

“Platinum Smashes Price Records, Hits an All-Time High!”

“Have you been paying attention to platinum? Few investors have, but it recently hit an all-time high of \$1,390—up 42 percent on the year! I believe there’s lots more room to the upside—here’s why!”



James DiGeorgia, Editor

- **Skyrocketing demand and a decade-long deficit**
- **Why the bull market is still young**
- **The best ways to invest**

About nine months ago, I recommended platinum to my readers. Savvy subscribers who got on board just had the chance to take a whopping 37% profit!

That peak was in mid-November. Now, platinum’s price is taking a well-deserved breather. Does this mean the ride is over? Nope! I still think the grayish-white metal has lots of potential. That’s why I’m sending out this special issue!

Platinum: The Most Precious Metal

Only four metals are commonly called “precious”: gold, silver, platinum, and palladium.

Platinum is by far the most precious of them all. Its price is usually somewhere around twice that of

gold, and far above the prices of palladium and silver. But why is platinum so precious? There’s a long list of reasons.

First of all, it’s extremely rare. Platinum occurs in the Earth’s crust at a mere five parts per billion. This is around 15 times more scarce than gold. According to one source, if you were to gather all the platinum that’s ever been mined in the world, and melt it down, it would fill a standard swimming pool to only about ankle-deep. (Conversely, all the world’s gold would fill almost three pools.)

Plus, platinum is extremely difficult to obtain. Not only are there few deposits in the world, but they’re very diffuse, with only a few grains of platinum scattered here and there throughout the ore. On average, for every ounce of platinum you extract, you have to dig out and grind up ten tons of rock. The Earth doesn’t yield its platinum willingly!

So why go through all that trouble? It’s because platinum is not only rare, it’s also extremely useful. It’s ductile (able to be drawn into thin wire), and malleable (able to be beaten into sheets thinner than a sheet of paper). It’s also easily divisible, and straightforward to purify.

Platinum is also highly resistant to corrosion, and immune to oxidation. It has an extremely high melting temperature, and is a wonderful catalyst for a long list

of chemical reactions. It's also one of the densest metals in the world, almost twice as dense as lead and even 11 percent denser than gold. All of these properties make platinum extremely useful in a wide variety of applications.

Lastly, there's one more factor to consider. Platinum is uniquely beautiful. Native nuggets of platinum aren't very attractive: dull, grayish-white lumps of metal. But when purified and polished, platinum has a beautiful, brilliant luster. This makes it possible

to make stunning coins, pieces of jewelry, and other objects from platinum. (King Louis XV of France once declared platinum to be the *only* metal fit for a king!)

For these reasons and others, platinum is well over \$1,000 per ounce today. That sounds expensive, but I think it's actually cheap. In fact, I believe platinum is poised to go much higher than its present price.

Before I explain why, it will be helpful to understand exactly why platinum is so desired today. We'll start with one of its most important uses...

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Beautiful Jewelry

Platinum has been used in jewelry for millennia. Its use goes back at least 2,700 years ago, as shown by decorations on an Egyptian casket. Ancient South American civilizations also prized it and crafted it into beautiful rings and ornaments.

However, in Western society, platinum was only occasionally used. For most of our history, gold and silver were almost the only metals used for jewelry. Platinum was far rarer and, with its high melting temperature, was difficult for smiths to work. Its use was limited to the jewelers who served the high courts of European royalty.

But that's all changed now. The last 10 years especially have seen a radical transformation in the jewelry market.

Traditionally, gold has been the metal of choice for wedding bands and other jewelry. Yet today, platinum has become the preferred metal for wedding bands instead. A recent survey by TheKnot.com (a wedding planning site), revealed that 38 percent of brides preferred platinum for engagement rings, compared to only 24 percent for gold. (Almost all the rest prefer white gold, an alloy of gold and white metals such as silver or palladium.)

Why this new preference? According to Amanda Berg from the Jewelry Information Center (a non-profit trade group), "The age group that's buying platinum now—25 year olds becoming engaged—grew up with silver and aren't about to wear yellow gold every day."

