

Commodities Canvas

MONTHLY REPORT, Mar 2025, 105th EDITION



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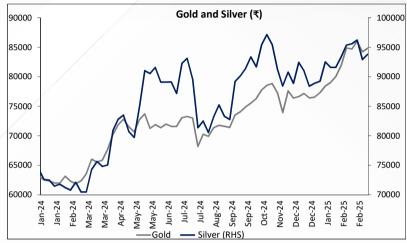
Commodity Returns



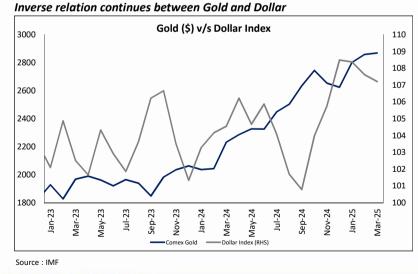
Commodity	Closing price (as on 28/02/25)	1 week	1 month	1 Year	YTD	Analysis
Gold (₹)	85196	-2.1%	2.9%	12.1%	12.2%	Bulls in charge; near 12 months high
Gold (\$)	2857	-2.7%	2.1%	11.0%	11.1%	Continuation of an ongoing rally
Silver (₹)	95550	-2.0%	1.1%	10.5%	9.0%	Set for a new rally
Silver (\$)	31.12	-4.0%	-0.6%	10.1%	10.2%	Beginning of a next leg of upmove
Crude Oil (₹)	6135	-0.5%	-2.6%	2.7%	-4.2%	Broad consolidation
Natural Gas (₹)	347.7	-8.7%	27.6%	14.8%	14.9%	Strength in an upsurge
Copper (₹)	862.25	-0.5%	4.0%	8.7%	8.5%	Broad consolidation
Zinc (₹)	268.2	-1.9%	1.4%	-4.0%	-5.6%	Relative weakness to continue
Aluminium (₹)	255.3	-2.7%	2.6%	6.7%	1.9%	Buying on dips is likely to remain
Lead (₹)	177.8	1.0%	0.6%	1.4%	2.2%	Choppy market
Dollar index	107.56	0.9%	-0.9%	-2.0%	-2.0%	Sharper corrective decline on cards

Precious Metals

Gold & Silver continue to shine



Source : Reuters



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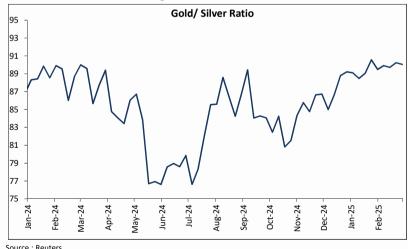
- Continued rally with bouts of correction for both Gold and Silver, in February
- Gold posted gains of ~2%, while Silver closed slightly lower at -0.5% in February, on COMEX
- Fall in US bond yield is added to some pressure on Dollar index towards the end of last month
- Fears regarding growth slowdown is weighing on US Yield and Dollar index
- Dollar index witnessed high swings last month amidst fall in US Yields and higher inflation expectations due to President Trump's tariff announcement.
- However, string of weak economic data showing pressure on consumer and business sentiment boosted metals
- US inflation and growth is hovering around 3%; while US labour market is still resilient
- · President Trump kicked off the month with bold tariff threats, increasing uncertainties
- Tariffs on Mexico and Canada of 25% was paused till March, while there was no change regards to China
- President Trump also attempted to pass resolution with UN regarding Russia and Ukraine war
- While, US-Russia relation looks rosy, some dent are clearly visible between President Trump and Zelensky
- US and Ukraine are expected to make a minerals deal but talks between the leaders did not go as planned
- Fed officials for the entire February, continued to reiterate Governor' Powell's "wait and watch" approach 4

