



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: September 11, 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 firms as dollar eases; ECB meeting eyed**
 - Gold prices rose to their highest level in nearly a week on Wednesday, as the dollar weakened and concerns over a delay in the development of a coronavirus vaccine drove investors toward the safe-haven metal.
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/09/gold-markets-central-banks-coronavirus.html>
- **Comex Is Turning Into A Physical Gold Delivery Hub**
 - September open interest in gold was \$3,070, yet physical deliveries for September gold total \$3,457.
 - This indicates traders are buying spot September gold for the exclusive purpose of physical delivery.
 - This is what could be driving gold back into backwardation, where it has been stuck in real terms since around August 18 as measured by the gold basis.
 - Gold still looks to be near a selloff from a technical standpoint, so it will be interesting to see how physical deliveries respond to a discount if it comes.
 - Will September gold buyers increase purchases? If so, it will load the spring tighter for the next gold up-leg, which may be the last chance to buy below \$2000/OZ.
<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4373205-comex-is-turning-physical-gold-delivery-hub>
- **Why Gold Prices Could Stay High**
 - In August, investors bought 39 metric tons of the metal through gold ETFs, equivalent to \$2.1 billion in assets under management. While that marked the slowest monthly pace for 2020, global inflows have driven up the collective holdings of gold ETFs by 38%, to an all-time high of 3,824 metric tons, worth about \$241 billion. That surpassed the largest annual gain, in 2009, by nearly 50%.
<https://www.barrons.com/amp/articles/etfs-are-holding-a-record-amount-of-gold-price-could-stay-high-51599688196>

Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):

- **Global Semiconductor Sales Increase 4.9 Percent Year-to-Year in July**
 - SIA announced worldwide sales of semiconductors were \$35.2 billion in July 2020, +4.9% than the July 2019 and +2.1% than the June 2020.
<https://www.semiconductors.org/global-semiconductor-sales-increase-4-9-percent-year-to-year-in-july/>
- **Second Quarter 2020 Global Semiconductor Equipment Billings up 26% Year-Over-Year, SEMI Reports**
 - Q2'2020 global billings for semiconductor manufacturing equipment jumped 26% year-over-year and 8%, to US\$16.8 billion, from the first quarter of the year. Korea and China driven.

Silver

- **Silver's Brilliant Year Validates Longtime Bugs' Enthusiasts**
 - Soaring price comes amid weaker dollar, government stimulus
 - 'Silver bugs' believe fiat cash system is headed for collapse
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-06/silver-s-brilliant-year-validates-longtime-bugs-enthusiasm>
- **Silver Passive Component Demand Increasing: Samsung Electro-Mechanics Deepens Automotive MLCC Lineup**
 - The company developed five new types of these capacitors that are specifically targeted for powertrains and anti-lock braking systems.
<https://www.electronicdesign.com/markets/automotive/article/21139204/samsung-electromechanics-deepens-automotive-mlcc-lineup>
- **Carbene modification and reversible crosslinking of silver nanoparticles for controlled antibacterial activity**
 - Silver nanoparticles system capable of exhibiting different particle size at different temperature was developed, which depended on the extent of Diels–Alder (DA) reaction of bismaleimide with furan. Thus, Ag NPs were functionalized on the surface by a furyl-substituted carbene through an insertion reaction. Subsequent reversible DA crosslinking achieved a controlled aggregation with different particle size, which gives a series of different antibacterial activity.
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-72043-1>
- **MCX exchange scales 12-year peak for silver delivery**
<https://www.livemint.com/market/commodities/mcx-exchange-scales-12-year-peak-for-silver-delivery-11599583093051.html>
- **Solar PV Silver Thrifing: Slimming down on silver**
 - Solar cell screen printing, with a paste developed by Heraeus. Scientists at KIT are working to better understand paste behavior during screen printing, and ultimately reduce the amount of Ag required.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/08/28/slimming-down-on-silver/>
- **Texas will outshine California in 2020**
 - Around 3 GW of solar PV is set to be installed this year in Texas alone, but opportunities also abound across several other southern U.S. states.
 - Texas established a voluntary goal in 1999 of 10 GW of renewable energy generation by 2025.
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/10/texas-will-outshine-california-in-2020/>
- **Solar PV Market Supply Constrained: How long can these polysilicon price spikes go on?**
 - Disruptions in polysilicon supply this summer, as well as demand for solar PV during the ongoing pandemic, have added a new source of supply risk to project finance and construction that can lead to price risk and make projects unviable.
<https://www.pv-tech.org/guest-blog/how-long-can-these-polysilicon-price-spikes-go-on>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **Russian Watchdog Files \$2 Billion Lawsuit Against Nornickel for Fuel Spill Damage**
 - The watchdog had previously asked Nornickel to pay this sum voluntarily. Nornickel argued with it over the sum but set aside \$2 billion in reserves, which caused a slump in its first-half net profit.
 - Some analysts have said that the amount is not critical to the financial stability of the \$41-billion mining giant but it could prompt it to increase debt and reduce dividends.
<https://money.usnews.com/investing/news/articles/2020-09-10/russian-watchdog-files-2-billion-lawsuit-against-nornickel-for-fuel-spill-damage>
- **S. Africa's power cuts weigh on miner's investment decision**