And they're buying platinum for other forms of jewelry as well. Celebrities are reinforcing this trend, especially in the hip-hop world. Older stars wore thick gold chains, but newer ones wear platinum. P. Diddy and Missy Elliott are among those sporting platinum pinkie rings and necklaces, while rap mogul Percy Miller wears a \$125,000 platinum/diamond pendant.

This "new" trend really started 40 years ago in Japan. Platinum's white appearance appeals to traditional Asian values of modesty and sobriety, and the 1960s saw a growth in platinum jewelry. By the 1970s, smiths in Germany were crafting stark modern designs with the metal. The metal's popularity then spread to other parts of Europe, the U.K., and then the United States.

But in the last decade, platinum has really taken off around the world. And this trend will only accelerate, since it's the younger generation that's primarily driving it. As older, gold-oriented consumers leave the jewelry market, and younger platinum-oriented customers enter it, platinum's share of the market will only increase.

Plus, as the most expensive precious metal, platinum has an undeniable cachet. This is reinforced by 'platinum' credit cards and various memberships where platinum is the highest level. In the average person's mind, platinum means "top of the line," and it's no surprise that people are attracted to it for their jewelry.

Lastly, platinum has undeniable advantages for the jeweler. The metal is a challenge to work, requiring high temperatures and a scrupulously clean working environment. But it provides many unique capabilities as well.

For example, one gram of the metal (about the weight of a paper clip) can be drawn into a fine wire over one mile long. And even when drawn this thin, the metal remains hard, has a high tensile strength, and doesn't oxidize. These properties allow jewelers to craft platinum into forms unavailable from other metals: everything from fine meshes to solid tension ring mounts (where gemstones are held in place by the metal's tensile strength alone).

Average jewelry demand has exceeded 2 million ounces per year for the last decade. It's fallen slightly this year, due to record prices (more on this later). But it's still a significant source of demand, and promises to stay strong for the foreseeable future.

Glass Manufacturing

Glass is all around us—in bottles, eyeglasses, windows, windshields, drinking glasses, light bulbs, television and computer screens, flat-top electric cookers, and more.

It's easy to take it for granted. But how do they make this stuff? Glass is actually quite difficult to manufacture.

A glass maker has to melt silicates and soda ash together at very high temperatures (up to 3,090 degrees Fahrenheit). In its molten state, the glass is not only extremely hot but also very abrasive.

How do you handle such a substance? What containers could you use? And what material could not only withstand the heat, and the extreme abrasiveness, but also won't react at all with the glass (which would discolor it and ruin it)?

Platinum is the answer. Glass makers use platinum to melt, hold, form, and channel glass. Platinum won't melt even at these ridiculous temperatures (it doesn't melt until 3,215 degrees). It won't even oxidize or scale. Nor will it react with the glass, which even its sister metals rhodium and iridium will do.

Platinum is uniquely suited, and irreplaceable, for this challenging role.

Vital Uses in Medicine

Platinum is compatible with living tissue, and is non-reactive with human blood. It's also highly-conductive and strong. This makes it very useful in many medical applications, such as pacemakers and other devices that are implanted into a human body.

Pacemakers usually have platinum-iridium electrodes, which transmit electrical pulses to the heart and keep it beating regularly. Over 50,000 people rely on pacemakers today for healthy living.

Plus, the white metal is very useful in anti-cancer treatments. In 1962, researchers discovered that certain forms of platinum inhibit the division of living cells. By 1977, a drug named Cisplatin was on the market, using this capability. Since then, a series of other drugs have been developed, more effective and less toxic than Cisplatin.

Today, doctors use platinum-based drugs to fight testicular, prostate, ovarian, head, and neck cancers. And new forms of platinum compounds are being studied: one of the most promising is satraplatin, which can be taken orally at home instead of intravenously at a hospital.

Platinum is literally a life-saving metal.

Chemical Production

Platinum is a wonderful catalyst, accelerating other chemical reactions while not being used up in the process.

