

# Silver News

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## Major Mints Institute Allocations on Silver Bullion Coins as Demand Soars



Because of high demand and production bottlenecks, American Eagle Silver Bullion Coins and silver bullion coins from other mints are being rationed.

Because of strong demand from retail investors, the U.S. Mint, the Royal Canadian Mint, Australia's Perth Mint, the Austrian Mint and the British Royal Mint recently put their silver bullion coins on allocation, where the volume of distribution of coins is controlled due to bottlenecks in the manufacturing process, according to officials from these mints.

While mints have enough production capacity to meet demand, they are unable to acquire enough 'planchets' or coin blanks. Allocation or rationing is employed to prevent periods of suspensions. As a result, lead times for silver coins have been stretched from immediate delivery to three or four weeks in some cases.

In the U.S. in early October, sales of the one-ounce American Eagle Silver Bullion Coins reached 36,753,500 and appeared on track to hit an annual record. At the same time last year, sales hit 33,901,000 with year-end sales of 44,006,000.

Although individual mints, especially the U.S. Mint, have gone to allocations in past years, most recently when American Eagle Silver Bullion Coins sold out in July of this year, restriction from multiple mints at the same time is unprecedented and illustrates considerable tightness in the current global silver coin business.

Worldwide, silver bullion coin sales reached an all-time high of 32.9 million in the third quarter of this year, according to GFMS Thomson Reuters data. This volume was a 74% quarter-on-quarter and 95% year-on-year increase. Sales in North America, Europe, Japan and other Asian countries (predominantly China) saw quarter-on-quarter growth of 74%, 72%, 95% and 202%, respectively.

For more information see: [Silver Bullion Coins on Allocation at Major National Mints.](#)

# Silver Imbedded Keyboard Can be Cleaned in the Dishwasher

The first backlit, rigid plastic, waterproof keyboard constructed with silver-based antimicrobial protection to limit transmission of germs, bacteria and mold is now available, according to [WetKeys Washable Keyboards](#), an Atlanta, Georgia-based company.

The Silver Seal Glow keyboard uses waterproof LED lighting adjustable in 3 levels to backlight keys, making it useful for low-light environments such as operating suites, laboratories and hospital wards. The keyboard is completely submersible, and can be cleaned using healthcare grade disinfectants, or even in an automatic dishwasher, officials say.

They cite [studies showing](#) that up to 25 percent of hospital keyboards are contaminated with the Super Bug MRSA, a strain of staph bacteria resistant to antibiotics. Daily disinfecting of computer keyboards can reduce risk of cross contamination. Although most keyboards are not designed for frequent cleaning with disinfectants, WetKeys waterproof keyboards are completely washable, and the new Silver Seal keyboard is not only washable but also imbedded with silver ions that inhibit bacterial growth.

“Nosocomial infections are typically transmitted via cross contamination from touch surfaces, such as computer keyboards and peripherals, and these components require special attention for disinfection and cleaning,” said Paul Lawrence, CEO of WetKeys, in a prepared statement. “Most computer keyboards won’t stand up to the kind of cleaning required to stop the spread of bacteria. That’s why healthcare providers come to WetKeys for washable keyboards. With the addition of the Silver Seal Glow, we can now provide a hard plastic traditional-feel keyboard that’s also backlit for use in low-light settings and offers excellent infection control.”

The company also offers waterproof, washable mice, touchpads and handheld device covers, some with silver.



This washable keyboard also contains antibacterial silver.

WETKEYS

# Silver Powder and Flakes Market Expected to Grow Over Next Ten Years

The global market for silver powder and flakes is expected to see double digit growth in the 2015 to 2025 period, according to a recently published report from analysts Future Market Insights. The report, titled *Silver Powder And Flakes Market: Global Industry Analysis and Opportunity Assessment 2015-2025*, notes: “The growing electronics industry is projected to be a major driving factor for the global silver powder and flakes market. Also, the demand for silver powder and flakes is expected to increase due to the rise in the adhesives and sealants industry.”

