



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: June 4, 2021

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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.

Printable PDF version attached. Enjoy-

Gold

- **PRECIOUS-Gold slides over 2% as strong U.S. data bolsters Fed taper bets | Reuters**
 - U.S. weekly jobless claims drop below 400,000
 - U.S. service sector index at record high in May
 - ADP data suggests similar bounce in nonfarm payrolls -analyst
<https://www.reuters.com/article/global-precious-idUSL3N2NL3JN>
- **Investors fleeing to gold as volatility rise in crypto market**
 - After chasing higher returns and enduring big swings over the last few months, funds are now reversing from cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin to gold as investors appreciate the reliability and stability of the precious metal, according to a note by Quantum Mutual Fund.
<https://www.livemint.com/market/cryptocurrency/investors-fleeing-to-gold-as-volatility-rise-in-crypto-market-11622726653713.html>

Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):

- **Semiconductor shortage puts brakes on automotive recovery**
 - AutoForecast Solutions predicts semiconductor shortages to reduce vehicle production by 202,000 units during 2021, and a quarter of that lost volume will be in Europe. "European industry association ACEA expects supply constraints to remain until the third quarter of 2021, resulting in "considerably lower" production volumes and postponed deliveries for the rest of the year," he added.
<https://www.theengineer.co.uk/semiconductor-shortage-puts-brakes-on-automotive-recovery/>
- **Intel reiterates chip supply shortages could last several years**
 - Intel's CEO said on Monday it could take several years for a global shortage of semiconductors to be resolved, a problem that has shuttered some auto production lines and is also being felt in other areas, including consumer electronics.
 - "...the industry has taken steps to address near term constraints it could still take a couple of years for the ecosystem to close shortages of foundry capacity, substrates & components."
<https://www.reuters.com/technology/intel-reiterates-chip-supply-shortages-could-last-several-years-2021-05-31/>
- **Japan's Renesas sees fire-damaged chip plant back to full capacity by mid-June | Reuters**

- Capacity on the Naka plant's 300mm chip line in eastern Japan had returned to about 88% of pre-fire levels at the end of May, the company said in a statement. All new equipment would be installed and switched on "by mid-June", it added.
- The fire, caused by an electrical fault, was a blow to carmakers around the world already struggling to find enough automotive semiconductors. Renesas makes nearly a third of the microcontroller chips used in cars around the world.
<https://www.reuters.com/technology/intel-reiterates-chip-supply-shortages-could-last-several-years-2021-05-31/>
- **Global Governments Ramp Up Pace of Chip Investments - Semi Industry Association**
 - The widespread global chip shortage as a result of the COVID-19 crisis in late 2020 has shown that vulnerabilities in the global semiconductor supply chain put at risk many technologies and products essential to our daily lives. Indeed, the United States is now vulnerable to supply-chain disruptions as it has fallen behind global competition in providing support for this strategic sector.
<https://www.semiconductors.org/global-governments-ramp-up-pace-of-chip-investments/>
- **Solar Applied Materials to ready new capacity for sputtering targets in 4Q21**
 - Solar Applied Materials to ready new capacity for sputtering targets in 4Q21; 1Q21 revenues rose 36% on year to NT\$7.367 billion (US\$266.70 million), and April revenues gained 7.05% on year reaching NT\$2.51 billion.
 - The company now has more than 20 clients for its sputtering targets for wafer foundry, packaging, bumping, testing, and PCB manufacturing applications, with such materials contributing 20% of its annual revenues
<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20210531PD205.html>