Modern petroleum refineries are heavily dependent on platinum to convert heavy-fraction hydrocarbons into the useful lighter forms like gasoline. Over the last decade, petroleum industry demand for platinum has been stable at 150-170,000 ounces per year.

Another use for platinum's catalyzing abilities is to cure silicone. Silicones are ubiquitous in modern society—the caulk in our bathrooms and roofing vents, the furniture polishes and cleaning products used in our homes, the seals and gaskets in our cars and airplanes, even the adhesives on our Post-It Notes. All made from silicones, and all using platinum in their manufacture.

Platinum is vital in many chemical uses.

Computers and Electronics

Back in the 1950's, IBM introduced the world's first computer hard disk drive. It had 50 spinning platters, each 24 inches wide, and all of them combined held a whopping 5 megabytes of data.

Today, for a fraction of the cost of that IBM drive, you can buy a 5.25" disk (one-fourth the width) that holds 250 gigabytes of data (5,000 times as much).

And much of that increase is thanks to platinum.

A hard disk is made up of one or more spinning disks (usually aluminum in your desktop computer, or glass in a laptop drive). Each disk is coated with magnetic material, which is imprinted with magnetic patterns by a read/write head that moves just above its surface. Those patterns contain your data.

The easiest way to increase storage capacity for a hard drive is to make the disks bigger. However, for many years now, the computer industry has maintained size standards for hard drives (5.25" for desktop machines, 3.5" or 2.5" for laptops). So another approach is needed.

The solution is to increase the magnetic capabilities of the disk coating. Current designs use a cobalt alloy, with increasingly larger amounts of platinum added.

Five years ago, about 10 percent of a typical hard disk's magnetic layers were made up of platinum. Today, it's more than 35 percent on average, and the proportion is still increasing.

Plus, platinum is used in other electronic components as well.

Overall, computers and electronics are a healthy, and growing, source of demand for platinum. About 1.76 million ounces were consumed in 2006—some 100,000 ounces more than in 2005, which is a rise of about 18 percent.

Autocatalysts: A Huge Reason for High Platinum Prices

I mentioned earlier that platinum is a wonderful catalyst, which is why it's so useful in refining petroleum.

However, this is only one use of platinum's catalyzing abilities. In fact, these abilities are responsible for the largest source of platinum demand: the autocatalyst. And this is the main reason why I believe platinum is headed higher in the future.

What are PGMs?

Platinum has five "sister" metals that are very similar in their chemical properties: palladium, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium, and osmium. Collectively, platinum and its sisters are called "platinum group metals."

Of the PGMs, only platinum and palladium are considered precious metals. The others are too scarce to provide much of a market, although they do have some industrial uses.

What is an Autocatalyst?

An autocatalyst is a technical name for something you have in your car: the more common name is "catalytic converter." As you might know, this is the heart of your car's pollution-reduction system.

A catalytic converter is just a cylinder of metal, containing a fine honeycomb of ceramic or metal. The honeycomb is coated with platinum and other PGMs (platinum group metals). The honeycomb is designed to maximize the contact between the PGMs and the exhaust gases that are forced through the converter.

This is what is so wonderful about platinum. The metal converts poisonous exhaust gases into less harmful substances just by coming into contact with them. No moving parts are required. And the platinum itself isn't used up in the process.

This ability is one of the reasons why I think platinum prices have so much room to the upside. However, there's some misinformation floating around about autocatalysts and platinum, so it's worth looking at this application more closely.

Gasoline Engines and Platinum

A gas-burning engine produces three major exhaust pollutants:

- Carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas
- Hydrocarbons, a major contributor to smog
- Nitrogen oxides, which contribute to acid rain, smog and ozone problems, and cause difficulty breathing.

Platinum and other PGMs can convert over 90 percent of the hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides into other gases (mostly carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and water vapor).

In gas engine autocatalysts: three PGMs are typically used: platinum, palladium, and rhodium. Platinum and palladium oxidize the carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, while the rhodium reduces the nitrogen oxides into harmless nitrogen. Since these autocatalysts can process all three types of exhaust gases, they're often called "three-way catalysts."

