



February 25, 2015

Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	\$1,210.50	+\$9.20	\$1207.10	\$1,292.40	\$1332.75

The price of gold was marginally lower on Tuesday as the U.S. dollar weakened slightly against the yen and euro after Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen reaffirmed that the central bank's first rate hike since 2006 will likely occur during the second half of 2016. April gold closed down \$2.30 an ounce at \$1,198.50 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at \$1201.30 per ounce.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen testified before Congress on Tuesday after presenting her semi-annual monetary policy report.

The Federal Reserve will not hike rates for the next few Federal Open Market Committee meetings, according to Yellen's prepared remarks.

Speaking before the Senate Banking Committee, Yellen said that the central bank would continue to be "patient" in determining the timing of the first rate hike.

Yellen said that the central bank is "reasonably confident" inflation is moving toward its 2% goal, an indication that inflation has surpassed the job market as the Fed's top priority.

U.S. officials are investigating at least 10 major banks for possible rigging of precious-metals markets, even though European regulators dropped a similar probe after finding no evidence of wrongdoing, according to people close to the inquiries.

Prosecutors in the Justice Department's antitrust division are scrutinizing the price-setting process for gold, silver, platinum and palladium in London, while the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has opened a civil investigation, these people said. The agencies have made initial requests for information.

The CFTC have already subpoenaed HSBC Holdings PLC related to precious-metals trading. HSBC also said the Justice Department sought documents related to the antitrust investigation in November. The two probes "are at an early stage," the bank added, saying it is cooperating with U.S. regulators.

Also under scrutiny are Bank of Nova Scotia, Barclays, Credit Suisse Group, Deutsche Bank AG, Goldman Sachs Group Inc., J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Société Générale, Standard Bank Group Ltd., and UBS AG.



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

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