



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: July 17, 2020

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

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

Gold

- **Gold Prices Could hit \$1900, Solid Macros from China Help's Yellow Metal's Upside**
 - The world's largest consumer for spot gold (China) lately have been outperforming the world's largest economy (U.S) at the macro level, thereby boosting the purchasing power of many Chinese gold consumers into buying more physical gold, and such bullish run could see gold hitting above the \$1,900 per ounce level before the end of Q3, 2020.
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/gold-prices-could-hit-1900-112522677.html>
- **Demand for Krugerrands is through the roof**
 - Global demand for gold coins, including competitors such as the Canadian Maple Leaf, the Australian Kangaroo, the Austrian Philharmonic and the American Eagle, is up as much as 50% since last year as investors globally are looking for safe-haven assets.
 - <https://www.moneyweb.co.za/mineweb/demand-for-krugerrands-is-through-the-roof/>
- **Precious Metals Were The Winners In H1 2020**
 - Precious metals were the big winners for the first six months of 2020. Spot gold took the first place position, rising over 17 percent, followed in second place by silver, up nearly 2 percent. Palladium rounded out the top three, essentially flat at negative 10 basis points.
 - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2020/07/14/precious-metals-were-the-winners-in-h1-2020/>
- **Gold inches up on coronavirus surge, US-China tensions**
 - Gold prices could touch \$2,000/oz by year-end, helped by lower real interest rates, massive fiscal stimulus & a weak economy, said Phillip Streible, Chief Market Strategist/Blue Line Futures/Chicago.
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/15/gold-markets-coronavirus-china-us-tensions-in-focus.html>
- **Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):**
 - **PC shipments soar on rising demand due to lockdowns**
 - PC makers shipped 2.8% more devices in the second quarter compared with the same period the previous year, 64.8M units, according to data released by researcher Gartner Inc.
 - Rival analyst International Data Corp (IDC) pegged the year-on-year increase at 11%.
 - Both said that the increase was fueled by particularly strong growth in Europe and the US.
 - <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/biz/archives/2020/07/11/2003739711>
 - **Smartphone shipments in China fall 16% in June: government data**
 - The numbers suggest that handset demand in China remains lukewarm despite the country's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, boding poorly for Apple Inc and its local rivals like Huawei Technologies Co Ltd.

- That follows a similar decline in May, when shipments dropped more than 10% annually, from 36.4 million in May 2019 to 32.6 million one year later.
 - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-smartphones-june/smartphone-shipments-in-china-fall-16-in-june-government-data-idUSKCN24E0KB>
- **Apple paid Samsung a \$950 million penalty after buying fewer OLED panels than expected**
 - Apple paid Samsung \$950 million after purchasing fewer OLED displays than anticipated during Q2.
 - The payout suggests that iPhone sales during the June quarter will be quite low.
 - Some analysts believe the forthcoming (5G) iPhone 12 release will help Apple whether the economic impact of the coronavirus.
 - <https://bgr.com/2020/07/13/apple-vs-samsung-iphone-oled-panels-payout/>
- **iPhone 12 may come with this new and 'only' accessory**
 - As per a report by MacRumors, Apple is expected to ship a braided fabric designed Lightning to USB Type-C cables with the iPhone 12 lineup.
 - These new cables feature **8 silver contacts with rhodium-plated ruthenium**, which is said to be more resistant to corrosion.
 - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/iphone-12-may-come-with-this-new-and-only-accessory/articleshow/76972632.cms>