But there's a problem here. Platinum is far more expensive than palladium (currently, over three times as much). Therefore, there's a real financial incentive to reduce the amount of platinum and increase the amount of palladium, if possible.

Palladium actually doesn't catalyze exhaust gases as well as platinum. Nevertheless, automotive engineers are working to optimize palladium's performance. One of the ways they do this is by moving the catalytic converter closer to the engine block, to be heated by the engine and to have the exhaust gases catalyzed while

they're at their maximum temperature. All this allows palladium to work more efficiently.

Therefore, there's an apparent trend towards palladium, and away from platinum, in gas-engine pollution control. Some investment advisors are now recommending palladium for this exact reason.

But is this bad news for platinum? Not at all!

First of all, car manufacturers are leery of relying too heavily on palladium. They remember all too well what happened just six years ago. Russia, the world's primary supplier of palladium, temporarily stopped delivering it to the market.

Palladium's price went ballistic, tripling in less than a year and hitting over \$1,000 per ounce. Car makers who had bet heavily on palladium for their autocatalysts scrambled to lock in supplies, and Ford Motor Company in particular bought a bunch of it.

A few months later, palladium supplies were restored, and prices plummeted. Ford alone took losses of over \$1 billion during this fiasco.

Auto executives remember these wounds all too vividly. Even though palladium is cheap again, car companies aren't going to depend on it exclusively. Russia is too undependable and capricious as a supplier.

Plus, gas-engine autocatalysts are only part of the story. There are also...

Diesel Autocatalysts

Unlike gasoline engines, diesel-burners can't use palladium or rhodium to catalyze their exhaust pollutants.

First of all, gas engines burn a very balanced mixture of air and fuel: 14.7 parts air to one part fuel. On the other hand, diesel engines operate at about 30:1, which is often called a "lean burn."

Second, gasoline exhaust is very hot (660-1350 degrees Fahrenheit). Diesel exhaust is much cooler (only 215-660 degrees).

All this means that three-way catalysts don't work in diesel engines. **Of the PGMs, only platinum works efficiently in these conditions.**

Plus, there's an additional complication. Diesels also produce PM ("particulate matter"—soot, in other words). PM is a nasty pollutant in its own right, and is greatly restricted by current environmental regulations.

There are two common approaches to getting rid of PM. The first is to force the exhaust through a porous ceramic filter and trap it. Problem: the trapped soot builds up over time and has to be removed somehow. One way to do this is to periodically inject fuel into the exhaust gases, which is oxidized by a platinum catalyst and burns the soot.

Another, more elegant design is undergoing testing right now. This method uses platinum to oxidize one of

the forms of nitrogen in the exhaust, which then burns out the soot at a much lower temperature (450 degrees) than would work otherwise.

Note that both of these methods use platinum. So platinum is used to not only purify the main three exhaust gases, but to remove PM as well.

Incidentally, the lower temperature of diesel exhaust also means that more platinum is typically required in a diesel autocatalyst than in a gasoline engine's. So overall, diesel engines use much more platinum than gas engines.

A Great Source of Demand for Platinum

Most people would be unimpressed thinking about platinum's importance for diesel pollution reduction. Many Americans have never owned a diesel-fueled vehicle, so they don't appreciate how important this technology is.

But diesel use is growing rapidly around the world, and that's a big reason why I'm so bullish on platinum.

This year, for the first time, the European diesel market just exceeded 50 percent of overall sales. More than half of all vehicles sold in Europe are diesels. And analysts expect this percentage to increase further still.

Why are Europeans buying so many diesel cars and trucks? There are several reasons:

- **Performance.** Diesel engines provide higher torque at lower speeds. Drivers prefer this feeling of additional power. And modern diesel designs are competitive with gasoline in terms of noise and driveability.
- **Economy.** Diesel provides more miles per gallon than gasoline. Interestingly, diesel was already dominating the European market even before the recent spike in oil prices, which now makes fuel economy that much more important.
- **Tax advantages.** Fuel prices are far higher in Europe than in the United States, thanks mostly to the steep taxes that European governments charge on fuel. But these taxes are lower on diesel than on gasoline, making diesel significantly less expensive to the consumer.
- **Maintenance.** Diesels are famous for requiring less maintenance than gas engines, and for lasting much longer.

