



## Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: July 10, 2020

*Distribution: If you no longer wish to be on this mailing list, send me a note. If others want to be added to distribution, again let me know.*

## Below is a cross section of relevant news article to the world of Precious Metals:

Markets, Supply & Demand, Investment, and Industrial Applications. Enjoy-

### Gold

- **Why gold has become a 'weapon of choice' for investors**
  - 'The weapon of choice has clearly been the gold ETF and purchases year to date have exceeded anything seen in any previous full year.'
  - <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-gold-has-become-a-weapon-of-choice-for-investors-2020-07-08>
- **Investors' gold rush keeps bullion buoyant at \$1,800 an ounce**
  - Western investors piling into gold in the pandemic are more than making up for a collapse in demand from traditional retail buyers in China and India, helping push prices to an eight-year high.
  - Inflows into exchange-traded funds - mostly in North America and Europe - are inches away from the annual record set in 2009, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.
  - <https://www.independent.ie/business/world/investors-gold-rush-keeps-bullion-buoyant-at-1800-an-ounce-39346408.html>
- **COMEX New York vaults add 730 tonnes of gold since the end of March**
  - <https://www.bullionstar.com/blogs/ronan-manly/comex-new-york-vaults-add-730-tonnes-of-gold-since-the-end-of-march/%e2%80%a6>
- **Gold gains as surging virus cases eclipse positive US data**
  - Gold edged toward a near 8-year high as a spike in coronavirus cases kept safety demand elevated, although robust equities and positive U.S. services sector data limited the metal's advance.
  - <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/06/gold-markets-coronavirus-in-focus.html>
- **IPMI June 2020 Newsletter**
  - [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ipmi.org/resource/collection/FC2EBE3B-5DF2-4E56-B592-11B446D5ACEF/IPMI\\_NL\\_Vol\\_44\\_No6\\_Jun20.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ipmi.org/resource/collection/FC2EBE3B-5DF2-4E56-B592-11B446D5ACEF/IPMI_NL_Vol_44_No6_Jun20.pdf)
- **Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):**
  - **Global Semiconductor Sales Increase 5.8% Year-to-Year in May; Annual Sales Projected to Increase 3.3 Percent in 2020, 6.2% in 2021**
    - The Semiconductor Industry Association announced worldwide sales of semiconductors were \$35.0 billion in May 2020, an increase of 5.8% from the May 2019 total of \$33.0 billion and 1.5% more than the April 2020 total of \$34.4 billion.
    - <https://www.semiconductors.org/global-semiconductor-sales-increase-5-8-percent-year-to-year-in-may-annual-sales-projected-to-increase-3-3-percent-in-2020-6-2-percent-in-2021/>
  - **ECIA Reports Rebounding Electronic Component Sales Sentiment for June 2020**
    - Improved sales expectations were reported for every major component category including electro-mechanical/connectors, passives and semiconductors.

- <https://passive-components.eu/ecia-reports-rebounding-electronic-component-sales-sentiment-for-june-2020/>



