

GIA Lays Off 151 Employees at Carlsbad Headquarters



The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has cut some 20% of the workforce at its Carlsbad, California, headquarters amid a prolonged slowdown in the industry.

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In late July, the lab let 151 employees go, primarily in its laboratory, as well as some in corporate positions, Stephen Morisseau, the GIA's director of communications, told *Rapaport News* Sunday. The lab made the layoffs as a result of a drop in the number of diamonds submitted for grading.

“Many organizations in the global gem and jewelry sector are [experiencing a downturn](#) due to economic conditions affecting the global gem trade,” Morisseau explained. “Due to those economic conditions, there has been a decline in demand for GIA’s [gem identification and grading services](#), which led to the difficult decision to reduce staffing.”

The layoffs will bring the GIA's total workforce in Carlsbad to 600, according to [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#), which was the first to report the story. Globally, the lab has approximately 3,500 employees.

"The reductions will not affect our ability to advance our important consumer-protection mission, nor to meet the needs of our clients," Morisseau added.

Image: The GIA headquarters in Carlsbad, California. (GIA)