Precious Metals

COMEX Gold inventories reach COVID highs





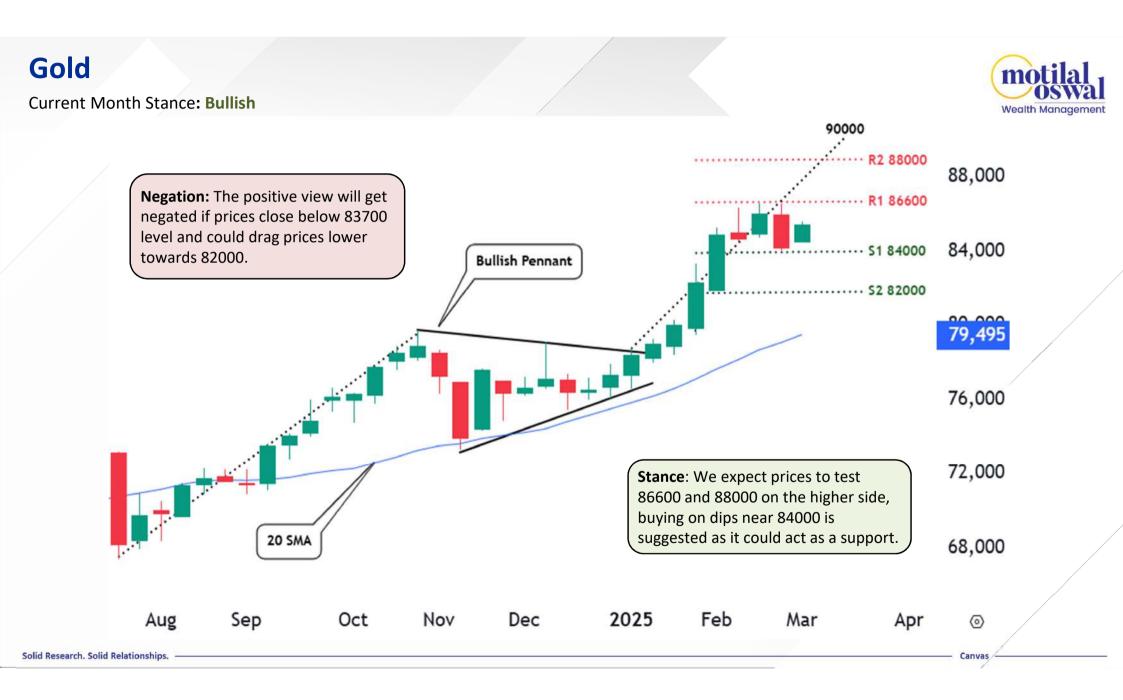


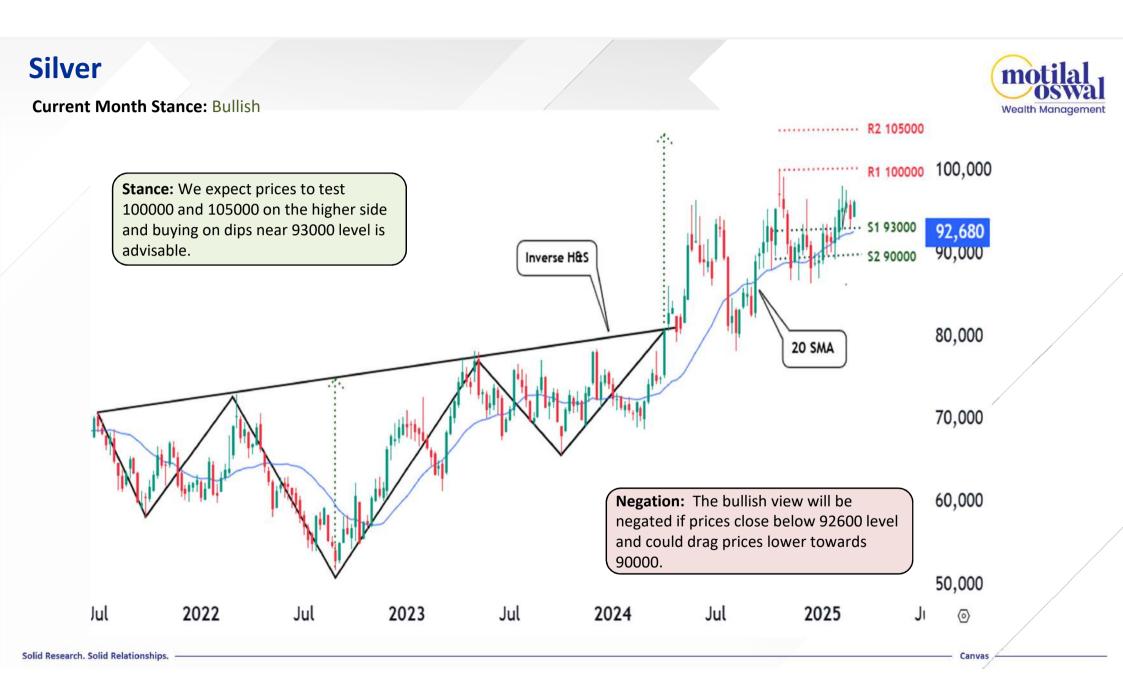
Wealth Management

- PBoC added 5 tonnes of gold in January, official gold holdings now stand at 2,285t, 5.9% of total reserves
- Domestic import for Gold is expected to drop in February after a significant rise at start of 2025
- COMEX gold inventories jumped, widening the futures-spot spread to \$40–50/oz from the \$13/oz average
- Comex gold inventory has reached its highest since pandemic 2020
- The build-up of COMEX inventories has slowed, and the spread differential between gold futures and spot prices has narrowed
- Indicative gold lease rates have also cooled after reaching record highs, now closer to 1% and well below January's peak
- Gold/Silver ratio continued to trade in higher range for the whole month
- Managed net positions in gold decreased by 15% in February; Silver's rose over 25%
- Key factors to watch include Trump's tariff moves, Dollar Index, Fed commentary, economic data, and updates from China
- Bouts of correction could be seen; but Buy on dips is recommended for both metals

Source : Reuters

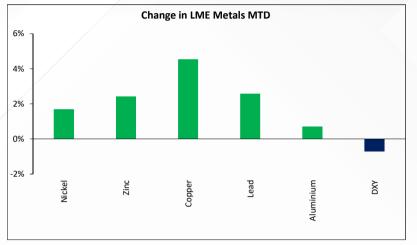
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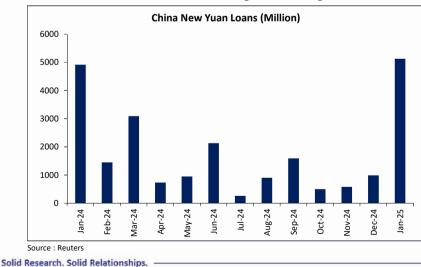
Base Metals

Copper- leading the base metals pack



Source : Reuters

Chinese Yuan Loans hit record new high, bolstering sentiment



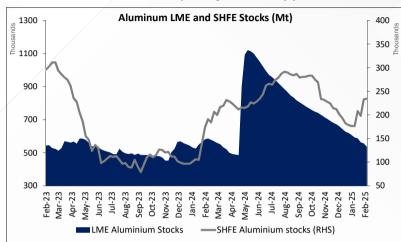
Wealth Management

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- Prices rose after President Trump outlined plans for reciprocal tariffs, though these were not set for immediate implementation
- Led to short-covering on LME ahead of contract expirations, as traders anticipated potential U.S. tariffs on copper
- The premium for U.S. COMEX copper futures over LME contracts hit a new high, nearing \$1,000, reflecting concerns over trade restrictions during the announcement of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports
- Volatility was evident as gains were eroded by Trump's announcement of potential 25% tariffs on automobiles and semiconductor chips, casting a shadow over demand trends for industrial metals
- Notably, copper stocks in ShFE monitored warehouses rose above 260,000 tons, up from around 83,000 tons at the start of this year
- The PBoC maintained its key lending rates steady for the fourth consecutive month in February
- Chinese banks extended a record CNY 5,130 billion in new Yuan loans, significantly exceeding the CNY 990 billion issued in December and expectations of CNY 800 billion
- An investigation into potential new duties on copper imports to restart U.S. production of copper was also announced, following an additional 10% layer of levies on Chinese goods
- Copper remains sensitive to ongoing developments in the tariff story, and the upcoming NPC meeting on March
 5 will provide key takeaways on the national bank's further trajectory.