- The power utility company said there is an increased possibility of power cuts over the next 18-months.
<https://af.reuters.com/article/ozabs-uk-safrica-mining-eskom-idAFKBN26113V-OZABS>
- **Zimplats delivers strong performance**
 - The S. African based PGMs producer delivered marginally lower mine-to-market Six-Element concentrate volumes of 2.5 Moz, -5% due to Covid-19.
 - Maiden contributions from Impala Canada plus stable deliveries from Zimbabwe offset the impact of Covid-19 on South Africa where operations were suspended during a 3-week national lockdown.
<https://www.herald.co.zw/zimplats-delivers-strong-performance/>
- **South Africa's Illegal Miners Risk Everything for Gold**
 - You know the mining sector over many years has shrunk quite a lot in South Africa as well, which is meant there are a lot of ex-miners, are now don't have jobs, and therefore some of them resort to illegal mining.
<https://www.voanews.com/africa/south-africas-illegal-miners-risk-everything-gold>
- **Barrick CEO faces stark test in fight for Papua New Guinea mine**
 - Barrick, the world's second-largest gold producer, lost a key court challenge over rights to the Porgera gold mine. PNG Prime Minister in April refused to extend Barrick's lease for the requested 20 years and instead gave the lease to a state-owned mining company Kumul Minerals Holdings Ltd.
<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/money/topstories/barrick-ceo-faces-stark-test-in-fight-for-papua-new-guinea-mine/ar-BB18RIB7>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- **Russia's Jan-July gold output down due to lower output from scrap**
 - The rare decline in Russia's output was caused by lower production of it from scrap, which fell to 16.4 t from 30.8 t, the ministry's data showed. It did not provide the reason for the decline.
https://www.miningweekly.com/article/russias-jan-july-gold-output-down-due-to-lower-output-from-scrap-2020-09-10/rep_id:3650
- **Emerging Technologies Key to Consumer Electronics Recycling**
 - Reducing the U.S.' reliance on importing high value materials for consumer electronics, such as gold and other high value materials, could rely on emerging technologies making el-waste recycling easier.
<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/emerging-technologies-key-to-consumer-electronics-recycling/>
- **Stadler acquires majority stake in weeeSwiss Technology AG**
 - With the growing needs of the market for metals that are directly involved in the evolution of our technologies, e-waste recycling is gaining importance by the day.
<https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/article/stadler-takes-majority-stake-weeeswiss/>
- **E-Wasted on the Way**
<https://www.eetimes.com/e-wasted-on-the-way/#>