Most Americans are oblivious to diesel's advantages. Diesel cars available here in the past had performance problems, so many people dismissed them.

However, this is changing now. Light trucks especially are starting to show a resurgence in diesel sales, and I expect diesel cars to make a comeback also.

Whether or not diesels ever catch on here in the

States, they're already selling strongly in the rest of the world. Let me repeat that as diesel vehicles increase, so does the demand for platinum.

After all, pollution controls are getting more and more stringent across the world, with the new Euro IV and U.S. Tier II regulations. And other PGMs can't handle the challenging requirements of diesel pollution reduction. Only platinum can.

So we see there are lots of uses for platinum, with many of them growing in the future. Now let's talk about supply and demand, to predict where platinum's price is going...

Supply Fundamentals

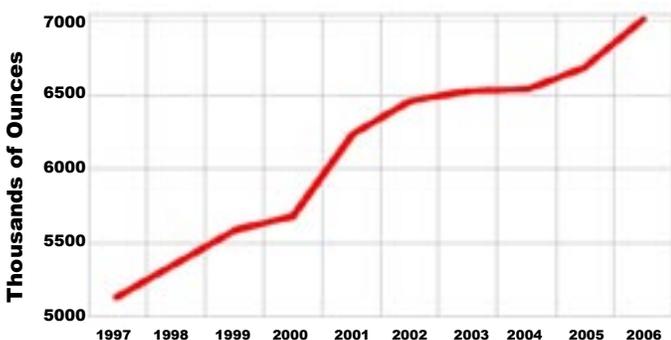
South Africa dominates the platinum market, providing 78 percent of the world's supply. Russia is next, with 12 percent of the market. North America provides about 5 percent, and the rest of the world combined supplies the remaining 5 percent or so.

It wasn't that long ago that South Africa provided almost *all* the world's platinum. A few years ago, investors were concerned about the market's dependence on one country, in a fairly unstable part of the world. The good news is that the platinum miners have worked hard to increase production, and the market has diversified somewhat since then.

The bad news is that the second-biggest supplier is now Russia, which is falling into tyranny once again. And Russia has already shown that it can't be relied upon, as proven by the fiasco in the palladium market a few years ago.

This means there's potential instability in the world's platinum supplies. Of course, this potential might never actually manifest itself. But if it does, platinum prices will have a tremendous surge upwards.

Obviously, we can't base our investment decisions on potential supply problems. That's why the demand numbers are so exciting...



Platinum demand has increased every year for at least the last 10 years, shooting up by over 36 percent this decade.

Now diesel engines are skyrocketing in popularity, and are promising to strain supplies—and raise prices—for the foreseeable future. Data source: Johnson Matthey

Demand Fundamentals

Platinum demand has swelled strongly every single year for at least the past decade.

As expected, some sources of demand will be moderated by platinum's recent price surge. There are signs that jewelry demand is subsiding, as some jewelry customers are choosing the less-expensive metals.

We don't have final numbers for 2006 yet, but jewelry industry analysts expect the demand to be 1.74 million ounces, a drop of 12 percent from 2005. Plus, glass manufacturing is expected to consume about 35,000 fewer ounces than the previous year. (The production of LCDs—the screens for computer monitors and large-screen TVs—is still increasing, but not at such a torrid pace as in 2005.)

But these drops are more than offset by soaring demand from other sectors:

- Industrial demand for 2006 is expected to swell by 100,000 ounces, up to 1.76 million.
- Electronics demand should be up by about 65,000 oz.
- Petroleum: up by 35,000 ounces.
- Chemical production: up by 20,000 ounces.
- Electrical applications: up by 65,000 ounces.

That's all moderately bullish. But the really exciting action is in autocatalysts and pollution control, by far the biggest market for platinum.

