GC WGC CB Purchase Regime

CB buying was 200-400 tonnes/yr in early 2010s. Post-2022 Russia-sanctions saw it spike to 1000+ tonnes/yr as EM central banks accelerated USD-reserve diversification.

David Stendahl · Market Lab Analytics · November 7, 2026

What this signal is

CB buying was 200-400 tonnes/yr in early 2010s. Post-2022 Russia-sanctions saw it spike to 1000+ tonnes/yr as EM central banks accelerated USD-reserve diversification. This is a slow-moving but persistent bid on gold prices.

The composite is bounded between minus one and plus one through tanh. On 2008-12-02 it reached its series maximum plus 0.993 and on 2020-07-02 its series minimum minus 0.992.

Today the composite reads near +0.12. See live page for current state.

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How the inputs compose

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The engine also computes four confirming features: five-day velocity, 60-day volatility regime, 60-day correlation with gold returns, 63-day lag-1 autocorrelation.

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What the state-conditional returns have actually done

The gold forward-60-day return baseline (unconditional) is mean plus 1.30 percent, median plus 1.03 percent.

> **Reference baseline (6,062 gold-aligned forward-60-day windows over the live engine window)**
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> Gold forward-60-day return baseline: mean plus 1.30 percent, median plus 1.03 percent. Phase 0 source: Z85402 engine parquet joined with COMEX gold back-adjusted continuous closes.

CB purchase regime active (Phase +1), 3,273 trading days, returned on average plus 1.78 percent.

Normal (Phase +0), 3,725 trading days, returned on average plus 0.38 percent.

CB purchase regime quiescent (Phase −1), 1,967 trading days, returned on average minus 0.12 percent.

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Three cases that frame how to read the signal

Case 1: 2008-12 composite series maximum

On 2008-12-02 the composite reached its series maximum plus 0.993. Gold subsequent 60-day behavior aligned with the cb purchase regime active regime pattern.

Case 2: 2020-07 composite series minimum

On 2020-07-02 the composite reached its series minimum minus 0.992. Gold subsequent 60-day behavior aligned with the cb purchase regime quiescent regime pattern.

Case 3: March 2020 COVID shock window

The March 2020 COVID liquidity shock drove violent regime shifts across gold drivers. The composite oscillated as the underlying mechanism repriced.

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How to use the signal today

This is a regime detector on a 60-day forward horizon.

Three best uses. First, as a regime filter for gold exposure (Phase +1 equals cb purchase regime active). Second, as a cross-check against positioning and price-momentum signals. Third, as a transition-window warning, pairing with price-based signals for conviction.

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Methodology notes

CB buying was 200-400 tonnes/yr in early 2010s. Post-2022 Russia-sanctions saw it spike to 1000+ tonnes/yr as EM central banks accelerated USD-reserve diversification. This is a slow-moving but persistent bid on gold prices.

The 1990 start reflects the earliest reliable source coverage.

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What this signal does not cover

Four caveats. The signal is a regime detector, not a timing signal. State-conditional means hold on average, not for every individual window. Regime persistence varies with macroeconomic backdrop. Individual windows can run much longer or shorter than mean sample. State-conditional edges are backward-looking empirical averages. Future regimes may differ. The baseline is COMEX gold back-adjusted continuous (GC_1240BD).

Not investment advice. Signal readings and empirical statistics are derived from publicly available data sources. (c) 2026 David Stendahl.