Platinum

- **Platinum surplus vanishes as coronavirus hammers supply – WPIC**
 - The World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC) on Tuesday changed its forecast for the platinum market in 2020 from a surplus to a deficit, saying that the coronavirus outbreak would hammer supply even harder than demand.
<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/platinum-surplus-vanishes-as-coronavirus-hammers-supply-wpic-2020-09-07>
- **Lagging platinum being actively promoted – Implats**
 - “We’ve been very actively promoting investment demand, particularly in jewellery through the PGI, and we collaborated with BASF and successfully concluded the implementation of a new catalytic

converter that promotes switching between platinum and palladium to increase platinum loading in catalytic converters used in gasoline engines," said Muller.

https://www.miningweekly.com/article/lagging-platinum-being-actively-promoted-implats-2020-09-03/rep_id:3650

- **Pt FCC Catalyst Factory Opens: Behind Shell Technologies: Catalyst powder manufacturing with Darylene Harris and Ricky Mincey**
 - The PAPA (Port Allen Texas Precipitated Alumina) plant expansion has doubled the Port Allen plant's capacity to produce precipitated alumina powder. Precipitated alumina powder is a key raw material for FCC catalyst production.
<https://www.shell.com/business-customers/catalysts-technologies/resources-library/behind-shell-technologies-catalyst-powder-manufacturing.html?>
- **ICEPAG 2020: Hydrogen for a sustainable future**
 - Hydrogen – A Platform for Sustainability - agenda set – Sept 14-16
http://www.apec.uci.edu/ICEPAG2020/PDF/Full_Program_ICEPAG_2020_Sep_14_15_16_v7_082820.pdf
- **Platinum Quarterly Q2 2020**
 - 28-page report available for download from WPIC
https://platinuminvestment.com/files/455578/WPIC_Platinum_Quarterly_Q2_2020.pdf
- **Platinum's struggles exacerbated by dollar's strengthening**
 - Given the snap rebound of the EUR/USD and the better prospects for a dollar recovery, the commodity market is likely to register a spillover effect from these recent developments.
<https://www.fxstreet.com/analysis/platinums-struggles-exacerbated-by-dollars-strengthening-202009071557>

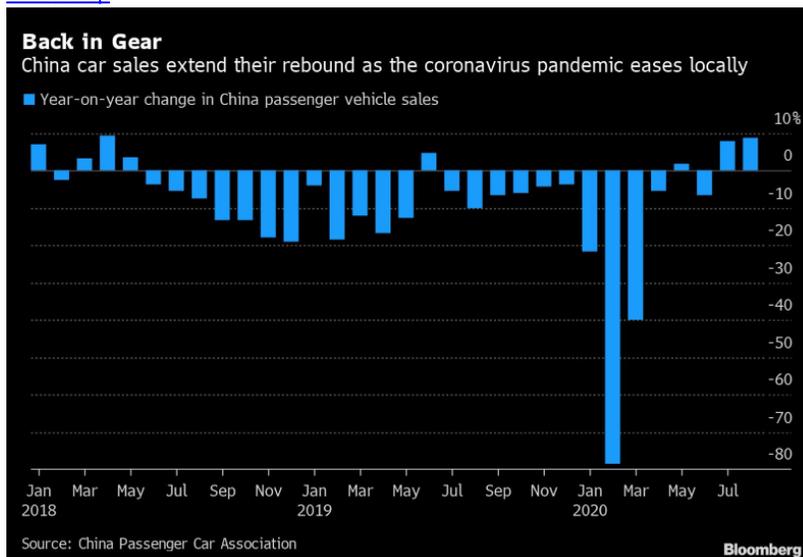
Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:

- **Nikola Teams Up With General Motors For Batteries, Fuel Cells And Manufacturing**
 - When Nikola Motors announced its plans to get into the pickup truck market with the Badger earlier this year, one of the questions raised was where it would be built and what technology it would use. We now know a lot more as GM just announced that it will take an 11% stake in Nikola and provide most of the core technology used in the Badger as well as its big trucks.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/samabuelsamid/2020/09/08/nikola-teams-up-with-general-motors-for-batteries-fuel-cells-and-manufacturing/#741c4bd27ffc>
- **Beijing plans new supportive policies for hydrogen fuel cells**
 - Current policies to support NEV makers provide subsidies on sales, but the new policy will focus on helping companies which have and are developing breakthrough technologies, Song Qiuling, a senior finance ministry official, told a conference hosted by the China Automotive Technology and Research Center in Tianjin.
<https://www.autonews.com/china/beijing-plans-new-supportive-policies-hydrogen-fuel-cells>
- **GM, Honda announce North America car alliance**
 - GM and Honda announced Thursday they were establishing a strategic alliance in N. America to share vehicle platforms and development costs.
 - The venture builds on existing partnerships on electric cars and fuel cell systems and comes as automakers face pressure to develop autonomous driving and other envelope-pushing technologies amid uncertain \
 - demand in the wake of the economic downturn due to COVID.
<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/09/04/gm-honda-announce-north-america-car-alliance.html>
- **Here are the steps Hyundai-Kia is taking towards hydrogen cars**
 - TG talks to the brains behind Hyundai and Kia's efforts in future sustainable transport
<https://www.topgear.com/car-news/electric/here-are-steps-hyundai-kia-taking-towards-hydrogen-cars>
- **Port Kembla-built hydrogen cars in Australia will hit the roads in 2022**

- Peter Zienau, H₂X Australia chief powertrain and production officer, shared his intentions to return to Port Kembla soon to announce the chosen site for manufacturing H₂ cars in Australia. <https://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/port-kembla-built-hydrogen-cars-in-australia-will-hit-the-roads-in-2022/8540469/>
- **Prize potentially large in platinum fuel cell and hydrogen growth – prof**
<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/prize-for-souprize-potentially-large-in-platinum-fuel-cell-and-hydrogen-growth-prof-2020-09-08>
- **TANAKA Wins Award in Industry of FY2019 FCDIC Honoring System**
 - Tanaka has won the “Award in Industry” under the FY2019 FCDIC Honoring System, which is run by the Fuel Cell Development Information Center (FCDIC).
<https://www.businessnewsasia.com/2020091052318054-tanaka-wins-award-industry-fy2019-fcdic-honoring-system/>
- **Nikola, Hylion defend divergent paths to zero-emission trucking**
 - Nikola building hydrogen fuel stations while Hylion uses existing infrastructure
<https://www.freightwaves.com/news/nikola-hyliion-defend-divergent-paths-to-zero-emission-trucking>
- **Hydrogen economy bodes well for platinum demand, says WPIC**
 - The hydrogen economy is elevating platinum as a precious metal with long-term store of value, says the World Platinum Investment Council.
<https://www.miningreview.com/platinum-group-metals/hydrogen-economy-bodes-well-for-platinum-demand-says-wpic/>

Palladium

- **Chinese Car Sales Rise at Fastest Rate in More Than Two Years**
 - Heavy discounts and new-model debuts propel a second-half recovery in the world’s largest auto market
https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinese-car-sales-rebound-at-fastest-rate-in-more-than-two-years-11599563163?mod=mw_quote_news
- **Rebound in China Car Sales Accelerates With Pandemic Easing**
 - Retail sales of sedans, SUVs, minivans and multipurpose vehicles increased 8.8% last month from a year earlier to 1.73 million units, the China Passenger Car Association said Tuesday. That follows a 7.9% gain in July.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/other/rebound-in-china-car-sales-accelerates-with-pandemic-easing/ar-BB18On2p>



