



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: August 14, 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

- **WGC: Gold Demand Trends Q2 2020**
 - Total supply was down 6% in H1 due to coronavirus-related disruption
<https://www.gold.org/goldhub/research/gold-demand-trends/gold-demand-trends-q2-2020/supply>
- **Gold drops below \$2,000 as dollar holds gains and shares bounce**
 - Gold sank as much as -4.3% on Tuesday, facing its worst one-day rout in 7 years, as a return of risk appetite following encouraging economic numbers and hopes of new coronavirus relief package boosted the S&P 500 to near record highs.
 - Silver -7.2% to \$27.06 per ounce, platinum -3.3% to \$954.07 and palladium -4.2% to \$2,125.61.
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/11/gold-markets-us-china-tensions-in-focus.html>
- **Gold Likely To Double And Then Triple From Here**
 - The demand for gold and silver is accelerating as investors purchase the physical metal and/or pile into the ETFs. Most importantly, the fever pitch reached in the gold bull market is like no other and boundaries will be exceeded time and time again as the panic to buy gets a grip. Take a position while you can in the physical metal if you can get it and also in some of the PM stocks which are the rising stars of the near-term future.
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4366615-gold-likely-to-double-and-triple-from>
- **How to get more cancer-fighting nanoparticles to where they are needed**
 - University of Toronto Engineering researchers have discovered a dose threshold that greatly increases the delivery of cancer-fighting drugs into a tumor.
<https://phys.org/news/2020-08-cancer-fighting-nanoparticles.html>
- **Perth Mint dumps auditor but retains crucial accreditation**
 - The Perth Mint has been forced to replace its long-standing auditor and overhaul its ethical sourcing regime but was not stripped of its London accreditation despite revelations it purchased tainted gold from a convicted killer in Papua New Guinea.
<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/perth-mint-dumps-auditor-but-retains-crucial-accreditation-20200809-p55k0w>

Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):

- **Late Friday Aug 7th: Silver Price Daily Forecast – Silver Sets Multi-Year High At \$29.85**
 - Silver almost managed to test the \$30.00 level but then declined closer to \$28.00 as gold/silver ratio continued to fall while the U.S. dollar showed signs of a rebound.
<https://www.fxempire.com/forecasts/article/silver-price-daily-forecast-silver-sets-multi-year-high-at-29-85-665525>

- **The 5G revolution: A catalyst for semiconductor success**
 - Global telecommunications companies are continuing the race to deploy the best 5G networks and technologies around the world. Though the coronavirus has pushed the 5G rollout back by 3-6 months, companies are now prioritizing capacity allocation to 5G production as they ramp back up.
<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20200807PR200.html&chid=9>

Silver

- **Record Gold and Silver Trading at World No.1 on Massive Price Swings**
 - This massive volatility has spurred record gold and silver trading volumes on BullionVault, the precious metals marketplace for private investors. Tuesday 11 August beat 24 June 2016 – the day of the shock Brexit result in the UK's EU referendum – by 21.9% at £38.1m by value ... some \$49.7m (in US Dollars) or around €41.2m ... all of it physically settled inside specialist vaults for full payment only.
<https://www.bullionvault.com/gold-news/trade-gold-silver-081220202>
- **Silver Explodes - But Why?**
 - This manic rise in the price of silver will end someday. But today is not that day. Stack on!
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4366748-silver-explodes-why>
- **Silver Prices Are Correcting: Buy This Dip**
 - I am of the opinion that this correction will be short lived and fairly shallow.
 - Silver is an industrial metal that also has a role as an investment, and it is this area that is seeing this sudden increase in demand.
<https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/3096644/south-africas-platinum-miners-reeling-years-curtailed>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **South Africa's mining output down 28.2% in June**
 - The largest negative contributors were platinum-group metals (PGMs), with output down 42.5% and contributing -10.6 percentage points.
<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/south-africas-mining-output-down-282-in-june-2020-08-13>
- **South Africa's platinum miners, reeling from years of curtailed investments, take blow from coronavirus pandemic**
 - A series of mega open-cast projects in the traditional heartland of South Africa's platinum belt risk being shelved.
 - The future of 170,000 people employed by South Africa's platinum industry is at stake as miners suspend capital expenditure.
<https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/3096644/south-africas-platinum-miners-reeling-years-curtailed>
- **Barrick's (GOLD) Earnings and Sales Surpass Estimates in Q2**
 - Total gold production amounted to around 1.15 million ounces in the second quarter, down 15.1% year over year from 1.35 million ounces. Average realized price of gold was \$1,725 per ounce in the quarter, up 31% year over year.
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/barricks-gold-earnings-sales-surpass-152203534.html>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- **Careful consumers will see fewer cars being scrapped**

