



Weekly Precious Metals News Articles: June 19, 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

- **World's ultra-wealthy go for gold amid stimulus bonanza**
 - Advisers to the world’s wealthy are urging them to hold more gold, questioning the strength of the rally and the long-term impact of global central banks’ cash splurge.
 - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-gold-wealth-analys/worlds-ultra-wealthy-go-for-gold-amid-stimulus-bonanza-idUSKBN23P253>
- **Gold gains as fresh China virus fears offset strong US data**
 - “Gold is gaining after Beijing suddenly tightened the measures, with schools shut and people advised not to leave the city unless necessary,” said Alex Turro, market strategist at RJO Futures.
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/16/gold-markets-dollar-in-focus.html>
- **Technical Analyst: Precious Metals Sector Correction Starts as Risk On and Seasonal Factors Weigh**
 - The return of "risk on" will be greatly encouraged by the stock market breaking out to new highs which will suck money out of the PM sector to be deployed in biotech, blockchain, the FAANGS and the better cannabis stocks, but it should return as the economy gets going again and all the newly created money starts to drive inflation sharply higher.
 - <https://www.streetwisereports.com/article/2020/06/08/technical-analyst-precious-metals-sector-correction-starts-as-risk-on-and-seasonal-factors-weigh.html>
- **Semiconductor Related Articles (impacting Precious Metals electronics):**
 - **Automotive IC Market Forecast With Strongest CAGR Through 2024**
 - Automotive IC segment to show robust average annual growth but still hold less than a 10% share in 2024. Communications and Computer segments remain largest applications.
 - <https://www.icinsights.com/news/bulletins/Automotive-IC-Market-Forecast-With-Strongest-CAGR-Through-2024/>
 - **Semiconductor Industry vs. Global Pandemic**

Real Rates Of Economic Growth

	2017	2018	2019	2020f	2021f
▪ World	3.3%	3.0%	2.4%	-5.2%	4.2%
▪ USA	2.4%	2.9%	2.3%	-6.1%	4.0%
▪ EU	2.5%	1.9%	1.2%	-9.1%	4.5%
▪ Japan	2.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-6.1%	2.5%
▪ China	6.8%	6.6%	6.1%	1.0%	6.9%
▪ Emerging/ Developing	4.5%	4.3%	3.5%	-2.5%	4.8%

Global Outlook World Bank 6/20

- <https://blog.semi.org/business-markets/semiconductor-industry-vs.-global-pandemic>
- **Samsung smartphones' average selling price highest in 6 yrs: report**
 - Samsung Electronics Co. enjoyed the highest average selling price (ASP) of its smartphones in six years in the first quarter of the year, driven by robust demand for foldable phones and its flagship smartphones, industry data showed on Sunday.
 - <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200614000900320>

Silver

- **(ETF) SIVR Weekly: Silver Ripe For A Sharp Uptrend In The Months Ahead**
 - <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4354292-sivr-weekly-silver-ripe-for-sharp-uptrend-in-months-ahead>
- **Analyst expects 'unprecedented' consolidation of Chinese solar industry**
 - Private PV manufacturers and project developers alike are set to be squeezed out by the state in the world's biggest solar market
 - <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/06/15/analyst-expects-unprecedented-consolidation-of-chinese-solar-industry/>
- **Face mask and coverings made by Boomer Naturals with nano-silver technology**
 - <https://ktla.com/morning-news/face-mask-and-coverings-made-by-boomer-naturals-with-nano-silver-technology/>

Precious Metals Mining:

- **Platreef Successfully Completes Sinking of Shaft 1 to its Final Depth of Approximately 1,000 Metres Below Surface**
 - Underground mine development work now will focus on the construction of the 996-metre-level station at the bottom of the shaft, with final completion forecasted by the end of July 2020, well ahead of the contractual schedule. The shaft can then be reconfigured and equipped for rock, personnel and material hoisting.
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/platreef-successfully-completes-sinking-shaft-111000110.html>
- **Norilsk Nickel's Arctic disaster revives investor concerns**
 - Russian metals group faces tighter regulations after diesel spill as risks grow from climate change
 - The 21,000-tonne slick (25M liters), caused when an ageing fuel tank sank into thawing permafrost, is the latest disaster to hit a company that is among the world's biggest emitters of sulphur dioxide, a cause of acid rain. Environmentalists say comparable to 1989 Exxon Valdez accident.
 - <https://www.ft.com/content/9f6a4690-2205-4393-aea8-927062d6f198>
- **Platinum Group Metals Ltd. Received Notice That Impala Platinum Will Not Exercise Option**
 - Implats will not exercise its option to purchase and earn into a 50.01% interest in the Waterberg Project. Implats stated that "... the unprecedented events brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated Implats management and Board to re-evaluate the impact of the increased economic uncertainty on Implats' strategy and risk appetite across the Group in the short, medium and long term".
 - Matt: Waterberg on S. African Norther Limb is greenfield previously with 700+ Koz/year 2E production ramping 2024 (8-9% global supply). Waterberg projected to in lowest quartile of global production costs with open pit mines to relatively shallow depths.
 - <http://www.platinumgroupmetals.net/investor-relations/news/press-releases/press-releases-details/2020/Platinum-Group-Metals-Ltd-Received-Notice-That-Impala-Platinum-Will-Not-Exercise-Option/default.aspx>

E-Waste & Precious Metals Recycle Related:

- **Basel proposal pushes to further regulate e-scrap exports - E-Scrap News**
 - Switzerland and Ghana proposal to amend the Basel Convention, to reclassify certain types of end-of-life electronics and spur new rules for how those materials are moved between countries.
 - The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is an international treaty governing how waste is moved around the world.
 - <https://resource-recycling.com/e-scrap/2020/06/11/basel-proposal-pushes-to-further-regulate-e-scrap-exports/>
- **Surge in lockdown e-waste heading for landfill, experts fear, as recycling figures halve**
 - The closure of recycling centres means small items like electric toothbrushes or blenders are more likely to have been thrown away
 - <https://inews.co.uk/news/environment/surge-lockdown-e-waste-heading-landfill-experts-fear-444535>
- **E-Waste: What Happens When We Fail To Recycle Electronics**
 - <https://earth911.com/eco-tech/e-waste-why-you-should-recycle-electronics/>
- **Urban Mining Company's Rare Earths Recycling Helps Us Tackle Chinese Dominance**
 - "UMC set out to figure out an alternative or substitute to change the dynamic of [REE] supply chain risk," said Scott Dunn, the company's CEO. "That resulted in a process to use waste material as an abundant source for magnet raw materials."
 - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimvinoski/2020/06/11/urban-mining-companys-rare-earths-recycling-helps-us-tackle-chinese-dominance/>

Platinum

- **All Systems Go: Silver And Platinum**
 - Summary: Silver and platinum are witnessing material buying the last several months, as represented by a number of technical indicators.
 - Federal Reserve money printing has reached record levels in 2020, and Congress is looking into a 4th round of stimulus to offset the coronavirus recession.
 - We may be close to a global monetary reset for the U.S. dollar, akin to the end of the WW2 Bretton Woods system during the early 1970s.
 - Silver and platinum valuations are holding near all-time lows versus other assets, with plenty of room to run to the upside.
 - <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4353456-all-systems-go-silver-and-platinum>
- **Platinum Weekly: Bullish PLTM Case Remains Intact**
 - We continue to believe that a positive shift in sentiment has emerged in favor of platinum since the start of Q2. The notable increase in net long speculative positions in NYMEX platinum and ETF holdings are consistent with our view.
 - <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4354370-platinum-weekly-bullish-pltm-case-remains-intact>
- **Fuel Cells/Hydrogen Economy Related Articles:**
 - **Nikola issues a purchase order for \$30 million in hydrogen generation equipment**
 - This is a huge down payment on the company's first five heavy-duty hydrogen filling stations.
 - <https://www.cnet.com/roadshow/news/nikola-hydrogen-generator-electrolyzer-30-million/>
 - **WPIC: Defying Gravity: Fuel cells using Pt catalysts could power future lunar exploration**
 - https://platinuminvestment.com/files/sixtysecs/WPIC_60seconds_LunarFCEV_061720FINAL.pdf
 - **Spain's Repsol plans to invest millions in fuel production using green hydrogen**
 - Both of Repsol's newly announced projects will be located in the north of Spain.
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/15/repsol-to-invest-millions-in-fuel-production-using-green-hydrogen.html>
 - **Tokuyama and Toyota Start Verification Tests in Japan for Stationary Fuel Cell Generator that Uses By-product Hydrogen**