The report also notes that the use of silver nanoparticles for antibacterial use will increase the demand for silver powder and flakes: “This increase in the demand is anticipated to project a positive growth on the global silver powder and flakes market.” In addition, the electronics sector accounts for the largest share of consumption of silver powder and flakes, and the photovoltaics segment holds second position in the global silver powder and flakes market, the report stated.

“North America is expected to be the fastest growing region in the global silver powder and flakes market,” the report noted. “Asia Pacific is also anticipated to emerge as a leading region in the global silver powder and flakes market. China is expected to witness fast growth in the global silver powder and flakes market.”

The report is available at [Future Market Insights](#) for the individual price of US\$4,500.00.

## Lockheed Martin Lauded for Recycling Silver From Paint

The Arkansas Environmental Federation (AEF) presented the American global aerospace and defense company Lockheed Martin’s Camden Operations facility with an environmental award for recycling tons of paint waste containing silver. In 2012 the company launched a program of recovering silver particles from residue that accumulates as a protective paint coating is applied to missiles. To date, the project has reclaimed over 6,967 pounds (3,160 kg) of waste and generated US\$445,000 in revenue for Lockheed Martin.

Lockheed Martin ships both the residue from the coating and objects that come into contact with it — including paint-booth filters, plungers and containers — to a facility that extracts the silver and sells it on the precious metals market.

The AEF, a non-profit, educational group, presented the Camden Operations facility with its 2015 Diamond Award for Excellence in Environmental Leadership on Oct. 1 during its 48th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Camden Operations manufactures missiles and launch vehicles for military use.

# Exhibit Highlighted William Spratling and his Taxco Silver Works

The recent exhibition at the [Mexican Cultural Institute \(MCI\)](#) in Washington, D.C., of William Spratling's works titled *Silver on Silver: William Spratling, An American in Taxco* showed not only the artist's style and design but also the artistic relationship between the United States and Mexico.

"It is a story that shows the dialogue between the two countries and the cultural exchange — the artistic exchange between the plateros, as we call them — and William Spratling," says an MCI spokesperson. "One of the purposes of the Mexican Cultural Institute is to highlight the dialogue — this permanent artistic dialogue — between Mexico and the States, and this is a story that really demonstrates this relationship."

In the 1930s, Spratling went to Taxco, which had silver mines but very little native silverworking. Spratling's first pieces reflected the nature around Taxco — primarily animals, plants and flowers — but he later conceived designs that related to Pre-Columbian motifs, such as the jaguar and serpent, which are prevalent in Aztec or Mayan art. "But," MCI noted, "he also makes pieces where he made, for example, ivory or a certain kind of wood or stones in the art nouveau and art deco style."

Spratling is credited with building a model that transformed the silver industry in Taxco, turning it into a major economic and artistic force for the town.

The artist was first attracted to Taxco because of the mild tropical climate as well as the area's natural beauty, but the exhibit also highlights a more severe climate in which Spratling worked — Alaska. The U.S. government recognized the achievements of William Spratling in Mexico and extended an invitation for him to go to Alaska so he could train Inuit to create designs, not with silver, but with local materials such as stone or animal tusks. The task was difficult, and Spratling decided that he would fly some Inuit to Taxco, taking them out of their community for the first time.

"Some of the images of this project were lent to us by Televisa Foundation for exhibition for the first time," the MCI spokesperson noted. "This is a very interesting part of the exhibit because it highlights even more the artistic dialogue between people originally from the States and people who are originally from Mexico."



FRANCISCO ARMANDO KOCHEN

One of William Spratling's Taxco works exhibited by the Mexican Cultural Institute.