- The drop in the number of units processed differed from one country and region to the next, but we expect to see an overall contraction of 25 to 30 percent for 2020. Worldwide, however, we forecast a decline in the car market of around 18 percent for the full year.
<https://recyclinginternational.com/ferrous-metals/careful-consumers-will-see-fewer-cars-being-scraped/31192/>
- **The World Is Facing A Solar Panel Waste Problem**
 - National Renewable Energy Laboratory warned that by the end of this decade, some 8 million tons of solar panel waste could find their way into landfills across the world. By 2025, this could rise to as much as 80 million tons. This is up from just 250,000 tons in 2016.
<https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Solar-Energy/The-World-Is-Facing-A-Solar-Panel-Waste-Problem.html>
- **Korea's battle with spent solar panels heats up**
 - The ever-increasing penetration of PV systems now poses a new problem of how to recycle them. The energy-intensive, environmentally toxic chemical products, unless recycled, will have to be incinerated or buried under the earth, polluting the atmosphere and land that some already describe as beyond repair.
http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/08/371_294244.html

Platinum

- **Platinum: the precious metal that looks set to play catch-up with silver and gold**
 - Gold and silver continue to soar, but there's still time to get in. And there's another precious metal that looks set to go on a bull run too, says John Stepek. Platinum.
<https://moneyweek.com/investments/commodities/silver-and-other-precious-metals/601798/platinum-precious-metal-gold-silver-bull-market>
- **Is automotive demand for platinum increasing or decreasing? - CME Group**
 - Better than expected China heavy duty diesel demand and potentially modest design swapping are enough to grow platinum demand.
<https://www.cmegroup.com/education/articles-and-reports/is-automotive-demand-for-platinum-increasing-or-decreasing.html>
- **Gold And Silver Have Been Explosive - Platinum Could Be Next**
 - Summary: Gold continues to make higher record highs.
 - Silver looks headed for \$30 or higher- The silver market is a volatile bucking bronco.
 - Platinum makes a new high for 2020 but is still looking up at \$1000 per ounce. Platinum's case is compelling. PPLT and PLTM are the platinum ETF products.
<https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/1/messages/AEbepoJUBH9eXzI5Hg5EWNWzfuQ>

Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:

- **Univ. Texas News: Hydrogen Should Be the Next Big Energy Business for Texas**
 - A recent industry-commissioned study predicts that hydrogen will be a \$130 billion business by 2030 in the U.S. Hydrogen has already created more than 500,000 new jobs worldwide, and now China is reportedly investing \$17 billion, with nearly \$8 billion in heavy-duty hydrogen fuel cell trucks alone.
 - Matt: Texas with retail industrial power at \$0.06/kW is an ideal candidate for large scale green electrolysis, capable of producing H2 at \$6/Kg
<https://news.utexas.edu/2020/07/27/hydrogen-should-be-the-next-big-energy-business-for-texas/>
- **EPRI and GTI Launch Initiative to Accelerate Low-Carbon Energy Technologies**
 - The Low-Carbon Resources Initiative (LCRI) is a international collaborative in the electric and gas sectors that will help advance decarbonization. With 18 sponsors, the to conduct clean energy R&D. Seeded with \$10 million.
<https://www.gti.energy/epri-and-gti-launch-initiative-to-accelerate-low-carbon-energy-technologies/>

- **Fuel cell EVs become more common in heavy industry applications**
 - In the case of Anglo American Platinum, fuel cell systems were incorporated into locomotives at the Khomeinani mine with the goal of having a more environmentally friendly and safer means of underground transportation.
 - The miner also plans to rebuild more than 400 mine-haul trucks to use hydrogen fuel, with a pilot project starting next year at its open-pit Mogalakwena mine, also in South Africa. A 3.5-megawatt electrolyzer will produce hydrogen on-site.
<https://www.mining.com/fuel-cell-evs-become-more-common-in-heavy-industry-applications/>
- **P2X: The promise of sustainable fuels from atmospheric CO2**
 - Power-to-X (P2X) is a concept for using surplus renewable power to produce fuels and chemicals.
<https://insights.globalspec.com/article/14747/p2x-the-promise-of-sustainable-fuels-from-atmospheric-co2>