[•] Copper had a volatile month, logging gains of more than 4%, with the metal being a target for potential inclusion in the tariff list by U.S. President Donald Trump

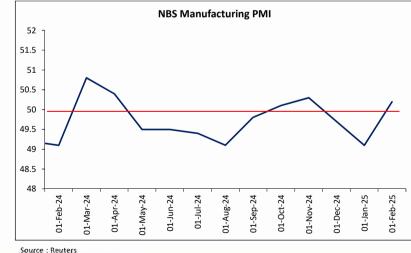
Base Metals



LME Inventories have been depleting at a steady pace

Source : Reuters





Aluminum prices have gained steadily, supported by expectations of restricted supply and recovering

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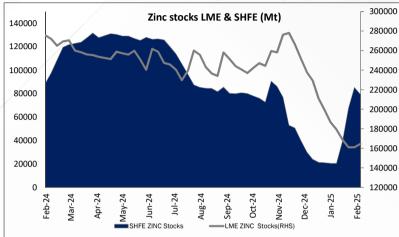
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- manufacturing demand, along with tariff uncertainty
- The European Union agreed to impose a ban on Russian primary aluminum imports as part of its 16th sanctions package, which is set to be adopted this month
- A 25% tariff on global steel imports has been reinstated, and tariffs on global aluminum imports will rise to 25%, effective March 12, 2025, impacting multiple sectors
- Canada, the largest supplier of primary aluminum to the U.S., accounting for nearly 80% of imports, was hit by the announcement, disrupting trade relations
- With U.S. aluminum consumption relying on imports for nearly 57.2% of its demand in 2024, the expected price increase could considerably harm major industries such as automotive, construction, and packaging
- China produced 44 million tons of aluminum in 2024, the highest on record, indicating that output may be forced to decline significantly this year, in line with the production ceiling set at 25 million tons in 2017 to prevent excess supply and aid carbon emission targets
- The official manufacturing PMI came in at 50.2 in February, compared with 49.1 in January and the 49.9 forecast
- Aluminum prices remain volatile, but a positive outlook is supported by strong demand and tariff pressures.

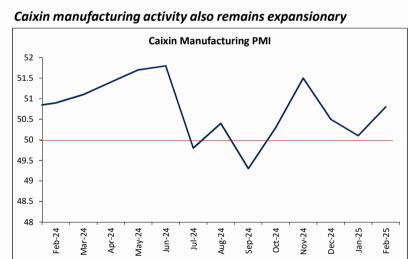
Source : Reuters Solid Research. Solid Relationships.

Base Metals

Inventories in SHFE warehouses rising, indicating surplus supply



Source : Reuters



- Zinc prices remained less volatile, moving the least in the base metals pack, pressured by tariff woes and an increase in ShFE warehouse stocks
 - Strength in the dollar has capped gains for the metal, as Trump continued introducing new items to his tariff list
- Zinc stocks in SHFE warehouse have increased by ~160% since the beginning of this year, keeping prices pressured
- China's Caixin factory activity increased at its fastest rate in three months, reaching 50.8, as many migrant workers returned to work after the Lunar New Year holiday
- The greater foreign demand for Chinese-produced goods may be attributed to U.S. importers continuing to frontrun tariffs in anticipation of even higher levies
- Despite new tariffs from the US, activity in China's broad manufacturing sector increased in February, highlighting the economy's resilience following Beijing's stimulus measures since last fall
- The PBoC acknowledged economic headwinds and poor domestic demand, promising to alter policy through interest rates and reserve requirements to help the recovery
- In January, China's refined zinc production increased by 1% MoM, but fell roughly 8% YoY
- Further decreases are projected in February due to holiday shutdowns and maintenance-related disruptions in important production regions such as Gansu and Yunnan
- On the flip side, the Red Dog Mine in Alaska, responsible for 10% of global output is set to slow in 2025 as its mineral reserves deplete
- Overall, last years performer doesn't seems to be carrying momentum this year, expect broader range bound move.