Silver

- **IHSM clean energy insights: High module prices and shipping costs jeopardize 2021 installation outlook**
 - In the first installment of a new monthly blog by IHS Markit, Edurne Zoco, Exec. Dir. for Clean Energy Technology, writes that high prices and increased freight costs are putting solar PV procurement teams under extreme pressure, particularly those teams with connection deadlines this year that were anticipating a more favorable pricing and logistic environment in the second half of 2021.
 - Matt: 1H 2021 China Polysilicon Module prices \$0.20/watt, now \$0.29-\$0.31/watt.
 - IHS Markit currently maintains its 181 GW installation forecast for 2021. Our down case scenario for 2021 is 156 GW (down case still 9% growth Y-o-Y) with demand spill over to 2022 and uneven impact of higher costs across different markets.
 - Matt: 156 GW Low 2021 Outlook = 127 Moz and 181 GW High Case = 147 Moz forecast silver Solar PV demand, vs. 2020 Solar 99 Moz demand.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/06/03/ihsm-clean-energy-insights-high-module-prices-and-shipping-costs-jeopardize-2021-installation-outlook/>
- **Renewable energy's rise should help long-term lift for silver, analysts say**
 - Even though silver is the best conductor of energy, it is viewed as a metal for jewelry while copper is considered an industrial metal, Noble Gold founder Collin Plume tells MarketWatch, but if the next superpower is the country that conquers energy, "silver is the most important material."
 - Plume sees silver topping \$50 if the Biden administration's renewable energy plan is approved, raising demand for the metal and leading the market to realize supplies may come up short.
 - Silver is used in solar panels and electric vehicles, and will play a key part in the shift to 5G wireless network technology, which should spark silver demand, Direxion's Ed Egilinsky says.

<https://seekingalpha.com/news/3701379-renewable-energys-rise-should-help-long-term-lift-for-silver-analysts-say>

- **SLV: Keep Buying the Dips in Silver**

- After many months of underperformance, silver is starting to perk higher. It's not surprising that it comes about as inflation concerns are rising. Taylor Dart breaks down some recent developments, and why higher prices are in store.

<https://stocknews.com/news/slv-keep-buying-the-dips-in-silver/>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **Best Platinum Mining Stocks to Invest In**

- The European Union is making an \$11 trillion commitment to a new green economy. This is sparking new interests in platinum by investors due to its role in the process. So, what are the best platinum mining stocks that you may want to consider for your portfolio?
- Anglo American Platinum (OTC: ANGPY)
- Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (OTC: IMPUY)
- Platinum Group Metals (NYSE: PLG)

<https://investmentu.com/platinum-mining-stocks/>

- **Russian banks to finance \$7.8 billion Siberia platinum mine**

- Russian Platinum is cooperating on the project with Nor Nickel, the world's largest producer of palladium, which will provide access to infrastructure near the deposit and will be responsible for the sale of metals produced there.
- The first stage of the project - the construction of a mine with an annual capacity to produce 7 million tonnes of ore, will require 190 billion roubles (\$2.6 billion), VTB and VEB said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-platinum-mine-idUSKCN2DF19Z>

- **Sibanye-Stillwater to buy-back 5% of shares, raising the bar on peer group investor returns**

<https://www.miningmx.com/news/gold/46404-sibanye-stillwater-unveils-r10bn-share-buy-back-programme/>

- **Zimbabwe might seize Todal Mining's platinum concessions**

- The Bokai and Kinonde concessions may be taken over under the "use-it/lose-it principle" which allows the state to repossess idle mining claims, minister Winston Chitando said in a letter to Todal dated May 28 and seen by Bloomberg. The mines ministry confirmed the veracity of the document.
- Zimbabwe, which has the world's third-biggest platinum group metal reserves, has struggled to develop its mining potential with investors from Russia, Cyprus, Nigeria and Kazakhstan yet to bring projects into production.

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/africa/2021-05-31-zimbabwe-might-seize-todal-minings-platinum-concessions/>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- **Metals recycling in EU could collapse under new rules, companies say**

- Europe's metals recycling industry could collapse under the European Commission's proposed changes to waste shipments that clamp down on exports to encourage recycling, members of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) have warned.
- The EU proposals aim to restrict the export of waste materials such as metals, plastics and textiles as part of efforts to increase recycling within the bloc and stop waste being shipped to emerging market countries where it may be dumped rather than recycled.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/metals-recycling-eu-could-collapse-under-new-rules-companies-say-2021-06-03/>