Palladium

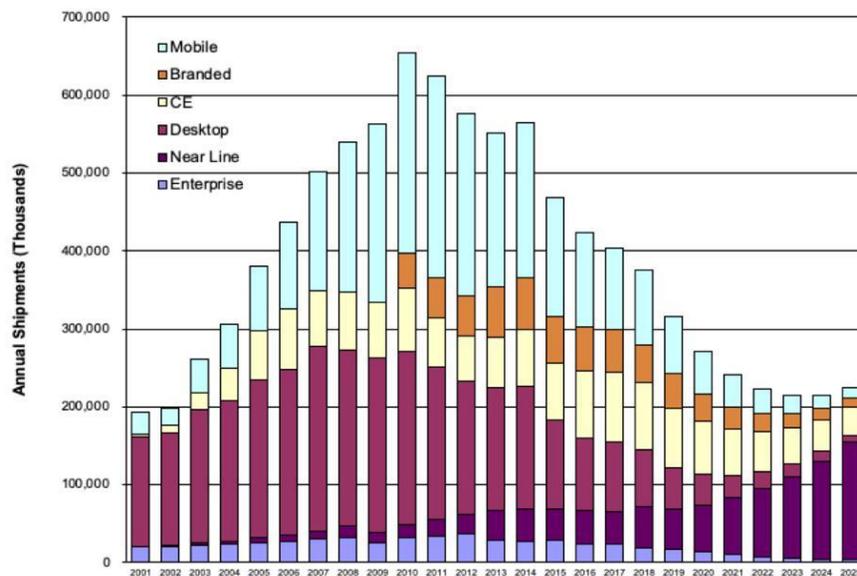
- **China car recovery gathers pace with July sales accelerating**
 - China retail sales of sedans, SUVs, minivans and multipurpose vehicles increased 7.9% in July from a year earlier to 1.63 million units.
 - Sales of NEVs are set to reach 1.1 million units this year, with Tesla accounting for about 100,000, CAAM forecast. That compares with NEV wholesales of 1.21 million units in 2019.
<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/foreign/2020/08/11/china-car-recovery-gathers-pace-july-sales-accelerating/3346336001/>
- **FCA Could Soon Recall 1 Million Jeeps, Other Vehicles with 2.4-Liter Engine**
 - The 2.4-liter Tigershark engine may have excess tailpipe emissions, an issue the automaker is sorting out with the EPA and CARB now.
<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a33525347/fca-jeep-tigershark-engine-possible-recall/>
- **Palladium to shift from deficit to balanced market this year – Nor Nickel**
 - Russia's Norilsk Nickel (Nornickel), the world's largest producer of palladium and high-grade nickel, expects the palladium market to be balanced this year, citing an "unprecedented" contraction of end-use demand as the automotive industry faces its worst crisis in decades.
<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/palladium-to-shift-from-deficit-to-balanced-market-this-year-nornickel-2020-08-12>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)

- **Chlor-Alkali Industry (Ru and Ir): US Olin to continue idling capacities, Texas closure on track for end 2020**
 - Olin will continue idling plants as it adapts to weakness in demand, the CEO of the US-based producer of chlorine and caustic soda, vinyls, epoxies, chlorinated organics, bleach and hydrochloric acid said in an update on Thursday.
<https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2020/08/06/10538415/us-olin-to-continue-idling-capacities-texas-closure-on-track-for-end-2020>
- **Resonators Fuel High-Performance RF Filters for 5G**
 - Acoustic-wave resonators based on the piezoelectric effect are very attractive for mobile-phone applications because of their compact size, related to the wavelength of frequencies of interest in a variety of media.
 - Matt: Iridium crucibles are used in the fabrication of SAW and BAW filters. 5G is creating a huge demand for these small low cost devices used by the dozens in each smartphone.

