

Cash Flow and Carey



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Gold, Silver, and the Miners

Gold & Silver Miners Index TR vs. Price Change of Gold, Silver, U.S. Dollar & CPI Rate

Year	Philadelphia Gold & Silver Index	Gold (Spot)	Silver (Spot)	U.S. Dollar Index (DXY)	CPI (YoY)
2025 YTD (3/21)	27.53%	15.15%	14.29%	-4.05%	2.8%
2024	10.83%	27.22%	21.46%	7.06%	2.9%
2023	6.00%	13.45%	-0.66%	-2.11%	3.4%
2022	-6.86%	-0.13%	2.77%	8.21%	6.5%
2021	-6.62%	-3.44%	-11.54%	6.37%	7.0%
2020	36.04%	24.40%	46.88%	-6.69%	1.4%
2019	51.32%	18.31%	15.21%	0.22%	2.3%
2018	-17.13%	-1.56%	-8.52%	4.40%	1.9%
2017	8.13%	13.53%	6.34%	-9.87%	2.1%
2016	74.08%	8.14%	15.02%	3.63%	2.1%
2015	-34.14%	-10.41%	-11.86%	9.26%	0.7%
2014	-18.27%	-1.44%	-19.31%	12.79%	0.8%
2013	-49.18%	-28.28%	-35.83%	0.33%	1.5%
2012	-8.33%	7.06%	9.02%	-0.51%	1.7%
2011	-20.28%	10.10%	-9.94%	1.46%	3.0%
2010	34.67%	29.57%	83.16%	1.50%	1.5%

Source: Bloomberg. TR = Total Return. YTD Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of 2/28/25. Past Performance is no guarantee of future results.

View from the Observation Deck

Today's blog post highlights the disparities that often exist between the equity returns posted by mining companies and the spot price performance of physical gold and silver. Since precious metals tend to be priced in U.S. dollars, we also included a column that tracks the relative strength of the U.S. dollar against a basket of other major currencies.

- Precious metals have historically been considered potential inflation hedges by investors. From 1926-2024, the 12-month rate of change on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) averaged 3.0%, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It stood at 2.8% at the end of February 2025, down from its most-recent high of 9.1% set in June 2022.
- The price of gold has been surging, setting multiple record highs. The spot price of one ounce of gold stood at a record \$3,047.79 on 3/19/25, up 41.26% year-over-year.
- The spot price of silver has also grown by a considerable amount, increasing 14.29% in 2025 alone (thru 3/21). That said, unlike gold, the spot price of silver has not recovered to its all-time high. The price of one ounce of silver stood at \$33.03 on 3/21/25, below its all-time high of \$49.45 set on 1/18/80.
- The spot price of the U.S. Dollar Index declined by 4.05% YTD through 3/21.
- From 2010 through 2024, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange Gold & Silver Index posted a positive total return in seven of the 15 calendar years. Six of them occurred from 2016 through 2024. It is solidly in positive territory YTD (see table).

Takeaway

In our last post on this topic ([click here](#)), we wrote that we expected the value of safe haven assets to continue increasing in the face of elevated geopolitical turmoil, economic deterioration, and stubbornly high inflation. Our view remains unchanged in that regard. Additionally, the recent devaluation of the U.S. dollar (-4.05% YTD thru 3/21) could stoke further demand for these metals. Demand for gold has been seemingly insatiable. The World Gold Council reported that global demand for gold stood at a record 4,975 tons in 2024. Of that total, 1,180 tons were held for investment purposes, up 25% year-over-year. Retail gold consumption generally accounts for a significant portion of global demand. That said, demand remains elevated among the world's central banks, which purchased 1,045 tons of the metal in 2024. The figure marks the third year in a row where central banks purchased greater than 1,000 tons of gold. We expect the recent surge in the value of safe haven assets may continue if global risks to stability persist.