



September 26, 2015

Gold	Today	Change	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	\$1,147.10	-\$7.00	\$1129.80	\$1,147.90	\$1224.00

Gold prices rallied strongly on Thursday as the U.S dollar declined and stock markets fell sharply. December gold closed up \$22.30 an ounce at \$1,153.80 an ounce and spot gold ended the day at \$1154.10 per ounce.

The price of the yellow metal hit a five week high with weakness in the U.S. dollar against most currency rivals and declines in global stock markets boosting the precious metal's investment appeal.

The U.S dollar came under some selling pressure and weakened against the euro and yen after the release of the latest initial jobless claims which showed an increase of 3000 to 167,000 in the week ended September 19.

South Africa's rand tumbled to a record against the dollar and euro and traded near its lowest levels against the pound.

The rand weakened to as low as 14.0813 per dollar and was trading 1.4% weaker at 14.0555 by 3:34 p.m. in Johannesburg during a public holiday. It fell 2% to 15.8142 per euro and declined 1.4% to 21.4315 per pound.

South Africa's Reserve Bank kept its benchmark rate unchanged on Wednesday as growth concerns outweighed risks stemming from weaker currencies after the U.S. Federal Reserve last week delayed monetary-policy tightening.

Norway's central bank unexpectedly lowered interest rates to an all-time low and said it may ease policy

further.

The overnight deposit rate was cut by 25 basis points to 0.75 percent, the Oslo-based central bank said Thursday. The krone plunged 2.8 percent against the euro on the news, its biggest drop since December last year.

Governor Oeystein Olsen is easing to unprecedented levels as the collapse in oil prices is taking its toll on the \$500 billion economy. The government has also flagged it will use more of Norway's \$880 billion wealth fund in its budget, due to be released next month, after oil companies cut more than 20,000 jobs, driving unemployment up to its highest level since 2006.



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

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