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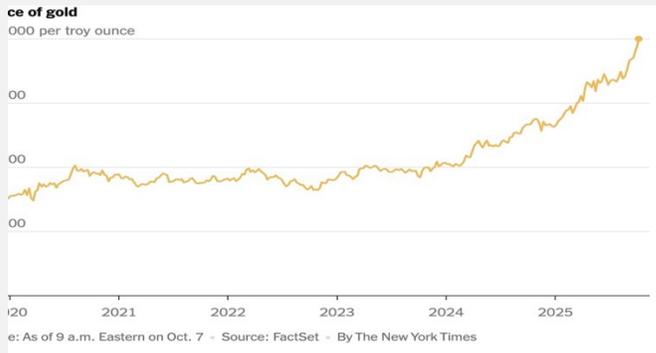


Photo: The New York Times

Anxious Investors Push Gold Above \$4,000 an Ounce for the First Time

The precious metal is on course for its best year since the 1970s, underscoring unease in financial markets.

Gold surged past \$4,000 per ounce for the first time, marking its best year since the 1970s as anxious investors flocked to the metal amid political turmoil, economic uncertainty, and a weakening U.S. dollar. Prices have risen over 50% in 2025, fueled by growing demand from central banks and private investors seeking safety as traditional havens like the dollar and U.S. bonds lose appeal.

Analysts cited the U.S. government shutdown, rising debt levels, and Federal Reserve rate cuts as key drivers of the rally. Global political instability — including leadership changes in Japan and France — also pushed investors toward gold.

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) purchased more than 100 metric tons of gold in September, and Goldman Sachs now predicts prices could reach \$4,900 per ounce next year. The boom has also lifted gold-mining stocks, which have more than doubled in 2025. Experts say gold is increasingly seen as a strategic reserve asset and a diversifier amid growing market uncertainty.

Source:

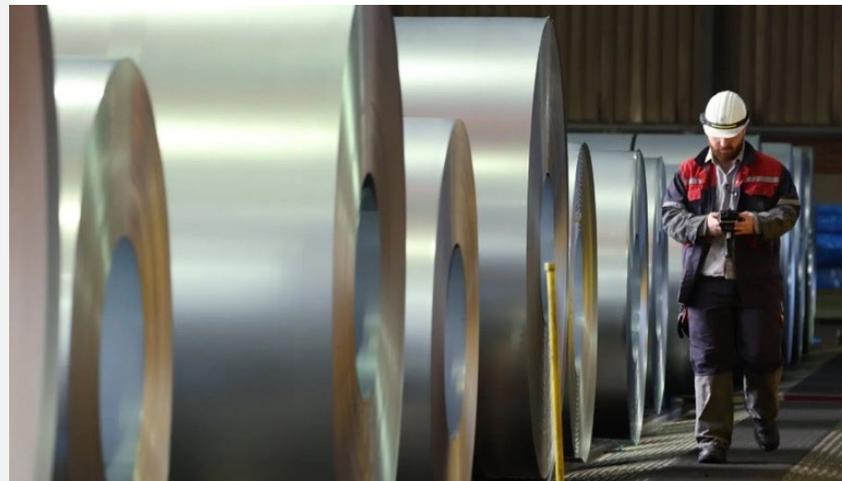
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/06/business/gold-price-us-economy.html>

E.U. Proposes 50% Steel Tariffs as Trump Effect Ripples Around World

The European Union proposed doubling steel import tariffs to 50% and cutting its tariff-free quota nearly in half, from 36 million to 18.3 million tons per year, in an effort to protect its steel industry from cheap Chinese imports and the ripple effects of President Trump's U.S. tariffs.

The move mirrors America's protectionist stance, where U.S. tariffs on steel imports now reach up to 50%, raising fears that excess global steel will be redirected to Europe. E.U. officials, led by Ursula von der Leyen, said the measures aim to counter "global overcapacity" that threatens European jobs, especially in Germany's large steel sector.

However, the decision could hurt Britain, which exports about half its steel to the E.U., prompting urgent talks between London and Brussels. Industry leaders warned the new rules could trigger a crisis for U.K. steelmakers and raise steel prices within the bloc.



Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/07/business/eu-steel-tariffs-quotas.html>



Photo: The New York Times

Global Trade Growth to Slow Sharply Next Year, W.T.O. Says

The World Trade Organization (WTO) projected that global trade growth will slow to just 0.5% in 2026, largely due to President Trump's broad tariffs on imports from nearly all trading partners. While trade has been more resilient in 2025, growing 2.4% instead of the previously expected 0.9%, the WTO warned that high tariffs and policy uncertainty are weighing heavily on future growth.

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said global trade held up this year because most countries avoided retaliatory measures and developing nations increased trade among themselves. Additional demand for AI-related goods and pre-tariff stockpiling also boosted activity. However, U.S. data releases remain on hold due to the government shutdown, and economists expect a decline in U.S. imports following Trump's latest tariff hikes.

Source:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/07/business/economy/global-trade-growth-wto.html>

Gold falls below \$4,000/oz, silver eases from record high

Gold prices fell over 2% to \$3,959 per ounce, slipping below \$4,000 after hitting a record high the previous day. The drop came as investors took profits following a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and as the U.S. dollar strengthened, making gold more expensive for foreign buyers. U.S. gold futures settled at \$3,972.6, while silver eased from its record \$51.22 to \$48.93 per ounce.

Despite the pullback, analysts say the long-term outlook for gold and silver remains positive, supported by global debt concerns, central bank buying, and expectations of more U.S. rate cuts. Gold has risen 52% this year, and silver 69%, driven by geopolitical tensions, strong investment demand, and tight supply. Platinum and palladium also slipped, down 2.4% and 1.7%, respectively.



Source:
<https://www.reuters.com/world/india/gold-takes-breather-after-safe-haven-demand-fuels-record-run-2025-10-09/>

Photo: NYTIMES



Photo: REUTERS

Bitcoin extends decline to \$104,782 as Trump escalates US-China trade war

Bitcoin extended its losses on Friday, dropping 8.4% to \$104,782, as financial markets reacted to an escalation in the U.S.-China trade war. U.S. President Donald Trump announced a sharp increase in tariffs, raising duties on Chinese exports to 100%, and imposed new export controls on “any and all critical software.” These measures were introduced in response to China’s recent restrictions on rare earth mineral exports, which are essential components for technology and manufacturing industries.

The announcement triggered widespread turbulence across global markets — the S&P 500 index fell more than 2%, reflecting investor anxiety over potential disruptions to international trade and supply chains. Cryptocurrencies, which often react to broader market uncertainty, also slumped, with Ethereum, the second-largest digital asset, falling 5.8% to \$3,637.

The renewed trade tensions highlight ongoing economic friction between Washington and Beijing, adding pressure on risk-sensitive assets like cryptocurrencies while boosting demand for traditional safe havens such as gold.

Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/business/bitcoin-down-55-114505-2025-10-10/>