	\$50-\$200
Rough, commercial	\$10-\$20/lb.	n/a	\$75-\$100	\$9-\$22/lb.	\$2.50-\$10/gram
Rough, gem	\$25-\$275/lb.	n/a	\$200-\$320	\$4.50-\$30/lb.	n/a
	NEPHRITE	RHODOCHROSITE ²²	RHODONITE	SUGILITE ²³	TURQUOISE ²⁴ (Treated)
Cut, commercial	\$.30-\$20/stone	\$1-\$10/stone	\$0.50-\$35/stone	\$2-\$9	\$4.50-\$35
Cut, gem	n/a	\$380-\$1000 (top, faceted)	n/a	\$130-\$180	\$20-\$60
Rough, commercial	\$8-\$15/lb.	\$40-\$100/lb.	\$10-\$20/lb.	\$1-\$10/gram	\$10-\$150/lb.
Rough, gem	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$125-\$500/lb.
	VARISCITE ²⁵				
Cut, commercial	\$5-\$50/stone				
Cut, gem	\$20-\$50/stone				
Rough, commercial	\$5-\$60/lb.				
Rough, gem	\$5-\$60/lb.				



NOTES

¹⁷ Some relatively inexpensive materials, such as black onyx, agate, or carnelian, vary widely in price depending on size and cut. Standard ovals cost a few dollars. Carved material can run considerably more depending on the quality of the carving and the artist.

¹⁸ Materials such as agates will vary widely in price depending on size, depth of color, pattern, and so on. Appealing or unusual patterns and "pictures" in materials such as jasper and Montana agate can add considerably to the price.

¹⁹ Commercial prices depend on translucency, size, and presence of brown, black, or white inclusions. Highly translucent chrysoprase with a "jelly-like" clarity, vivid color, and no inclusions can run \$20-\$40/ct.

²⁰ Higher gem prices for bull's-eyes and chatoyant and flowering patterns in malachite.

²¹ The moonstone designated here is orthoclase feldspar with a bluish adularia; gray, green, and pink moonstones usually run less. Rainbow moonstone, priced about the same as orthoclase, is a type of albite feldspar called peristerite. Labradorite feldspar (spectrolite) is also sometimes sold as moonstone, and is usually priced lower, \$1-\$5/ct.

²² Commercial rhodochrosite is usually opaque. Prices per stone may go as high as \$50; prices on the rare stalactite slices may range as high as \$300 each. Some of the finest faceting quality rhodochrosite comes from Colorado.

²³ Prices given for commercial quality sugilite are for calibrated cabs; patterns may run more. Translucent sugilite may run up to \$300/ct. or even more.

²⁴ Most turquoise on the market today has been treated, either stabilized and/or color enhanced.

²⁵ Large patterned stones with wavellite or crandallite sell for hundreds of dollars per slice. Much rough stabilized or chalky.

Prices from Internet sources and published catalogs. All prices in U.S. dollars per carat, or as noted. Rough is usually sold by the gram, kilogram, or pound. One kilogram equals 2.2046 pounds. N/A: either prices or material not available at this time.