<https://www.electronicdesign.com/industrial-automation/article/21137053/resonators-fuel-highperformance-rf-filters-for-5g>

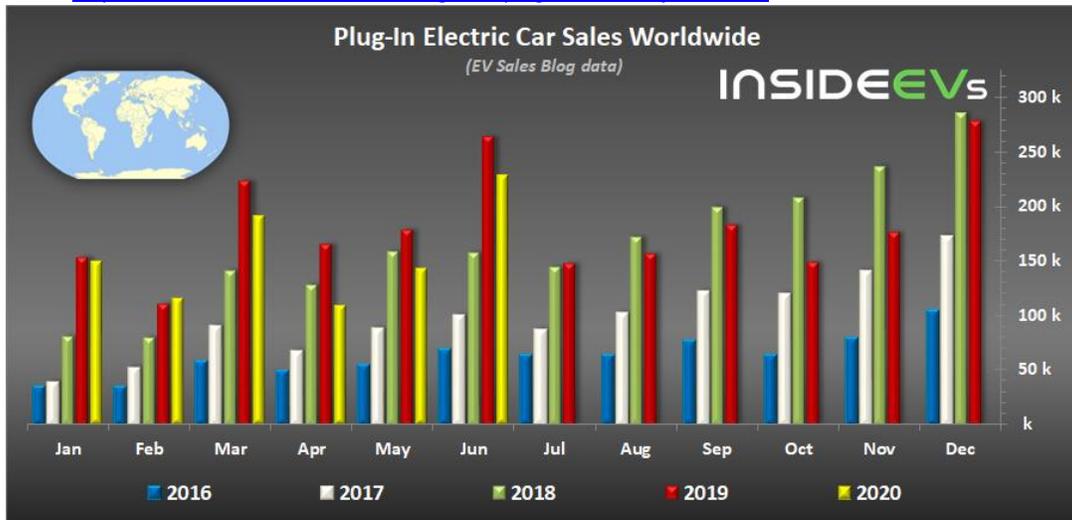
- **Manufacturing Bits: Aug. 10 – More uses of PVD Ru Layers In Advanced IC Nodes.**
 - EUV Mask Distortion/Management: An EUV mask consists of 40-50 alternating layers of silicon & molybdenum on top of a substrate, resulting in a 250nm-350nm thick multi-layer stack. A ruthenium-based capping layer is deposited on the stack, followed by an absorber based on tantalum. <https://semiengineering.com/manufacturing-bits-aug-10/>
- **Hard Disk Drive Quarterly Results And Projections**
 - Let's look at Q2 2020 HDD results and revised projections for HDDs through 2025. These are results from the Q2 2020 Coughlin Associates newsletter.
 - Matt: Contrary to some precious metals analyst views, the HDD industry is actually been in decline in the number of HDD's and associated recording media (platters) that it builds, lowering demand for both Ruthenium and Platinum alloy PVD targets consumed by the four remaining global media producers, Seagate, WD, Fuji Electric, and Showa Denko. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tomcoughlin/2020/08/12/hard-disk-drive-quarterly-results-and-projections/>



BEV / Li-Ion Battery Market News

- **Nikola Receives Landmark Order of 2,500 Battery-Electric Waste Trucks from Republic Services**
 - Purely LiB based EV's: The refuse trucks are anticipated to carry up to an industry-leading 720kWh of energy storage. Begin full production deliveries in 2023 with on-road testing early 2022.
 - Matt: These will be huge batteries at 720kWh. Estimated cathodes > 1,200 kg https://nikolamotor.com/press_releases/nikola-receives-landmark-order-of-2500-battery-electric-waste-trucks-from-republic-services-91
- **U.S.: Plug-Ins Account For 5.0% Of New Passenger Cars In H1 2020**
 - EV Market Share 1H 2020: U.S. 5.0%, Europe 8.0%, World 4.0%. <https://insideevs.com/news/436979/us-passenger-car-plugin-sales-h1-2020/>
- **Global Plug-In Electric Car Sales June 2020: Model 3 Leads, Model Y In 14th**
 - In June 2020 close to 230,000 new plug-in electric cars were sold globally, which on one hand is 22% less than a year ago, although on the other hand, it was one of the best results ever.
 - The result is clearly hampered by China, while Europe pushes forward at an outstanding pace.
 - Matt: EU EV market share now 8% with new 95g/km CO2 limits with OEM Penalties starting 2021.

- Because the overall market was down by 18% year-over-year, the market share was stable at about 3.6%. 2020 YTD global auto sales down 15-18% y/y, EV's are now 4% global market share.
 - Matt: 2020 EV global market on track for 2.3-2.7M units. Look for LiB mineral constraints hitting hard at around 5-7M EV's/year starting in the next 3 years.
- <https://insideevs.com/news/436920/global-plugin-car-sales-june-2020/>



Regards –