# Silver-Based Sensors Detect Early Stages of Tuberculosis

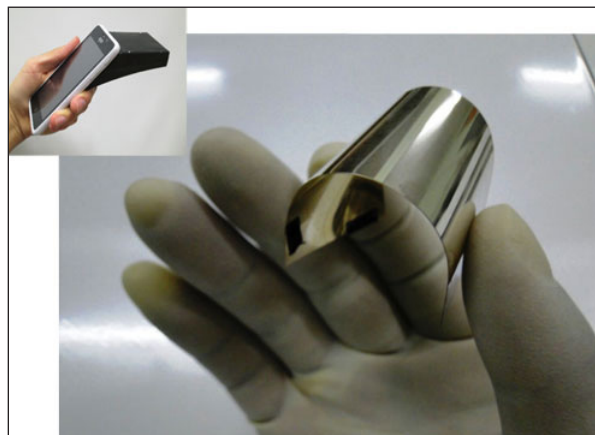
## May Also Aid Crime Victims

A team of researchers from Clemson University and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning have developed a rapid and flexible, silver-based nano-biosensor for early diagnosing of tuberculosis using smart phones.

The infectious disease often requires that bacteria samples be cultured, which can take one to two weeks, although a faster, less definitive skin test is often performed. However, the common skin test cannot tell if the bacteria is latent or active. Only through cultures can physicians make a positive diagnosis. This time lag makes early treatment problematic.

By coating thin films of silver and fullerene (a carbon molecule shaped, in this case, into a tube) onto cellulose-acetate sensors — and using a dye — the researchers were able to take pictures with a smartphone that recorded emissions indicating the presence of TB bacteria. The greater the intensity of the emissions, the more dense the bacteria and the stage of infection.

The researchers, who published their work in the September 8th issue of the journal [Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics](#), suggested that their technique could also be used as a forensic tool for detecting body fluids such as semen at crime scenes. They note that field tests such as those using ultraviolet light are not definitive for semen but also indicate other body fluids such as saliva and urine.



NANOWERK

Silver and fullerene coated cellulose-acetate sensors are flexible and could be used to detect tuberculosis in early stages. The inset shows a smartphone-based detection scheme for use in point-of-care settings.

# Perth Mint Issues Latest Map Coin

The [Perth Mint](#) has released another in its series of silver coins in the shape of Australia.

The one-ounce, 99.9% pure silver coin depicts the Redback Spider, a highly venomous spider indigenous to Australia. Characterized by a distinctive red stripe on the upper side of the abdomen, the adult Redback has a spherical black body.

Other coins in the map series include the Wedge-tailed Eagle, the Saltwater Crocodile and the Koala.

About 6,000 of the legal tender coin will be minted and sell for US\$72.90 through authorized dealers and the Perth Mint website.



This one-ounce, 99.9% pure silver coin features the Redback Spider on a map of Australia.

# Growing Industrial Demand for Silver Highlighted at 2015 Silver Industrial Conference

There is a growing demand for silver as industry has turned increasingly to advanced technological products and systems that require the metal's unique qualities, according to speakers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Industrial Conference.

[The Silver Institute](#) recently conducted the conference where executives and experts from many industrial sectors — including electronics, the textiles and chemical industry, regulatory and financial firms — came together in Washington, D.C. on October 29.

In his introductory remarks, Michael DiRienzo, Executive Director, the Silver Institute, said the reflective and conductive qualities of silver were superior to other metals as today's high tech products advanced onto the market.

However, it isn't only in advanced high tech or electronic products where silver plays an essential role. The metal is a critical element in the production of ethylene oxide (EO), a basic chemical vital in the manufacture of commonly used products such as polyester fiber.

Silver is also a vital element in solar energy, said Erica Rannestad, a Senior Analyst for GFMS Thomson Reuters, a global research firm. The metal, she noted, was an indispensable part of the solar energy chain.

Silver's irreplaceable role as a conductor in driving so many electronic products is widely known. It is found in computers, cell phones, tablets and a myriad of other electronic products. Silver ions are also imbedded in the surfaces of consumer products as well as medical devices because of its antibacterial properties.

Silver also is integrated into fabrics. The metal has been put to one of its most imaginative uses by Naked, Inc., which manufactures a line of underwear incorporating silver threads that help neutralize body odor. Along these lines, although not represented at the Conference, other manufacturers like Ralph Lauren are incorporating silver threads in a range of clothing able to monitor the wearer's vital signs such as heart rate and temperature.