- By using components from the Mirai FC system, such as the FC stack, power control unit (PCU), and secondary battery, Toyota seeks to produce a high-performance generator at a reasonable price. Development on the FC generator was carried out jointly by Toyota and Toyota Energy Solutions, Inc.
 - https://global.toyota/en/newsroom/corporate/32732488.html?adid=ag478_mail&padid=ag478_mail
- **Quantron AG Implements Fuel Cell Trucks in Europe**
 - It has a range of about 700 km. The 130 kW fuel cell used, supported by a 110 kWh LFP battery, powers the 340 kW engine, which is equipped with a 2-speed transmission. Production is scheduled to start in mid-2022.
 - <https://www.prnewswire.com/in/news-releases/quanton-ag-implements-fuel-cell-trucks-in-europe-829764534.html>

Palladium

- **China auto sales up 14.5% in May, recovering after pandemic**
 - And Ford is seeing year-on-year growth
 - <https://www.autoblog.com/2020/06/11/china-auto-sales-recovering/?ncid=txtlnkusaolp00000618>
- **China auto sales up 14.5% in May, recovering after pandemic - ABC News**
 - <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/china-auto-sales-145-recovering-pandemic-71191292>

PGM Minor Metals (Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium)

- **Rhodium: Solar Hydrogen Production: Photocatalyst that can split water into hydrogen and oxygen at quantum efficiency close to 100%**
 - Tsuyoshi Takat of Shinshu University broke through new frontiers in power production by using an aluminum-doped strontium titanite as a photocatalyst, whose properties have been extensively studied. They chose co-catalysts rhodium for hydrogen with chromium oxide, and cobalt-oxide for oxygen, by fine-tuning them to engage in only desired reactions.
 - <https://fuelcellworks.com/research-news/solar-hydrogen-production-photocatalyst-that-can-split-water-into-hydrogen-and-oxygen-at-a-quantum-efficiency-close-to-100/>

BEV / Li-Ion Battery Market News

- **Is Tesla bigger than Toyota or not? Well, it's complicated**
 - <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/15/business/corporate-business/tesla-bigger-toyota-not-well-complicated/#.Xue6ALySnIU>
- **EIB grants € 125 million loan to support Umicore's European rechargeable battery materials activities**
 - The proceeds of the loan, which has a maturity of eight years, will finance part of Umicore's investment in the cathode materials plant in Nysa, Poland. Once completed, this greenfield plant will supply the European operations of Umicore's global battery cell and automotive customers.
 - <https://www.umicore.com/en/media/press/eib-grants-125-million-loan-to-support-umicores-european-rechargeable-battery-materials-activities->
- **Tesla plans to use Glencore cobalt in new Gigafactories**
 - Elon Musk's car company is expanding its relationship with mining giant Glencore.
 - Tesla is planning to use cobalt from Glencore's mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to make lithium-ion batteries at Gigafactories in Berlin and Shanghai.
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/16/tesla-glencore-cobalt-gigafactory.html>

Regards –