Dg | **Daily Gold Update** | 2013

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Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	$1,231.90	+$4.00	$1241.00	$1,260.60	$1308.50

Gold price edged higher on Friday as weaker U.S. consumer confidence added to concerns that the economy is slowing, boosting demand for gold as a safe-haven. April gold was up by 0.5% to settle at $1,227.10 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at $1227.90 per ounce.

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan preliminary sentiment index dropped to 93.6 from a final January reading of 98.1 that was the highest since the start of 2004, figures showed Friday. A report on Thursday revealed that sales at U.S. retailers fell more than forecast in January.

While central banks to the east of Europe continue to increase their reserves with gold, their western counterparts continue to debase their currencies by printing more money and reducing rates.

The Swedish Riksbank became the latest central bank to enter the currency wars when it announced that it is reducing its key rate from 0% to -0.10%. It will also begin its' own bond buying program, buying 10 billion kronor of government bonds.

Sweden is the sixteenth country to cut rates this year. It claims to have made the move to combat deflation and is aiming for an inflation rate of 2%. It is widely believed that it is devaluing its currency to boost exports.

Denmark cut its key rate to -0.75% on February 5th matching the Swiss. Denmark is trying to maintain its peg to the euro in order to protect its own export industry, an effort which cost it 106.3 billion krone in January.

Denmark has lowered its rates four times this year to try to stem excessive demand for the krone following the SNB's capitulation last month which came about due to fears that defending the peg to the euro would bankrupt the country following the initiation of the ECB's QE program.

Sweden's move is likely to put pressure on Norway to follow suit to protect its exports given the large amount of trade among the Scandinavian countries.

The Bank of England is also considering a rate cut.

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