Source : Reuters

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Aluminium

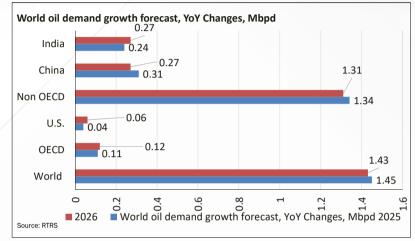
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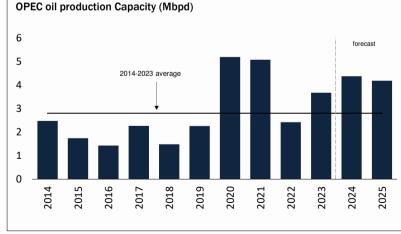


Crude Oil

Demand recovery at a slow pace







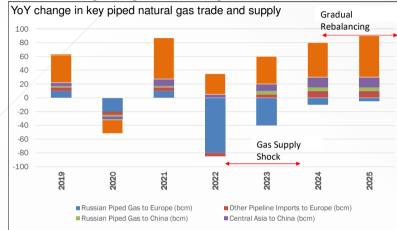
Source : Reuters

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- Crude oil prices has experienced a tumultuous journey amid a mix of Geo Political risks, including Israel-Hamas war, Middle East tensions, and the potential return of Donald Trump to U.S. presidency.
- Trump's energy policies may support U.S. oil production, slowing the clean energy transition while China accelerates its renewable energy shift.
- Trade tensions are escalating, with potential U.S. tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China adding uncertainty to global energy flows.
- Trump administration is now eyeing Venezuela, ending Chevron's licence to operate in the South American nation, after imposing additional sanctions on Iran's oil industry
- Weak global oil demand, particularly in China, and rising non-OPEC supply, especially from U.S., led to oversupplied market
- OPEC+ continues managing production cuts but faces challenges in balancing supply and demand, with over 5 Mbpd in restrictions
- Voluntary production cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia have not been enough to offset rising supply pressures.
- Demand recovery remains uncertain, with trade policies and economic trends affecting global oil consumption
- On Position front, long position participants are liquidating and fresh shorts entering the market
- Risks to lower prices include a worsening Chinese economy, U.S. trade tariffs, and rising U.S. oil output₁₄



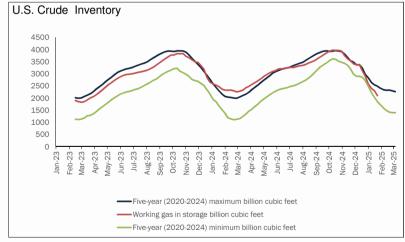
Natural Gas



Winters ending with good demand growth

Source : EIA

U.S. gas storage at lower levels



Source : Reuters

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- Natural gas prices remained volatile, pressured by near-record output, mild weather conditions, and reduced heating demand forecasts for the next two weeks
- European natural gas prices tumbled, hitting its lowest since mid-December as market price in potential Russia Ukraine peace deal, leading to return of Russian Pipeline gas
- Europe gas storage levels across the EU were 40% full, much lower than about 60% full storage capacity at the same time last year
- Production remains robust, with Lower-48 dry gas output at 107.8 Bcf/day, up 2.8% from last year
- LNG exports remain strong, with flows to major U.S. export terminals averaging 15.6 bcfd in February, surpassing the previous monthly record of 14.7 bcfd set in December 2023
- Traders also lost confidence in prices to sustain higher as current demand for natural gas remained low, and weather forecasts predict mild weather at the start of March
- However, U.S. stocks are significantly below levels seen in the last year and also below the five-year average for this time of the year, providing support at lower levels
- While storage levels remain supportive, the lack of immediate demand has kept the market from rallying
- Even with inventories below historical norms, traders are hesitant to push prices higher without a weather-driven demand boost.

