



September 7, 2015

Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	\$1,122.70	-\$0.10	\$1134.70	\$1,095.00	\$1264.00

Gold prices were marginally lower on Friday as the latest U.S employment report failed to offer any new clues on what the Federal Reserve may do regarding hiking interest rates this year. December gold closed down \$3.10 an ounce at \$1,121.40 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at \$1122.80 per ounce.

According to the U.S Department of Labour, non-farm payrolls increased by 173,000 workers in August, while the unemployment rate fell to 5.1%, the lowest since April 2008.

Although the increase in payrolls was lower than expected, some analysts believe that the upward revisions to previous months and the lowest unemployment rate in about seven years may offer little cause for the Fed to delay raising rates for the first time in nearly a decade at its two-day policy meeting beginning Sept. 16. However, I am of the opinion that there will not be any rate hike in Sept.

The report had a slightly negative impact on gold prices which settled at their lowest level in more than two weeks on Friday, tallying a weekly loss of 1.1%.

Financial leaders of the Group of 20 major economies started a two-day meeting on Friday in Ankara.

The focus is likely to be on the current conditions and prospects for the slowing Chinese economy, which led to sell-offs in global stock markets in August, as the devaluation stirred fears the world's second-largest economy may be in worse shape than previously believed.

Among other prospective topics are recent developments in the Greek debt crisis ahead of a general election later this month as well as progress on efforts to tackle tax avoidance by multinational businesses.

The G-20 groups Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

China's markets were closed for their second day to commemorate World War II. That left global markets to turn to the U.S. for direction and most tumbled on fears the Fed would raise rates even as the world economy falters.

In Europe, Germany's DAX tumbled 2.7%, France's CAC 40 slid 2.8%, and the FTSE 100 in London fell 2.4%. Japan's Nikkei closed 2.2% lower.



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

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