## Silver

- **Silver Price 'Set to Top \$20' as Investment Eats Market Surplus, Gold/Silver Ratio Seen Falling Further**
  - Gold prices ticked higher by 0.1% to \$1777 in London's spot bullion market, while the price of silver gained 1.2% to \$18.29 per ounce. That cut the Gold/Silver Ratio down to 97.3, the lowest in 3 weeks.
  - <https://www.bullionvault.com/gold-news/silver-price-07062020>
- **Supply disruptions now extend to more than just gold | Markets – Gulf News**
  - It is silver's turn to feel the mismatch between spot and futures prices, as shipments get delayed.
  - <https://gulfnews.com/business/markets/supply-disruptions-now-extend-to-more-than-just-gold-1.1593752307053>
- **Silver Price Forecast – Silver Markets Have Quiet Resilience**
  - If we can break above the highs of the Thursday session it is likely that the market will continue to look towards the \$18.75 level, followed by the \$19 level. Beyond that, then we make a serious push towards the \$20 level which has been crucial more than once going back through history.
  - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/silver-price-forecast-silver-markets-163041876.html>
- **EPA Unconditionally Registers New Nanosilver Product for Antimicrobial Use on Textiles**
  - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced on July 2, 2020, that it has registered NSPW Nanosilver to suppress odor-causing bacteria and algae, fungus, mold, and mildew that can cause deterioration or staining in textiles.
  - <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/epa-unconditionally-registers-new-nanosilver-product-antimicrobial-use-textiles>
- **Making plastic more transparent while also adding electrical conductivity**
  - They provide a recipe to help other researchers find the best balance between conductivity and transparency by creating a three-layer anti-reflection surface. The 65 angstrom silver/copper conductive metal layer is sandwiched between two "dielectric" materials that allow light to pass through easily. The dielectrics (aluminum oxide and zinc oxide) reduce the reflection from both the plastic and metal layer between them.
  - [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2020-07/uom-mpm070620.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-07/uom-mpm070620.php)
- **Silver Investment Demand Up 10% in First Half 2020**
  - Silver investment is also paving the way was remarkably strong growth in silver-backed exchange-traded products (ETPs), together with solid silver coin and bar investment.
  - <https://www.silverinstitute.org/silver-investment-demand-10-percent-first-half-2020/>
- **Silver Institute: Silver News**
  - Silver Continues Role as Vital Component of Solar Cells
  - Silver Helps Superconductor Research Move Forward

- Silver Nanowires Key to Breathable/Wearable Electronics
- Silver May Help Power the Next Generation of Personal Protection Equipment
- Insignia Offers Silver-Based ‘Clean Card’
- Silver and Gold Nanoparticles Produce Environmentally-Safe Ceramic Glazes
- Silver Coin Honors UK Medical Workers Service During Pandemic
- <https://www.silverinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SNJun2020.pdf>

## **Precious Metals Mining:**

- **(S. Africa) Power price threatens key sectors of economy**
  - The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa) yesterday warned South Africa was on a path of de-industrialization as current electricity price increases were not sustainable both for consumers and suppliers. The average cents per kilowatt-hour had jumped to 89.13 in 2017 from 17.91 in 2006 and threatened the viability of key sectors of the economy.
  - <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/energy/power-price-threatens-key-sectors-of-economy-50313198>
- **Russia temporarily halts parts of Norilsk power unit after fuel spill**
  - Russia's safety watchdog on Friday ordered a power unit of mining giant Norilsk Nickel to suspend operations at six facilities for 90 days for violating safety rules, following a fuel spill in the Arctic.
  - <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/other/russia-temporarily-halts-nornickel-unit-facilities-after-fuel-spill/ar-BB16hzB8>
- **Palladium market stands Waterberg JV project in good stead**
  - The long-term market fundamentals for palladium remain robust thanks to strong demand on the back of a continued supply deficit.
  - <https://www.miningreview.com/battery-metals/palladium-market-stands-waterberg-jv-project-in-good-future-stead/>
- **Newmont's (NEM) Stock up 41% in 6 Months: What's Driving It?**
  - <https://sg.yahoo.com/news/newmonts-nem-stock-41-6-151303642.html>

## **E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:**

- **\$10bn of precious metals dumped each year in electronic waste, says UN**
  - At least \$10bn (£7.9bn) worth of gold, platinum and other precious metals are dumped every year in the growing mountain of electronic waste that is polluting the planet, according to a new UN report.
  - A record 54m tonnes of “e-waste” was generated worldwide in 2019, up 21% in five years, the UN’s Global E-waste Monitor report found.
  - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/02/10bn-precious-metals-dumped-each-year-electronic-waste-un-toxic-e-waste-polluting>
- **E-waste is surging but recycling isn’t**
  - Report reveals the size of a global problem.
  - Discarded products with a battery or plug, is the world’s fastest growing waste stream, according to a new UN report.
  - <https://cosmosmagazine.com/earth/sustainability/e-waste-is-surging-but-recycling-isnt/>
- **Auto Catalyst Value Chain: COVID-19 & Beyond**
  - <https://www.rpowersource.com/2020/07/auto-catalyst-value-chain-covid-19-beyond/>