- **Europe risks missing e-waste recycling targets, EU auditors warn**

- Only two European countries (Bulgaria and Croatia) are anywhere close to being on track to achieving the EU's recycling targets for electronic waste – or e-waste – the European Court of Auditors warned on Thursday (20 May).
<https://www.euractiv.com/section/circular-materials/news/europe-risks-missing-e-waste-recycling-targets-eu-auditors-warn/>
- **Everything You Need To Know About Oxygen Sensors - Auto Recycling World**
 - The first-generation oxygen sensors carry the absolute most recyclable value. As you can in (figure 1.1) the oxygen sensor consists of a thimble made from platinum. When compared to the second generation model, you can see a noticeable difference in design where less platinum is being used. Engineers have begun thrifting of precious metal in order to save on cost.
<https://autorecyclingworld.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-oxygen-sensors/>

Platinum

- **California Urges EPA to Let State Set Car-Emission Standards**
 - California's AG Rob Bonta called the state's vehicle-emissions standards "critical to the fight against climate change" and crucial to improve air quality, protect public health and drive technological innovation.
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/california/california-urges-epa-to-let-state-set-car-emission-standards/2560549/>
- **EU Pushes for Tougher Standards to Cut Shipping Emissions**
 - Among them are standards requiring ships to reduce their CO2 intensity. An IMO working group has proposed an 11% carbon intensity cut by 2026, from 2019 levels.
<https://www.marinelink.com/news/eu-pushes-tougher-standards-cut-shipping-488154>
- **Platinum in glass & Iridium in LED: LED Glass Could Change How We Look At Buildings**
 - LED glass, also known as media glass or electroluminescent glass, has transparent LED lights embedded in it. The glass itself is a laminated safety glass that is waterproof as well as UV resistant and can be used indoors or out, and otherwise functions exactly like normal glass you see used for windows on a regular basis.
<https://www.fool.com/millionacres/real-estate-investing/articles/led-glass-could-change-how-we-look>
- **WPIC: Platinum industrial demand, the largest net demand segment, & unsung driver of platinum demand growth**
https://platinuminvestment.com/files/755449/WPIC_Platinum_Perspectives_May_2021.pdf

Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:

- **Japan targets 1,000 hydrogen stations by end of decade**
 - Move part of plan to make green vehicles more convenient in carbon neutral push
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Japan-targets-1-000-hydrogen-stations-by-end-of-decade>
- **Germany picks 62 major hydrogen projects to get EUR 8bn in funds**
 - The German government will provide more than EUR 8 billion (USD 9.76bn) in federal and state funds for 62 large-scale hydrogen projects that were hand-picked last week.
 - The selected projects cover the entire value chain of the hydrogen market -- from production and transport to industrial applications. They have been picked out of over 230 applications to receive funding under a joint European hydrogen project referred to as an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI). Germany's picks will need to be approved by the European Commissions (EC) under state aid law this year.
<https://renewablesnow.com/news/germany-picks-62-major-hydrogen-projects-to-get-eur-8bn-in-funds-742937/>
- **A Ford F150 Lightning (pickup truck) could travel 1000 miles on hydrogen**

- The 2021 Hyundai Nexo hydrogen-powered SUV stores 6.3 kg of hydrogen in 41 gallons of tankage. Our Ford F150 holds more than 24 kg of hydrogen. We could get more than 1000 miles of “advertised range” in our hydrogen-fueled truck.
<https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/ford-f150-lightning-on-hydrogen/8546740/>
- **WPIC: Fuel Cell Trucks Will Go The Distance**
 - Innovation and collaboration are driving down the cost of heavy-duty FCEVs
https://platinuminvestment.com/files/sixtysecs/WPIC_60seconds_Fuel_cell_trucks_06022021.pdf
- **Order Placed for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Inland Barge**
 - The order was recently placed for the construction of an inland waterway vessel that seeks to become the first to run on hydrogen. A similar competing project was also announced in March to retrofit another inland barge to operate on hydrogen.
<https://maritime-executive.com/article/order-placed-for-hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered-inland-barge>
- **Hyzon Motors Announces Order for up to 70 Hydrogen Trucks for Austrian Supermarket Chain**
 - Hyzon Motors signs definitive agreement to supply up to 70 hydrogen fuel cell powered heavy trucks to a leading Austrian grocery store chain. Hyzon expects to begin delivering trucks in 2021, with all trucks expected to be delivered over the course of three years
<https://hyzonmotors.com/hyzone-motors-announces-order-for-up-to-70-hydrogen-trucks-for-austrian-supermarket-chain/>