- **Gold swot: palladium at a "golden cross"**
 - The best performing precious metal for the week was palladium, up 3.90 percent. Impala Platinum Holdings expects supply shortfalls for palladium to continue this year, sending the metal higher. <https://www.kitco.com/commentaries/2020-09-08/Gold-swot-palladium-at-a-golden-cross.html>
- **A Run On Comex Palladium Is Happening Now, And Platinum Could Be Next**
 - Palladium deliveries for September have hit a record 322, with 245 contracts still open, to either be delivered or cash settled. Total deliveries should therefore be somewhere around 567.
 - There is enough registered palladium on the Comex to satisfy 745 contracts, meaning about 76% of registered supply is about to be stood for delivery.
 - Open interest in palladium futures has collapsed to record lows since March, meaning a higher percentage of palladium traders is calling for delivery than ever before in history.
 - The situation is similar in platinum, which saw a record 4,131 contracts delivered in July. There is enough platinum to satisfy only 4,928 contracts, and 47,369 remain open. <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4372431-run-on-comex-palladium-is-happening-now-and-platinum-be-next>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)

- **Rhodium price rises to fresh six-month high**
 - Impala Platinum Holdings expects supply shortfalls for palladium to continue this year, sending the metal higher. The miner reported a 10-fold surge in profits to \$950 million for the FY ended June'30. <https://www.kitco.com/commentaries/2020-09-08/Gold-swot-palladium-at-a-golden-cross.html>
- **HAMR HDD Pt +70%, Ru to 0%: Exclusive: World's largest hard drive leaked in product roadmap**
 - Seagate's upcoming HAMR HDDs are listed as Exos 20+, which confirms that the company's first HAMR drives are set to feature a 20TB capacity. Over time, the company will also release HAMR HDDs with even greater capacities, but has not yet confirmed precisely how large these drive will be. <https://www.techradar.com/nz/news/exclusive-worlds-largest-hard-drive-leaked-in-product-roadmap>
- **Ru Catalyst: KBR and Johnson Matthey sign Alliance Agreement to License innovative Ammonia-Methanol Co-production Process Technology**
 - KBR and Johnson Matthey (JM), announced today that they have signed an alliance agreement to license a groundbreaking ammonia-methanol co-production process that combines their market-leading ammonia and methanol technologies. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/kbr-johnson-matthey-sign-alliance-100000274.html>
- **Scientists Identify New Catalysts for More Efficient Water Splitting**
 - In their study, the research team has proposed Ru-based catalysts that exhibit excellent stability regardless of electrolyte pH levels during electrochemical reactions, such as water splitting. <https://www.miragenews.com/scientists-identify-new-catalysts-for-more-efficient-water-splitting/>

BEV / LiB Battery Market News

- **China's EV Sales Rise for Second Month as Overall Market Continues Recovery**
 - NEV sales in China surged +26% y/y to 109,000 units in August for the 2nd consecutive month gain, a promising sign for automakers that have invested heavily in the world's biggest market for EV's. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-china-autos-idUKKBN2610T1>
- **Tesla Starts Battery Recycling in China**
 - Tesla has started a battery recycling service, saying that its batteries can be 100pc recycled.
 - Elon Musk has said previously that the cost of changing a battery pack will be around \$3,000-7,000/unit, considering the current driving range of Tesla's power battery is 300,000-500,000km. <https://www.oilandgas360.com/tesla-starts-battery-recycling-in-china/>
- **Locals stage latest fight against PNG mine dumping waste into sea**

- Matt: This is an article from May 2020. It discusses in detail a Papua New Guinea Nickel mine and the revelations surrounding the ecological damage that is being done with dumping mine tailings directly into the ocean. 17 mines globally are known to be doing the same. Indonesia with 25% of the global nickel reserves has two new large mines petitioning for permits to do the same. Destruction of our environment all in the name of LiB's for BEV's and global warming.
<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/05/locals-stage-latest-fight-against-png-mine-dumping-waste-into-sea/>

Regards –