



January 30, 2015

Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	\$1,263.20	+\$5.10	\$1303.00	\$1,186.00	\$1254.00

Gold prices fell sharply on Thursday, losing more than 1% after the U.S. Federal Reserve signalled it was still on track to lift U.S. interest rates this year. A stronger U.S. dollar was also cited as a reason for the lower gold price. February gold closed down \$30.60 an ounce at \$1,255.30 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at \$1,258.10 per ounce.

The price of gold posted its biggest daily percentage drop in 13 months on Thursday as traders were still digesting Wednesday's Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee statement that left U.S. monetary policy unchanged, and after U.S. jobless claims fell sharply, bolstering the Federal Reserve's commitment to tightening monetary policy later in the year.

Government data showed the number of U.S. workers making first-time claims for unemployment benefits fell to 265,000 in the week ended Jan. 24 from a revised 308,000 a week earlier. The figure was much better-than expected and took initial claims to the lowest level since 2000.

The price of the yellow metal came under some selling pressure on Wednesday after the U.S. central bank continued to imply a commitment to raising interest rates around the middle of 2015.

China's yuan has become of the five most widely used currencies in global payments, an international financial transactions agency announced Wednesday.

The yuan passed the Canadian and Australian dollars

in popularity in December, according to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, which provides financial communications between financial institutions and companies. It said the yuan now ranks behind the dollar, the euro, the British pound and Japanese yen.

The change is an "important milestone," and confirms the yuan's transition from an emerging to a "business as usual" currency, said Wim Raymaekers, Swift's head of banking markets, in a statement.

The yuan, also known as the renminbi, accounted for 2.17% of global payments in December, behind the yen's share of 2.69, according to Swift. The U.S. dollar's share is about 45%.

Global payments in yuan increased by 20.3% in December, outpacing overall payments growth of 14.9%, according to Swift.



About the author: David Levenstein is an independent precious metals market commentator with more than 30 years experience.

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