

Update on gold for November 2020

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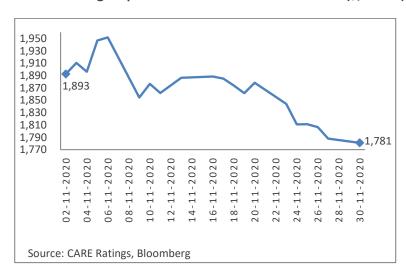
November 2020 was the 3rd consecutive month of descending international gold prices on a sequential basis. The average of daily international gold prices fell 2.2% m-o-m, but is still higher by 26.5% YoY. The correction in global gold prices during November 2020 can be attributed to the successful trials of various Covid-19 vaccines, Mr Biden's victory in the US elections, rise in government bonds yields of large economies. Additionally, the economic data released in most countries showed an improvement this month and hence risk appetite of investors was upbeat, pushing global as well as Indian indices to new highs. However, the new rounds of lockdowns in parts of Europe and US capped the downside potential of gold price movement.

In the past 8 months of the FY21, gold prices rose 29.6% YoY, while in 11M-CY20, rose 27.5% YoY.

| Table 1: Global gold price movement | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| November 2020 | | | | YoY growth | | | |
| Monthly average (\$/ounce) | M-o-M | Y-o-Y | | FY21 (Apr-Nov) | CY20 (Jan-Nov) | | |
| 1,865 | -2.2% | 26.5% | | 29.6% | 27.5% | | |

In the initial 5 trading sessions, international gold prices rose 3.1%, but fell -5% on the following day (9th November). In the successive 5 sessions from 9th to 16th November, prices rose by 1.8%, while in the last 10 days of the month they plummeted by 5.5%.

Chart 1: Global gold price movement in November 2020 (\$/ounce)





Global gold investment demand

According to World Gold Council, inflows in gold backed ETFs are on a consistent rise this year. As of 27th November 2020 (YTD), global net inflows stood at \$51.7 bn, which led to collective gold ETF holdings reaching 3,796 tonnes and AUM of \$ 217.2 bn.

The table on right depicts the countries with the highest ETF flows for YTD 27th November 2020. US held the top position with ETF flows of USD 32.4 bn, followed by UK with USD 9.7 bn. India is on the 9th position with ETF flows of USD 628 mn.

| Table 2: Top 10 nations with highest ETF flows (YTD 27 th November 2020) | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | Country | Flows (USD mn) | Holdings (tonnes) | | | |
| 1 | US | 32,443 | 1,950 | | | |
| 2 | UK | 9,689 | 757 | | | |
| 3 | France | 1,728 | 55 | | | |
| 4 | Switzerland | 1,538 | 372 | | | |
| 5 | China, P.R.: Mainland | 1,306 | 68 | | | |
| 6 | Australia | 842 | 37 | | | |
| 7 | Canada | 786 | 80 | | | |
| 8 | Germany | 657 | 385 | | | |
| 9 | India | 628 | 28 | | | |
| 10 | Japan | 399 | 22 | | | |

Gold imports by India

| Table 3: Gold imports by India | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | USD mn | Tonnes | Average price per tonne (USD mn) | | | | |
| FY17 | 27,491 | 780 | 35.2 | | | | |
| FY18 | 33,681 | 955 | 35.3 | | | | |
| FY19 | 32,843 | 983 | 33.4 | | | | |
| FY20 | 28,111 | 720 | 39.0 | | | | |
| 7M-FY21 | 9,276 | 167 | 55.5 | | | | |
| Source: CMIE, CARE Ratings | | | | | | | |

India is the second largest consumer of gold, after China, however, imports of this precious metal declined 47.4% YoY to USD 9.3 bn in 7M-FY21. This is equivalent to 167 tonnes.

In 7M-FY20, India imported 50% of its gold (tonnes) from Switzerland, however, in 7M-FY21, this country's share fell to 31% as gold imports declined to 51.7 tonnes (-77.5% YoY). The next top nation from which India imports gold is U.A.E., where imports halved to 22.7 tonnes in 7M-FY21, however, its country wise share grew from 10% in 7M-FY20 to 14% in 7M-FY21. Other countries from where India imports gold are Peru, Hong Kong, Ghana, South Africa, USA, etc.

Concluding remarks:

- The correction in global gold prices in November 2020 was mainly affected by successful trials of Covid-19 vaccines, Mr Biden's electoral win, rise in bonds yields in major economies, increase in risk appetite of investors and high investments in stock markets. However, the USD has weakened against most currencies this month.
- Gold is a unique metal which comforts in times of turbulence in equity markets, acts as a hedge towards inflation and an attractive asset class during low interest rates. The rising new cases of Covid-19 has led to imposition of fresh lockdowns in various parts of US and the European continent. This limits the downside risk of gold prices in near future.

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