Autocatalyst demand is soaring, with 2006 net consumption expected to be 560,000 ounces above the previous year's. Again, I expect this demand to accelerate in years to come, thanks to current trends.

Overall, platinum demand in 2006 is expected to exceed supply—*again*. **This will be the seventh year in a row that demand has outstripped supply.** Since 1999, the average yearly platinum deficit has been 302,500 ounces.

Obviously, any market can't sustain a supply deficit year after year without some repercussions. That's why platinum has hit record highs recently!

How Long will the Platinum Bull Market Run?

The projected deficit for this year will occur despite an expected *decrease* in investor holdings.

In other words, although some savvy investors have been buying platinum, even more have been selling. The net supply from investors is projected to be about 30,000 ounces, even bigger than last year's 15,000 ounces.

So why is this good news for us? Easy—it means that *platinum's recent highs are being driven by supply and demand fundamentals*, not investor speculation.

Every bull market goes through the same series of phases. When a bull market begins, investors are cautious, even skeptical. The market goes up because

demand outstrips supply, not because investors are buying. In fact, the market goes up *despite* investor actions. The only purchasers are those people buying the resource because they need it, not because they're speculating on a future profit.

As the bull matures, a history of upward price activity becomes established. Investors start to get interested, but many are still skeptical, or distracted by more attractive markets elsewhere.

In the final stages of a bull, a buzz builds among investors. Eager speculators pile into the market, driving prices up. People who got in early and sell now can make outrageous profits.

Eventually, as prices continue to rise, the people who actually need the resource seek less-expensive substitutes and leave the market. Soon, only the speculators are left. And we all know what happens next (as shown in the NASDAQ bubble in 2000).

So investor interest can often be used as an inverse buy-sell indicator for a market. When investors are out, you get in. When they all pile in, you take your profits—which can be huge if you time it right—and get out. Then you watch from the sidelines as the whole thing comes crashing down.

That's why I'm so excited about platinum. The white metal blasted through its all-time record in the spring of 2006, and set even higher records last November—and *investors couldn't care less*. In fact, more are leaving the market than are entering.

This is great news! It means the bull is still in its infant stages. And obviously, that's the best possible time to enter any market.

Should You Pile into Platinum? Not exclusively...

By now you see how bullish I am on platinum. But that doesn't mean you should sell all your other investments and pile in.

I still think gold and silver should have the most prominent places in your portfolio. They're the best overall play on the current commodity bull, and the best protection against political unrest and the debauching of the dollar.

But once you have a solid foundation in gold and silver, platinum is a great additional play. So what's the best way to invest in platinum? Buy physical!

How to Buy Physical Platinum!

There are many types of bullion platinum bars and coins on the market. Some are produced by private mints, other (such as the U.S. Platinum Eagles, Australian Koala and Canadian Maple Leaves) are minted by governments. Despite the broad selection, I recommend sticking with U.S. Platinum Eagles struck by the U.S. Mint since 1997.

Besides the cachet of being the first legal tender platinum coins ever minted by the United States, they are also IRA eligible, making it possible to hoard them using your retirement dollars. Before you run off and buy any, let me zero in and explain which U.S. Platinum Eagles you should buy.

First, for IRA and retirement plans I strongly recommend investing in original, very limited issue platinum PROOF SETS from 1997 through 2005. A proof coin is minted on a special, highly-polished planchet which is struck two to three times to make sure its detail is incredible. Every year the mint makes a small limited number of these coins. (Conversely, Mint State coins are struck purely for their bullion value. The mint produces 1/10th, 1/4, 1/2, and 1 ounce bullion platinum eagles for strict bullion investors.)

The sets you buy must not be picked-through sets. Dealers regularly pick through original proof sets and send the best quality coins in for grading by one of the two premier numismatic grading services [Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) or Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC)].

One platinum coin from a proof set that's graded Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo can be worth more than the entire set.

Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo coins are flawless, absolutely perfect coins that also possess a white mint cameo frost. Finding truly perfect flawless PR70 Ultra Cameo is very hard because platinum is so soft and easily damaged anywhere along the minting, shipping and mint employee handling process. Every year, collectors who aren't informed also damage their sets by mishandling. So the number of Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo that survive is very small.