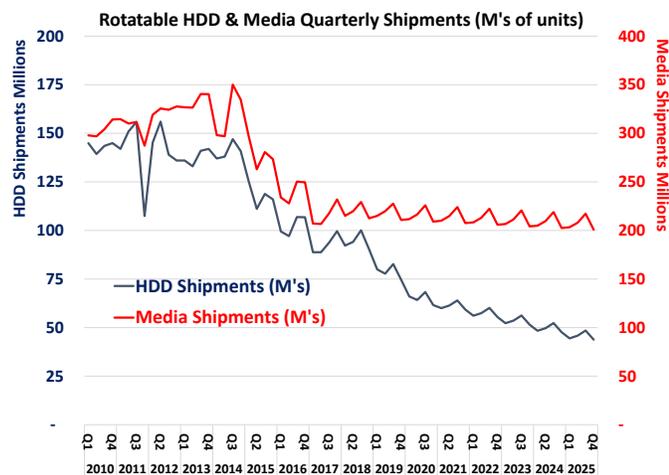
Palladium

- **Nornickel Market Review of Platinum, Palladium & Nickel**
 - World’s largest producer of palladium and high-grade nickel and a major producer of platinum and copper Nornickel has presented the seventh review This year, the experts see an impressive recovery in automotive demand and other industrial applications almost to the pre-COVID levels, although partially subdued by the chip shortage. This recovering demand will be met by the rebounding supply from South Africa and other regions as well as recycling. However, the suspension of Nornickel’s concentrator and Oktyabrsky and Taimyrsky mines have widened the expected deficit of current supply vs demand to 0.9Moz in 2021 vs the previous estimate of a balanced market.
<https://www.steelguru.com/metals/nornickel-market-review-of-platinum-palladium-nickel>
- **PGM Prices Soar As Demand Recovers Amid Supply Disruption**
 - Palladium and rhodium are forecast to remain in deficit in 2021, as global auto production recovers, and clean air legislation becomes more stringent.
 - Platinum could move back into surplus, despite higher autocatalyst demand, as higher prices curb investment and jewellery consumption.
 - Primary pgm supplies have been affected by processing plant outages in South Africa and mine flooding in Russia but should improve as the year progresses.
 - Consumers are now responding to record prices, with car companies accelerating thrifting and substitution programmes, and glass companies reducing rhodium use.
<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/pgm-prices-soar-as-demand-recovers-amid-supply-disruption-1030490098>
- **Sales pace slows in May, but 2021 growth likely to top 6.5%, CAAM says**
 - The new-vehicle market grew at a slower pace of 0.5 percent in May after robust gains in the first four months, the China Association of Automobile
<https://www.autonews.com/china/sales-pace-slows-may-2021-growth-likely-top-65-caam-says>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium, Osmium)

- **South African Rand "Significantly Undervalued" says JP Morgan Eyeing Rhodium Prices**

- "Most official statistics do not disaggregate the role of rhodium in PGM's, which historically has been dominated by platinum and palladium, and hence the further 88% rhodium price jump since 4Q20 may have been easily missed," says Christovova.
- The rise in value of this precious metal mean economists at JP Morgan have "significantly upgraded" their forecasts for South African GDP growth and the current account balance.
<https://www.poundsterlinglive.com/zar/15501-south-african-rand-significantly-undervalued-says-jp-morgan-eyeing-rhodium-prices>
- **Iridium Crucibles for SAW/BAW Filters Wafers/Crystals - Smartphone market could see biggest growth in six years amid 5G boom**
 - That's according to analysts at IDC, who project that there will be 1.38 billion smartphone shipments globally during 2021, up 7.7% from a year ago. Looking to 2022, the analysts expect the growth to continue, with projections for a 3.8% increase in shipments.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/smartphone-market-could-see-biggest-growth-in-six-years-amid-5g-boom/ar-AAKp6RT?ocid=uxbndlbing>
- **Pt and Ru in HDDs: SSDs Outsell HDDs in Unit Sales 3:2: 99 million Vs. 64 million in Q1**
 - But HDDs maintain exabytes lead: 288.3EB vs 61.5EB.
 - Large multi-platter HDDs for low cost less speed intensive data center operations remain the norm. Extrapolating out the Trend Focus subscription report quarterly shipments report data the trend for HDD's and corresponding media (which are the dominate Ru and Pt consuming components) is:
<https://www.tomshardware.com/news/ssd-market-shares-q1-2021-trendfocus>



