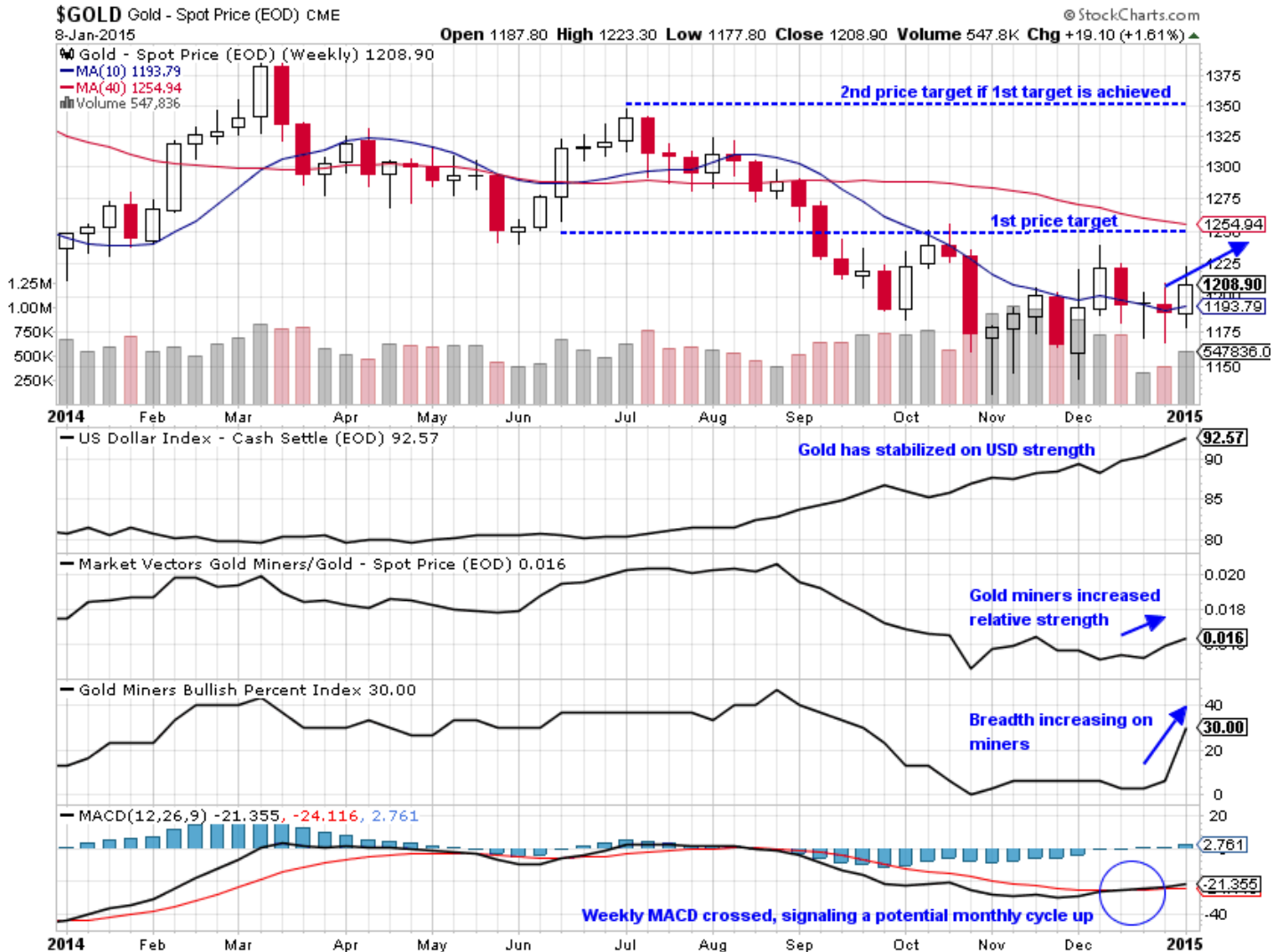


Technical Analysis: Gold

Has Gold reached an intermediate bottom? Soon, if not *now*.

| TECHNICAL ANALYSIS | GOLD | Technical Note

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Gold down 33% since Aug 2012. Time to go contrarian?

The first signs of the death of gold started back when gold was pushing \$1800 back in August 2012. Since then, gold prices have dropped all the way down to 3 year lows of \$1130 as recently in November 2014 due to a combination of a strong USD, low levels of inflation, the increase of risk appetite and a strong US economy that was pushing investor cash into equities. Gold companies have made cuts over the past couple years, and have collectively taken billions of dollars in write-downs. According to PWC's Gold, silver and copper price report 2015, their industry survey shows that only 20% believe gold price will increase in 2015, 20% are neutral, and 60% think prices will decrease. Yet, in terms of technical analysis, the bottom of prices is always characterized by pessimism, is it time to go contrarian? We list a couple of technical factors that hint that strength in the market is building within a long downtrend:

1. Improving underlying technicals.

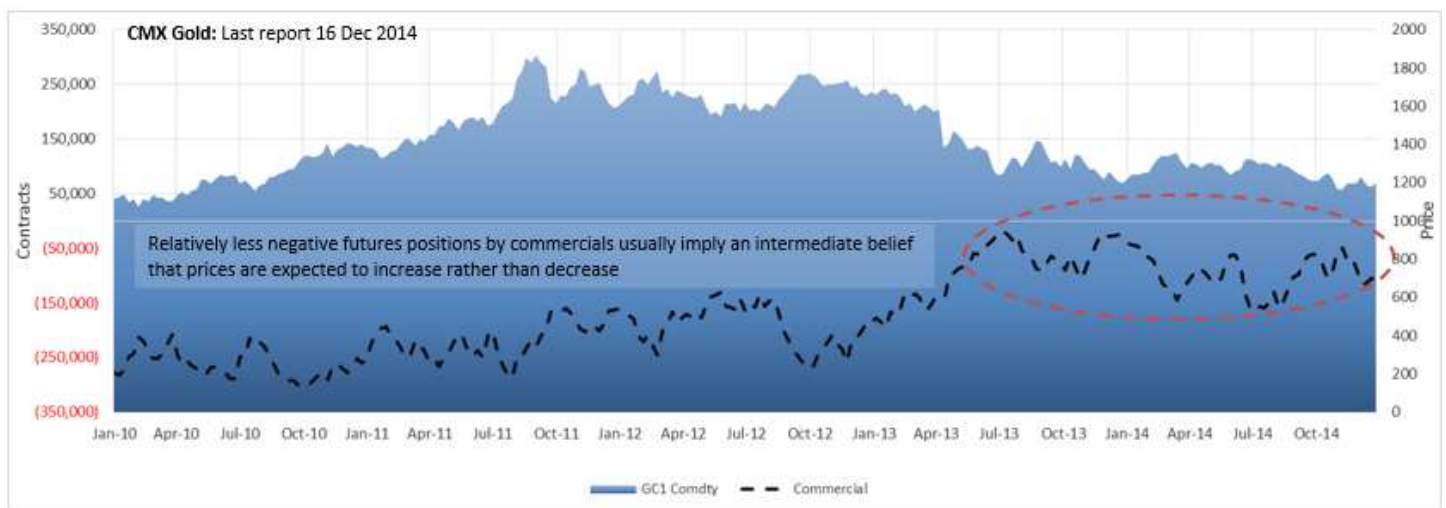
- **Gold priced has stabilized even through the USD has strengthened.** A rising USD usually applies downside pressure on commodities like gold. Resilience of gold price in view of the strengthening USD is akin to increasing tension on a spring that adds strength to the upside move when it eventually occurs in the future.

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- **Though nascent, gold miners price and breadth are slowly increasing their relative strength.** Stock prices can sometimes be affected first before the actual move of commodities as market participants are forward looking when making their investment decisions. The slight uptick adds encouragement to the bottoming view.
- **The bullish cross of the weekly MACD imply a potential upturn.** Unless price deteriorates sharply, causing technical damage that reaffirms the downtrend, the bullish cross implies at least a short term upturn, and a potential intermediate upturn that may last 1-2 months.

2. Gold commercials are hedging less at current prices.

Based on the Commitment of Trader's report, "commercials" are defined as entity that is commercially engaged in business activities hedged by the use of the futures or option markets. Commercial positions are usually more long term in nature and less speculative. The net futures position, since gold broke below 1400 in Apr 2013, has been significantly less negative as compared to prior years. This leads me to believe on a fundamental level, gold prices should start to see stability as the commercial market is not viewing current future prices for gold as expensive, hence they are hedging a lot less.



Source: Bloomberg

3. Since June 2014, high yield bonds have been on the downtrend.

Although the S&P500 has been on an uptrend, the iBoxx High Yield Corporate Bond Fund has actually decreased by 3% since June 2014. The divergence shows increasing risk within the system, which is coherent with recent geopolitical happenings such as the sharp fall in oil prices increasing the probability of defaults on oil exporting nations and oil producers with high cost of lifting. Any increase of perceived risk may cause increased gold prices capital looking for flights to safety.

However, we do note that gold is technically on a downtrend, and based on the market psychology of reflexivity or the feedback loop of cause and effect, downtrends can go on longer than expected. That said, based on the reasons above, we note underlying strength appearing within this downtrend. We are sticking our necks out with this call, as technically speaking, there is still no weekly upside breakout signal and trends tend to continue, yet we cannot ignore the improving underlying technical strength. Gold is also a crisis hedge if crude oil continues to fall in price, creating geopolitical instability.

We think there is a good chance gold's price should firm up again around current levels or maybe slightly lower. If gold cycles up, the first upside target is likely 1250. A successful break above this level signals completes a reverse head & shoulders pattern that started in Sep 2014 and implies a further technical upside target of 1350. A convincing price break below the 1150-1175 support on unexpected news will cause us to reevaluate this thesis.

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