## **Platinum**

- **Johnson Matthey: Catalysts for collaboration**
  - Demand for greener, more sustainable technologies in pharma, agro and fine chemicals sectors is growing – catalysis is at the heart of this transformation

- <https://www.chemistryworld.com/collaborative-chemistry/catalysts-for-collaboration/4012044.article>
- **Umicore: Catalysis and chemical bonds that make us stronger**
  - The World Economic Forum expects demand for chemicals and materials to quadruple by 2050.
  - <https://www.chemistryworld.com/collaborative-chemistry/catalysis-and-chemical-bonds-that-make-us-stronger/4012073.article>
- **UV-Curing Silicone Rubbers Enable New Medical Concepts and Part Designs**
  - UV-curing liquid silicone rubbers cure quickly at low temperatures, opening the door for new two-component combinations of silicones and polyolefins.
  - Matt: New curing catalysts could displace platinum catalysts.
  - <https://www.mddionline.com/materials/uv-curing-silicone-rubbers-enable-new-medical-concepts-and-part-designs>
- **Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:**
  - **Energy major announces plans to produce hydrogen from ‘largest plant of its kind’**
    - Norwegian energy major Equinor has released details of a major U.K.-based project that will combine hydrogen generation with carbon capture and storage.
    - The Hydrogen to Humber Saltend, or H2H Saltend, project will be based at the Saltend Chemicals Park close to Hull, a city in the north of England. Equinor said the development would be “the largest plant of its kind in the world.”
    - <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/02/energy-major-to-produce-hydrogen-from-largest-plant-of-its-kind.html>
  - **Air Products and thyssenkrupp Sign Exclusive Strategic Cooperation Agreement for World-Scale Electrolysis Plants to Generate Green Hydrogen**
    - Air Products and thyssenkrupp Uhde Chlorine Engineers, the world leader in technologies and comprehensive solutions for large-scale electrolysis plants, today announced the signing of a Strategic Cooperation Agreement. The two companies will collaborate to develop projects supplying green hydrogen.
    - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/air-products-thyssenkrupp-sign-exclusive-000000929.html>
  - **South African govt initiates process of developing societal hydrogen roadmap**
    - The aim is to create a policy that will inform all relevant parties in South Africa about the potential and immediate benefits of developing and deploying hydrogen technologies and how they can be integrated into the South African renewable energy masterplan.
    - <https://www.miningweekly.com/article/south-african-govt-initiates-process-of-developing-societal-hydrogen-roadmap-2020-07-07>
  - **Siemens’ Roadmap to 100% Hydrogen Gas Turbines**
    - EUTurbines, Siemens Gas and Power in January 2019 rolled out an ambitious roadmap to ramp up the hydrogen capability in its gas turbine models to at least 20% by 2020, and 100% by 2030.
    - <https://www.powermag.com/siemens-roadmap-to-100-hydrogen-gas-turbines/>
  - **EU’s hydrogen push to boost metals demand**
    - Europe is ramping up its development and deployment of hydrogen technologies for power generation, with the European Commission expected to formally present its hydrogen strategy on 8 July, providing a positive medium-term demand signal for several metals, including platinum, chromium and nickel.
    - <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2119703-eus-hydrogen-push-to-boost-metals-demand>
  - **Hyundai exports hydrogen trucks to Switzerland**
    - According to the carmaker, 10 of its hydrogen electric trailer trucks dubbed XCIENT Fuel Cell departed for Switzerland on Monday.
    - The Korean car manufacturer is scheduled to export an additional 40 trucks by the end of this year and a total of 1,600 in stages by 2025.