Silver

- **How Widespread will Solar Energy be Soon**
 - The ever-evolving form of power is at the brink of mass adoption and it is expected to become the most important source of energy for electricity production, the world over, by 2030. Going forward solar costs are expected to halve by 2030, thanks to cost reduction roadmaps of the solar industry
 - <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/353095>
- **India's Largest Building Integrated Vertical Solar System & The Road Ahead**
 - Building energy consumption accounts for more than a third of India's total energy consumption. Add to this the fact that more than 70% of the buildings that will stand in India in 2030 are yet to be built.
 - <https://cleantechnica.com/2020/07/11/indias-largest-building-integrated-vertical-solar-system-the-road-ahead/>
- **Kuwait scraps \$1.4bn solar project over Covid-19 crisis**
 - Al-Shagaya renewable energy complex: Once completed, it would have been one of the largest PV solar facilities in the region generating 2,500GWh of electricity per year
 - http://www.tradearabia.com/news/CONS_370347.html
- **Silver soars to 10-month highs; Endeavour Silver +8%**
 - Comex silver futures +3.1% to \$19.65/oz., charging toward their highest settlement since September after soaring 66% off their March lows.
 - The drop-in short-term interest rates and the Fed's aggressive bond purchases have lowered yields in debt markets, reducing the opportunity cost of owning precious metals; silver's widespread industrial applications also have helped prices benefit from reopening factories in the U.S., China & elsewhere.
 - "You're flying on two engines, which are commercial demand and investor demand," says Bank of America commodities strategist Michael Widmer. "That's driving silver prices higher."
 - Giving prices an extra lift, COVID-19 has disrupted mines in Latin America, the world's top silver producing region, and has made it difficult to transport the metal to regions where demand is high.
 - <https://seekingalpha.com/news/3590615-silver-soars-to-10-month-highs-endeavour-silverplus-8>
- **SLV: Key Resistance In The Crosshairs**
 - Summary: After breaking above short-term down trendline resistance last week, silver looks set for run at key neckline resistance going back to 2014, above which would target the \$20 level.

- The technical picture for silver chimes with the move higher we have seen across industrial metals prices, with copper trending particularly strongly, smashing above short-term trendline resistance.
- The ongoing decline in real bond yields and rally in industrial metals prices provides the perfect fundamental backdrop. Silver continues to trade 20% below our measure of short-term fair value.
- We continue to see a long-silver, short-equity position is a low risk pair trade with potential for both legs to benefit once stagflation takes hold.
- <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4358149-slv-key-resistance-in-crosshairs>
- **Why silver is trading at a nearly 4-year high**
 - As of June 30, global holdings of silver in silver exchange-traded products, or ETPs, which include ETFs, reached a “fresh all-time high of 925 million ounces, which is roughly 14 months of mine supply,” according to a recent report from The Silver Institute, an international industry association.
 - <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-silver-is-trading-at-a-nearly-4-year-high-2020-07-13>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **Fighting a common enemy sees SA’s unions and mining firms call informal truce, at least for now**
 - South Africa’s main mining unions have expressed concerns about the sector’s reboot in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has also seen labour, industry and government find common ground, which could herald a new era of cooperation after decades of mistrust and conflict.
 - <https://www.miningmx.com/top-story/42657-fighting-a-common-enemy-sees-sas-unions-and-mining-firms-call-informal-truce-at-least-for-now/>
- **Russia's Rusal seeks management changes at Norilsk Nickel after fuel spill**
 - Russian aluminium giant Rusal has asked the board of Norilsk Nickel, in which it has a major stake, to change its management and overhaul its environmental policies after a fuel spill in Siberia.
 - https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-pollution-nornickel-board-idUSKCN24FOMR?utm_source=34553&utm_medium=partner
- **Wheaton Precious Metals Corporation Increasing In Value 3 Times Faster Than Gold**
 - Summary: On 9th September 2019, we wrote Wheaton Precious Metals Corporation was a Buy.
 - Over the last year, this stock has increased in value at a rate of 3:1 over the price of gold.
 - In any bull market, the dips tend to be short-lived, so if you are a trader and looking to take profits, do take great care.
 - Do become active even in a small way as this sector is sure to sparkle as the bull market in gold and silver develops.
 - <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4358622-wheaton-precious-metals-corporation-increasing-in-value-3-times-faster-gold>
- **First Majestic Silver produces 3.5 million silver equivalent ounces in Q2**
 - In the second quarter of 2020 reached 3.5 million silver equivalent ounces consisting of 1.8 million ounces of silver and 15,764 ounces of gold.
 - <https://www.kitco.com/news/2020-07-15/First-Majestic-Silver-produces-3-5-million-silver-equivalent-ounces-in-Q2.html?>
- **UN asks Venezuela to dismantle crime gangs running gold mines in the Amazon**
 - The UN found that Venezuela's Orinoco Mining Arc is mostly under the control of gangs that impose their own rules through violence and extortion, beating and even killing workers.
 - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/un-venezuela-gold-mines-amazon-deforestation-a9621096.html>
- **Anglo American Q2 Diamond, PGMs Production Down, Copper Up; Maintains FY20 Production View**
 - In the Platinum Group Metals or PGMs, platinum production decreased 41 percent to 307,400 ounces and palladium production fell 34 percent to 228,400 ounces.

