



August 31, 2015

Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	\$1,134.70	+\$0.60	\$1153.60	\$1,081.50	\$1285.75

Gold prices were marginally higher on Friday, but suffered a 2.2% loss for the week, their biggest weekly decline since the week ended July 24. December gold closed up \$11.40 an ounce at \$1,134.00 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at \$1134.10 per ounce.

Global equities continued to recover from recent losses. Chinese equity markets surged for a second day, with the Shanghai Composite Index closing almost 5% higher. Despite rising over 10% in the past two trading sessions, the index is still down 37% from its June high.

Central bankers and economists from around the world met in Jackson Hole, Wyoming for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's annual economic symposium.

The Federal Reserve on Friday left the door open to a September interest rate hike even while several U.S. central bank officials acknowledged that turmoil in financial markets, if prolonged, could delay the first policy tightening in nearly a decade.

With a key policy meeting set for Sept. 16-17, at least five Fed officials spoke publicly on whether increasing the Fed's benchmark overnight lending rate was too risky amid an economic slowdown in China, a rising U.S. dollar and falling commodity prices.

Market participants have been betting the Fed would delay a policy tightening to December or later, prolonging the monetary stimulus that has kept rates

at rock-bottom levels for more than six years and has pumped trillions of dollars into the global banking system.

The World Gold Council (WGC) forecasts India's gold demand to reach 900-1,000 tons in the calendar year 2015, with the demand in the second half likely to be at least 554 tons.

Demand for the yellow metal was 481 tons during the July-December period in 2012, but since then, it has declined steadily. In the second half of 2014, demand was 439 tons.

Consumer demand for gold in India, which declined by 25% to 154 tons in the April-June period, is expected to see a pick up ahead of the wedding and festival seasons in the second half of 2015.



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

© 2013 all rights reserved.

Information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Any opinions expressed herein reflect judgements at this date and are subject to change without notice.