BEV / LiB Battery Market News

- **The human bottleneck in critical minerals supply chains: Andy Home**
 - The road to decarbonisation will be paved with copper.
 - As well as lithium, nickel, cobalt and a host of other minerals, all critical for electric vehicles (EVs), solar panels and wind farms.
<https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/the-human-bottleneck-in-critical-minerals-supply-chains-andy-home>
- **Nano One and Johnson Matthey enter into a Joint Development Agreement for lithium-ion battery materials**
 - Nano One® Materials Corp. (Nano One), a clean technology innovator in battery materials, and Johnson Matthey (JM), a global leader in sustainable technologies, today announced a joint development agreement. Under this agreement the companies will co-develop next generation products and processes for Johnson Matthey's eLNO family of nickel-rich advanced cathode materials

using Nano One's patented One-Pot process and coated nanocrystal technology, for the low-cost, low-carbon footprint production of high-performance lithium-ion battery cathode materials.

<https://matthey.com/en/news/2021/nano-one-and-jm-joint-development-agreement>

- **Nornickel Market Review of Platinum, Palladium & Nickel**
 - In 2022, they expect the surplus to exceed 100 kt on the back of a continuing expansion of low-grade nickel. An accelerated growth in the battery sector with its ever-tightening requirements for ESG-compliance and respective supply curtailments could mitigate the surplus.
<https://www.steelguru.com/metals/nornickel-market-review-of-platinum-palladium-nickel>
- **Cobalt Institute report: demand for cobalt for batteries grew at annual rate of 10% between 2013 and 2020 - Green Car Congress**
 - According to the report, the cobalt market has grown overall at an annual rate of more than 5% since 2013. The major drive for this growth was the demand for cobalt in lithium-ion batteries. It accounted for 57% of the total cobalt consumption in 2020, followed by nickel-based alloys and tool materials (13% and 8% respectively).
<https://www.greencarcongress.com/2021/05/20210522-cobaltinstitute.html>
- **China's Tianyi to start up 2nd phase of lithium hydroxide plant in Q4**
 - That will bring annual capacity to 45,000 tonnes following the commissioning of the 20,000 tonnes first phase last year.
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/chinas-tianyi-to-start-up-2nd-phase-of-lithium-hydroxide-plant-in-q4-exec-2021-06-01>
- **Mexico now ready to welcome private lithium miners**
 - Mexico's leftist ruling party has dropped plans to nationalize lithium production and is now pushing to welcome private investors to help develop the country's potential in the metal used to make batteries, the senior lawmaker behind the proposal told Reuters.
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/exclusive-mexico-now-ready-to-welcome-private-lithium-miners-2021-06-02-0>
- **Do Multiple Tesla Vehicle Recalls Complicate Its Growth Story?**
 - Tesla will recall 5,530 vehicles that include 2018-2020 Model 3 and 2019-2021 Model Y cars in the U.S., Reuters reports. The recall was to address the issue with fasteners that secure the front seat shoulder belt to the B-pillar.
 - Tesla is also recalling 2,166 Model Y vehicles from 2019-2021, citing improper attachment of fasteners that secure the left and right second row seat belt retractors.
 - This comes on top of the recall Tesla announced Wednesday of 6,000 2019-2020 Model 3 vehicles and 2020-2021 Model Y vehicles due to the possibility of the brake caliper bolts being loose.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/news/do-multiple-tesla-vehicle-recalls-complicate-its-growth-story/ar-AAKG3Gq?ocid=BingNewsSearch>
- **Visualizing the Rise in Commodity Prices**
 - Since Jan 2020: Lumber +304%, Iron +114%, Soybean Oil +85%, Corn +85%, **Tin +80%**, Soybeans +66%, **Copper +65%**, **Palladium +54%**, **Silver +53%**
<https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-the-rise-in-commodity-prices/>

Regards –