- <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/anglo-american-q2-diamond-pgms-production-down-copper-up-maintains-fy20-production-view-102939930#>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- **The use of furnaces in recycling precious metals**
 - <https://www.labmate-online.com/article/laboratory-products/3/carbolite/the-use-of-furnaces-in-recycling-precious-metals/2788>
- **What Happens to E-Waste When It Gets Recycled?**
 - Worldwide, electronic waste makes up more than 5 percent of all municipal solid waste. Commonly called “e-waste,” these discarded electronic products often end up in the landfill, but they shouldn’t.
 - <https://earth911.com/business-policy/what-happens-to-e-waste-when-it-gets-recycled/>
- **NREL Research Points to Strategies for Recycling of Solar Panels**
 - PV modules have a 30-year lifespan. There is currently no plan for how to manage this at end of their lifespan. The volume of modules no longer needed could total 80 million metric tons by 2050. PV modules are made of valuable, precious, critical, and toxic materials. There is currently no standard for how to recycle the valuable ones and mitigate the toxic ones.
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/nrel-research-points-strategies-recycling-162551276.html>

Platinum

- **HDD HAMR: Robust high-performance data storage through magnetic anisotropy**
 - The latest generation of magnetic hard drives is made of magnetic thin films, which are invar materials. They allow extremely robust and high data storage density by local heating of ultrasmall nano-domains with a laser, so called heat assisted magnetic recording, or HAMR. The volume in such invar materials hardly expands despite heating. A technologically relevant material for such HAMR data memories are thin films of iron-platinum nanograins
 - <https://phys.org/news/2020-07-robust-high-performance-storage-magnetic-anisotropy.html>
- **Heraeus Medical Components begins operations in its Collaboration Hub**
 - Heraeus has started operations in its new centralized Collaboration Hub in Minneapolis. This new facility enables medical device customers and partners to work on-site with Heraeus Medical Components engineers, designers, materials scientists, and manufacturing experts on quick-turn prototyping, testing, and pilot production of new products and treatment innovations.
 - <https://www.todaymedicaldevelopments.com/article/heraeus-medical-components-collaboration-hub/>
- **REFINERY NEWS ROUNDUP: Some plants in China running at over 100%**
 - <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/refinery-news-roundup-some-plants-in-china-running-at-over-100/>
- **New Products: Shin-Etsu Chemical unveils silicone release coatings approach**
 - Shin-Etsu has developed a new technology that drastically lowers the amount of platinum used in silicone release coatings. Pt usage cut by about half compared to conventional technology.
 - Silicone release coatings generally use a platinum-based curing catalyst.
 - <https://www.rubbernews.com/blogs/new-products-shin-etsu-chemical-unveils-silicone-release-coatings-approach>
- **Johnson Matthey Technology Review June 2020**
 - Matt: Great collection of PGM related technology papers
 - <https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/1/messages/AA7zFDQLpOF2Xw8WlWTGqODG49o>
- **Shell Catalysts & Technologies: Under Pressure to Reduce Energy Costs and Meet Strict Emissions Regulations?**
 - Shell Catalysts & Technologies' R&D team has unlocked a step change in catalyst activity. Download the product launch report and watch the webinar where we discuss how the new 934 catalyst enhances unit performance by reducing total sulphur, extending cycle life, and lowering energy costs.