- <https://m-koreatimes-co-kr.cdn.ampproject.org/c/m.koreatimes.co.kr/pages/article.amp.asp?newsIdx=292371>

## **Palladium**

- **Car Makers Press EU To Delay New Euro 6 Emissions Standard To Get Rid Of Old Stock**
  - In order to clear their inventories of models that aren't compliant with upcoming emissions regulations, carmakers are asking the European Union to delay new Euro 6 emissions standards by six months.
  - The Chinese government has already postponed its new China 6 tailpipe emissions requirement by six months for this exact same reason.
  - <https://www.carscoops.com/2020/07/carmakers-want-eu-to-delay-new-euro-6-emissions-standard/>
- **Put into the right light – sustainable coupling reactions**
  - A team of researchers reports in the journal Nature Catalysis that sustainable carbon-nitrogen cross-couplings can be performed using simple nickel salts, carbon nitrides and light instead of the precious metal Palladium.
  - <https://www.mpg.de/15135345/put-into-the-right-light-reproducible-and-sustainable-coupling-reactions>

## **PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)**

- **Rhodium: Light-activated catalysts make nearly perfect water-splitters**
  - A team of researchers focused on strontium titanate (SrTiO<sub>3</sub>), a photocatalytic water-splitter that was discovered in the 1970s. Although SrTiO<sub>3</sub> is impractical for making real-world photocatalysts.
  - Researchers prevented an unwanted side reaction (the oxygen-reduction reaction) by encasing the rhodium co-catalysts for the hydrogen-producing reaction in a chromium-based protective shell.
  - <https://physicsworld.com/a/light-activated-catalysts-make-nearly-perfect-water-splitters/>
- **Ruthenium & Platinum: ITRI transfers memory technologies to Taiwan chipmakers**
  - Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) has been engaged in the development of next-generation non-volatile memory technologies, such as ferroelectric RAM (FRAM) and spin-orbit torque magnetic random-access memory (SOT-MRAM), for more than 10 years, and has transferred the technologies to Taiwan's domestic chipmakers including fabless firms, according to the government-sponsored R&D institution.
  - Matt: MRAM, and SST-MRAM both typically use Pt and Ru, and even Ir. However, most SOT-MRAM does not use any Pt, Ru, or Ir. Not yet in mass production, but apparently SOT is fully developed.
  - <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20200706PD204.html>

## **BEV / Li-Ion Battery Market News**

- **Lyft's commitment to electric vehicles is huge. Three lessons for leaders.**
  - Lyft responded to stakeholder demands for rebuilding a better future – and in particular for climate action – through a bold commitment to transition 100% of the cars on its platform to electric vehicles (EVs) by 2030.
  - [https://www.edf.org/blog/2020/06/22/lyfts-commitment-electric-vehicles-huge-three-lessons-leaders?utm\\_source=linkedin&utm\\_campaign=edf\\_rebuild-better\\_pd\\_dmt&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_id=1592855588&aud=19](https://www.edf.org/blog/2020/06/22/lyfts-commitment-electric-vehicles-huge-three-lessons-leaders?utm_source=linkedin&utm_campaign=edf_rebuild-better_pd_dmt&utm_medium=cpc&utm_id=1592855588&aud=19)
- **Tesla's Ambitious Plan To Ditch Cobalt**
  - Now, however, it looks like Tesla is poised to disrupt the entire EV market and supply chain with new innovation by taking on both lithium and cobalt. "As Tesla plans next-generation electric vehicle batteries, focus is turning to lithium-iron, not the lithium-ion that has been the fundamental chemical engineering science powering EVs to date," CNN reported earlier this week.
  - <https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Teslas-Ambitious-Plan-To-Ditch-Cobalt.html>

- **Tesla 'very close' to level 5 autonomous driving technology, Musk says**
  - “I remain confident that we will have the basic functionality for level 5 autonomy complete this year.”
  - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-tesla-autonomous/tesla-very-close-to-level-5-autonomous-driving-technology-musk-says-idUSKBN24AOHE>

Regards –