



July 1, 2015

Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	\$1,173.60	+\$1.00	\$1178.80	\$1,186.30	\$1325.75

Gold prices fell further on Tuesday, as reports that Greece was trying to reach a last-minute deal with its European creditors led some investors to sell the safe-haven metal. August gold closed down \$7.00 an ounce at \$1,171.90 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at \$1172.60 per ounce.

IMF spokesman Gerry Rice confirmed that Greece became the first developed country to default on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after missing missed the EUR 1.5 billion payment after the deadline and that's the largest missed payment in the fund's history.

The missed payment underscored the failure of more than five months of wrangling between Greece's left-wing government and its creditors to reshape the country's bailout and prevent it dropping out of the Eurozone.

Greek banks did not open this week after talks between Greece and its creditors broke down. However, up to 1,000 bank branches will re-open from Wednesday to allow pensioners - many of whom do not use bank cards - to withdraw up to €120.

European investors are increasing purchases of gold as Greece's turmoil boosts the appeal for an alternative to the euro.

According to the U.K. Royal Mint, demand from Greek customers for Sovereign gold coins was double the five-month average in June.

CoinInvest.com, an online retailer, said sales on Saturday and Sunday were the highest since Cyprus limited cash withdrawals in 2013, driven by a jump in German, French and Greek buyers.

"Most of our common gold coins are sold out," Daniel Marburger, a director of Frankfurt-based CoinInvest.com, said by phone. "When people learned that the Greek banks will be closed, they started to think that it may not be such a bad idea to have some money in gold."

GoldCore Ltd., which buys and sells bullion, reported coin and bar demand rose "significantly" on Monday. Sales to U.K. and Ireland today are about three times the average for the past three Mondays, the Dublin-based firm said in an e-mailed statement.



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

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