- https://catalysts.shell.com/934-product-launch-0?utm_campaign=Shell%20Subscription%20Newsletters&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=91027665&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8v-2QtsVIRolKtaQea0hJY009HwVInUnAwR83IYW1LgTSEULYNqf4giGMO4Tb - zyklE5bAPGZfx3t4hyc2uVjtsJPr3glABKlriFS_gqmQDeY_g&utm_content=91026386&utm_source=hs_email
- **Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:**
 - **Hyundai Builds the World's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Commercial Truck**
 - <https://www.torquenews.com/10987/hyundai-builds-worlds-first-hydrogen-fuel-cell-commercial-truck>
 - **IHS Markit: Production of Carbon-Free "Green" Hydrogen Could Be Cost Competitive by 2030**
 - Costs for producing green hydrogen have fallen 50% since 2015 and could be reduced by an additional 30% by 2025 due to the benefits of increased scale and more standardized manufacturing, among other factors.
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/ihs-markit-production-carbon-free-070000720.html>
 - **Platinum boosts hydrogen electrolyser performance exponentially – Hydrox**
 - Platinum provides an exponential improvement in the performance of electrolysers used to produce green hydrogen, says Hydrox Holdings CEO Corrie de Jager, who describes platinum's uplift as being "amazing".
 - <https://www.polity.org.za/article/platinum-boosts-hydrogen-electrolyser-performance-exponentially-hydrox-2020-07-16>

Palladium

- **Platinum & Palladium: Scientists Home In on Pairs of Atoms That Boost a Catalyst's Activity**
 - Now a team at Stanford University and the Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory has identified exactly which pairs of atoms in a nanoparticle of palladium and platinum – a combination commonly used in converters – are the most active in breaking those gases down.
 - They discovered the messy environment of a chemical reaction can actually change the shape of a catalytic nanoparticle in a way that makes it more active.
 - <https://scitechdaily.com/scientists-home-in-on-pairs-of-atoms-that-boost-a-catalysts-activity/>
- **China auto sales off 22.4% in first half of 2020**
 - China's auto sales rose 1.8% in June over a year earlier but fell by double digits for the first half of 2020 after the country shut down to fight the coronavirus, an industry group reported Friday.
 - <https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/07/10/china-auto-sales-off-22-4-in-first-half-of-2020/>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)

- **Ruthenium/Iridium: De Nora sets up new marine business entity to further drive growth**
 - De Nora announced the creation of a new legal entity to drive the company's growth plans in the maritime industry, addressing calls for advanced water treatment technologies.
 - Launched on 1 April 2020, the new **De Nora Marine Technologies LLC** is facilitating De Nora's continuing growth strategy/products in line with increasingly stringent environmental regulations.
 - <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/environmental/de-nora-sets-new-marine-business-entity-further-drive-growth>
- **Iridium/OLED Printed Electronics: Universal Display Corporation Announces Formation of OVJP Corporation to Advance the Commercialization of Groundbreaking OLED TV Manufacturing Technology**
 - UDC announced the formation of its wholly-owned subsidiary OVJP Corporation. HQ in Silicon Valley, California, OVJP Corp was established to advance the commercialization of Universal Display's novel, mask-less, solvent-less, OLED printing manufacturing platform.
 - **Matt:** OLED is the largest revenue segment of printed electronics.

- <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20200714005876/en/Universal-Display-Corporation-Announces-Formation-OVJP-Corporation>

BEV / Li-Ion Battery Market News

- **BMW Group sources sustainable cobalt worth around 100 million euros from Morocco**
 - Recently the BMW Group signed a supply contract with Moroccan mining company Managem Group. The contract has a volume of around 100 million euros.
 - <https://batteryindustry.tech/bmw-group-sources-sustainable-cobalt-worth-around-100-million-euros-from-morocco/>
- **Can lithium-ion batteries benefit from a little PGM?**
 - Platinum Group Metals' CEO R. Michael Jones told Kitco last month said it partnered with Anglo American Platinum to launch a new venture, Lion Battery Technologies Inc., to investigate the benefits of adding platinum group metals (PGMs) to battery technology.
 - https://www.kitco.com/news/video/show/Kitco-NEWS/2891/2020-07-13/Can-lithium-ion-batteries-benefit-from-a-little-PGM#_48_INSTANCE_puYLh9Vd66QY=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kitco.com%2Fnews%2Fvideo%2Flatest%3Fshow%3DKitco-NEWS
- **Tesla Has 3 (Or 4) Vehicles In “Most American Made” Top 10**
 - Tesla has 3 models now confirmed on the list of the top 10 “Most American” cars. That’s right, 3 out of the 10 cars on the list are Tesla’s! Presumably, the Model Y will be added at some point too.
 - <https://cleantechnica.com/2020/07/13/tesla-has-3-or-4-vehicles-in-most-american-made-top-10/>

Regards –