This means that gem, original, unpicked sets that cost 40% or 60% more than picked-through sets can actually be worth more than what you're paying. This is a clear arbitrage opportunity that exists because, and here's the catch, you can't put PCGS or NGC graded coins in an IRA or retirement plan. It's not against the law; it's just that the trustees who handle the storage will not risk storing them. The banks and holding companies insist on Government Sets with the original papers, holders and boxes.

Why would anyone sell original sets with Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo coins in them? First, these sets are expensive. With almost two ounces of platinum, they sell for anywhere from \$2,950 to \$8,000, so small coin shop collectors often just sell their sets for the quick sale. Many of those who sell their original quality sets never realize they've sold their platinum coins for a fraction of their true value. Smart dealers know the sets have big value locked in them and know they can get 40% to 60% over their value without submitting the platinum coins for grading.

My rare coin firm, *Finest Known*, (1-866-697-4653) specializes in hunting down original sets from collectors and dealers from all over the world. Our strategy makes sense for IRA and investment portfolios outside retirement. I think, as platinum rises in price (I foresee \$5,000 platinum in the next 10 years), these sets will become red-hot collector and investment items. I expect we'll see their premiums jump by three to five times the rise in the price of platinum. So, if you spend \$10,000 on two of these original very limited issue platinum proof sets you could see them jump 400% just because of the price increase in platinum, but you could also see them jump 1,000% to 3,000% just on their premium numismatic value. That's what I call LEVERAGE!

At the heart of the potential are these Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo coins which are very few and far between. Collectors and investors love these perfect quality coins and are willing to pay big premiums for them. There are a number of the U.S. Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo proof platinum coins in 1/10th, 1/4, 1/2 and 1 ounce weight that I believe have the potential to rise 1,000% to 5,000% in the next ten years. In the following charts, I've listed the dates and denominations of the coins I like best, including their limited mintages and their more limited survival rates (i.e., their populations: how many coins have been graded by NGC or PCGS).

Proof \$10 (1/10th oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
1997w	37,025	141
1998w	19,832	147
1999w	19,123	216
2000w	15,651	258

Proof \$25 (1/4 oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
1997w	18,661	145
1998w	14,860	163
1999w	13,514	244
2000w	11,995	275

Proof \$50 (1/2 oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
1997w	15,463	116
1999w	11,098	184
2000w	11,049	213

Proof \$100 (1 oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
1997w	18,000	96
1998w	14,203	145
1999w	12,351	115
2000w	12,453	167

Proof \$100 (1 oz) continued

Year	Mintage	Total Population
2001w	8,990	91
2002w	9,834	131
2003w	8,106	93

Joe Glenski of my *Finest Known* staff (1-866-697-4653) can help anyone interested in obtaining these U.S. Gem Proof PR70 Ultra Cameo platinum coins; but keep in mind, they are really hard to obtain. When these original sets are available, I recommend buying them. The potential profit is enormous.

I also like, as a platinum investment, the Mint State coins that were struck purely for their bullion value in Gem Uncirculated MS70 state. These coins are struck as bullion coins, so very few survive in perfectly flawless condition. Combined with the limited mintages, they represent a tremendous investment opportunity. Here are charts of the Mint State coins I like, sorted by year, mintage and populations.

Mint State \$10 (1/10th oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
2002	23,005	1,098
2003	22,007	730
2004	15,010	1,191

Mint State \$25 (1/4 oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
1997	27,100	16
2000	20,054	91
2001	21,815	46
2002	27,405	743
2003	25,207	1,101
2004	18,010	2,680

Mint State \$50 (1/2 oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
1998	20,500	13
1999	32,419	3
2000	18,892	8
2001	12,815	34
2002	24,005	249
2003	17,409	353
2004	13,236	1,100

Mint State \$100 (1 oz)

Year	Mintage	Total Population
2000	10,003	4
2001	14,070	7
2002	11,502	27
2003	8,007	58
2004	7,009	201