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Wealth Management

Crude Oil

Current Month Stance: Sideways to Bullish



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Wealth Management

Natural Gas



Current Month Stance: Sideways to Bullish



Economic Events- March 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	4 Monetary Base JP Unemployment Rate EU	5 Caixin Services PMI CN S&P Global Services PMI IN S&P Global Services PMI UK ISM Non- Mfg. PMI USD	6 Retail Sales EU ECB Interest Rate Decision EU Initial Jobless Claims USD ECB President Lagarde Speaks EU	7 GDP (Q4) EU Mfg. Payrolls USD Nonfarm Payrolls USE Unemployment Rate US
10 Economy Watchers Current Index JP	11 GDP (QoQ) (Q4) JP	12 CPI IN Industrial Production IN OPEC Monthly Report USD CPI USD	13 IEA Monthly Report USD Industrial Production EU	14 India - Holi GDP UK Industrial Production Trade Balance UK
17 Industrial Production CN Retail Sales CN WPI Inflation IN Retail Sales USD	18 Trade Balance EU Industrial Production USD	19 Trade Balance JP BoJ Interest Rate Decision JP CPI EU Fed Interest Rate Decision USD	20 Claimant Count Change UK Unemployment Rate UK BoE Interest Rate Decision UK	21 CPI, n.s.a JP
24 Flash Mfg. PMI JP Flash Mfg. PMI EU Flash Mfg. PMI UK Flash Services PMI US	25 Monetary Policy Meeting Minutes JP BOJ Core CPI y/y JP New Home Sales US	26 CPI y/y UK Durable Goods Orders m/m US	27 Unemployment Claims US	28 Tokyo Core CPI y/y JI Final GDP q/q UK Final GDP q/q US
31 Prelim Industrial Production JP Retail Sales y/y JP Manufacturing PMICNY Chicago PMIUSD				

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Central Bank Policies



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Central Bank Policies										
Central Bank	RBI	FED	BOJ	BOE	ECB					
Date of Policy	7th Feb. 2025	29th Jan, 2025	23-24th Jan, 2025	6th Feb, 2025	30th Jan, 2025					
Next Policy meet 9th April, 2025		18-19 Mar, 2025	18-19th Mar, 2025	20th March, 2025	6th Mar, 2025					
Current Interest rate (%)	6.50%	4.25%- 4.5%	0.50%	4.50%	3.15%					
Stance	Stance Pause		Hawkish hike	Dovish Cut	Cautious Cut					
Key highlights of the meeting	 Repo rate was cut by 25bps to 6.25% The decision aims to stimulate economic growth amid slowing GDP and easing inflation Policy shift follows the appointment of Sanjay Malhotra as RBI Governor GDP growth forecast for Q1 FY25 at 6.9%; Q2 at 7.3% Inflation projection for Q3 at 5.7%; Q4 at 4.5%; Q1 FY26 at 4.6% and Q2 at 4% 	 Fed paused rate-cutting cycle Focus to remain on inflation and Trump policies Future rate adjustments to depend on incoming data GDP forecast for 2024: 2% (previous 2.1%) Core PCE projected at 2.6% (previous 2.8) Unemployment forecast for 2024: 4.4% (previous 4%) 	 Board improves pricing projections, indicating a brighter wage outlook BOJ sees price risks as skewed to the upside and markets as stable Gov. Ueda believes rates remain below neutral, indicating future hikes U.S. economy is strong 	 Bank Rate was cut by 25 bps to 4.5% The cut took the base rate to its lowest level since mid-2023. BoE maintained its stance that monetary easing is expected to be gradual this year Bank revised its growth forecasts for the current year downward as economic activity has already underperformed expectations from November 	 ECB delivered fifth consecutive quarter point interest rate cut Inflation closes in on its goal and the economy remains weak Policymakers guided for a further reduction in March over concerns oflacklustre economic growth Real GDP forecast for 2025: 1.1% -HICP forecast for 2025: 2.1% 					
Currency Impacted	rrency Impacted USDINR(₹) Dollar Index(\$)		USDJPY(¥)	GBPUSD(£)	EURUSD(€)					
Impact on Currency Neutral		Neutral	Positive	Negative	Negative					
Impact on Gold	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Positive	Neutral					

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Core Team



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