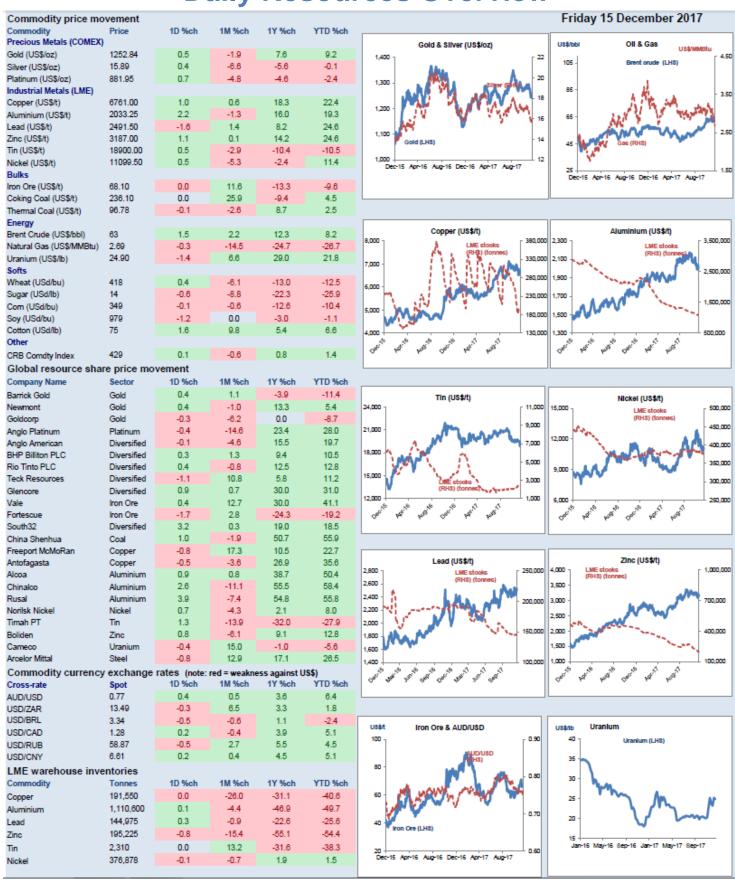
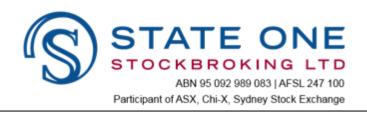


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## **Daily Resources Overview**





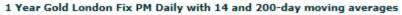
## PRECIOUS METALS COMMENTARY

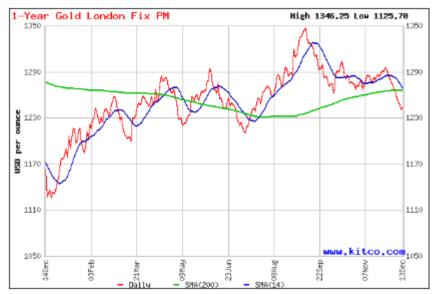
**Gold prices** ended the U.S. day session higher Thursday, on important follow-through strength from Wednesday afternoon's gains. If gold and silver can hold this week's gains and see some more price upside on Friday, to produce bullish weekly high closes, then such would suggest near-term market bottoms are in place. **February Comex gold** was last up \$8.30 an ounce at \$1,256.90. **March Comex silver** was last up \$0.07 at \$15.94 an ounce.

Upbeat U.S. economic data released Thursday morning saw a big drop in weekly jobless claims and very strong monthly retail sales data for November, which did dent today's gains in gold and silver.

The marketplace was still digesting Wednesday afternoon's FOMC statement and press conference from Fed Chair Janet Yellen. Market watchers were a bit surprised the Fed projected tame inflation prospects for the U.S. in the coming months, or longer. The FOMC statement and Yellen's press conference were deemed a bit dovish on U.S. monetary policy. Still, the FOMC statement said more interest rate increases are likely in the coming months. The FOMC news and Yellen's remarks Wednesday worked to pressure the **U.S. dollar index**, which in turn helped to lift precious metals market prices.

China's central bank followed the Fed by slightly raising its interest rates Thursday, in an attempt to offset any U.S. rate hike's impact on the Chinese economy. The European Central Bank and Bank of England held their regular monetary policy meetings Thursday and made no changes in interest rates, as expected. However, ECB president Mario Draghi sounded an upbeat tone on European Union economic growth prospects in the coming months. Source: Kitco





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