A concluding panel discussion examined issues affecting silver's industrial potential in a growing economy and its uses where silver's unique properties outweigh all other factors. Perhaps presenter David Jollie, Strategic Analyst at Mitsui Global Precious Metals, best summarized silver's many uses today when he said it was truly a "hybrid metal." It is a precious possession for millions of investors around the world and yet, on the other hand, an essential component in so many of the world's established and emerging industries.



Harriet Hunnab, Global Head of Precious Metals at the CME Group, making a presentation on Financing Silver Industrial Demand

# Silver Recycling Volumes Forecast to Stagnate Over The Next Three Years Even If Prices Rally Significantly

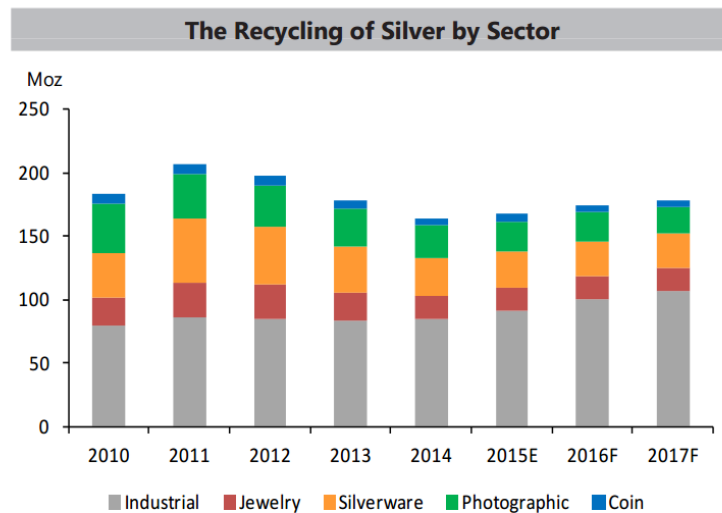
Silver recycling is projected to decline to 178.0 million ounces by 2017, 14% lower than the 2011 peak, as growth is only expected to average 3% a year, even if prices rally to over \$20. This outlook is based on further losses in photographic scrap, a depleted pool of near-market silverware and a limited response from most industrial end-uses, according to *Silver Scrap: The Forgotten Fundamental*, a report produced by [Metals Focus](#), the London-based independent precious metals research consultancy, on behalf of the Silver Institute.

The study provides detailed information on recycling by region and by five sectors: industrial end uses, photography, jewelry, silverware and coins. This analysis forms the basis for the forecast in scrap volumes out to 2017 and how those volumes might vary with price.

Other highlights from the report include:

- Scrap from industrial sources is the largest segment, accounting for around half the total last year. A key finding was the low level of recovery from the vast majority of end-uses, as highly fragmented ownership and low silver contents often make recovery uneconomic. The main exception is the substantial and growing volumes coming from ethylene oxide (EO) catalysts.
- Silverware is the second biggest source of silver scrap supply, with an 18% share of the 2014 total. This large slice was mainly ascribed to a sizable pool of product and a comparatively high value per piece. By contrast, silver jewelry recycling is modest, despite higher consumption today, as consumers appear to be content to hold on to a still fashionable metal and resale is less valuable.
- Photographic scrap remains in marked structural decline as a lagged result of the digitally-led fall in its fabrication since a peak in the late 1990s. However, still sizable volumes of recycling of old x-rays helped this sector achieve 16% of the 2014 scrap total.
- The West, in particular North America, dominates recycling today, with 53% of last year's total. Chinese scrap was, however, noted to be growing fast, with its share on target for almost 20% by 2017, largely as a result of gains in industrial recycling.
- The report isolates four main drivers of silver recycling: the silver price; the scale of a product's stocks; the degree to which ownership is fragmented and environmental legislation in conjunction with its enforcement and voluntary compliance.

The report can be downloaded free at: [Silver Scrap: The Forgotten Fundamental Report](#)



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Larry Kahaner  
Editor

[www.silverinstitute.org](http://www.silverinstitute.org)  
@SilverInstitute on Twitter

THE  
SILVERINSTITUTE

1400 I Street, NW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20005  
T 202.835 0185  
F 202.835 0155