

THE CORE FIVE

Daily precious-metals portfolio brief | October 7, 2026

Status: ● Producer ● Near-term producer/developer ● Exploration/resource stage **S/O Quality:** ● Excellent ● Good ● Moderate ● Caution ● Weak

S/O methodology: stage-specific assessment of per-share value preservation and dilution efficiency. It is an independent diagnostic and does not affect Core membership or Challenger ranking.
Jurisdiction source: Fraser Institute, *Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2025*, Policy Perception Index (PPI). **Lower rank = more favorable perceived mining-policy environment: #1 is best; #68 is least favorable. NR = not rated.**

The Core Five

Core philosophy: visible forward production growth, FCF/share growth, disciplined dilution, financeable expansion and resource replacement. Cash flow per share is the controlling metric.

Company	Visible Forward Production/Growth	Jurisdiction / Fraser PPI	S/O Quality	Today
AYA ●	6.2-6.8Moz AgEq 2026; Boumadine ~23.7Moz AgEq/yr Y1-5 at current-GSR methodology	Morocco 25/68	● Excellent	Hold #1. No new company release this morning; Boumadine/Zgounder thesis unchanged.
ASM ●	2.4-2.7Moz AgEq 2026; visible path toward 8-10Moz AgEq by 2029	Mexico 53/68	● Excellent	Hold #2. No thesis-changing news; La Preciosa remains the major production/share and FCF/share driver.
HSTR ●	50-55koz Au 2026; La Colorada expansion + Ana Paula create a much larger forward profile	Mexico / USA 53/68	● Good	TSX graduation effective today. Positive liquidity/institutional-access milestone; no thesis or ranking change.
ARIS ●	300-350koz Au 2026; Segovia + Marmato steady-state trajectory toward ~500koz/yr	Colombia 57/68	● Excellent	Hold #4. Current Core thesis remains Segovia/Marmato production and FCF/share growth.
SICO ●	La Negra producing; Cusi + staged expansion support 10Moz AgEq target within ~3 years	Mexico 53/68	● Excellent	Hold #5. 54.8M basic / 61.4M FD creates exceptional operating leverage if growth is delivered without material new dilution.

Performance vs. GDX

Hypothetical look-back: today's Core Five held equal-weight throughout each period. Separate from the formal prospective track record.

Period	Core Five	GDX	Relative
~3 months Jul. 6 - Oct. 2	+12.2%	+11.5%	+0.7 pts
~1 month Sep. 4 - Oct. 2	-9.2%	-11.6%	+2.3 pts

Challenger Score-Watch - Audit Control

No proposed score changes today. No ranking changes. Approved Challenger scores remain frozen. Material evidence must be flagged with affected category, old score, proposed score, total-score impact and potential rank movement before any change is approved.

Core Challengers - Ranked Promotion Order

#1 is currently closest to earning a Core Five position. S/O Quality is informational only and does not affect the approved 100-point score or ranking.

# / Company	Score	S/O Quality	Jurisdiction / Fraser PPI	Why it can challenge / Why it is not Core
1. WGX 	86	 Excellent	Western Australia 13/68	Exceptional FCF, treasury, buybacks and visible growth. Large absolute denominator is not inherently poor S/O quality.
2. AGI 	85	 Excellent	Ontario 5/68 Manitoba 39/68	Internally funded growth and rising FCF/share; >\$10B valuation reduces re-rating asymmetry.
3. ELD 	84	 Good	Greece NR / Canada	Skouries can materially lift FCF/share; growth-capital cycle is still being completed.
4. MAU 	80	 Good	Ivory Coast 51/68	Kone first gold achieved ahead of schedule; >300koz/yr potential now needs ramp-up and FCF delivery.
5. DPM 	79	 Good	Bulgaria/Serbia NR	High-quality producer, strong cash generation and balance sheet; less asymmetric per-share growth.
6. MSA 	79	 Good	Colombia 57/68 Nicaragua NR	Current production, buybacks and quick-return projects; costs and larger growth step still need execution.
7. NFGC 	78	 Moderate	Newfoundland & Labrador 7/68	Hammerdown is producing; normalized operating and FCF/share evidence remains limited after startup.
8. AUGO 	76	 Good	Brazil 29/68 Mexico 53/68	Diversified producer with growth potential; forward FCF/share growth is less compelling than leaders.
9. SVM 	75	 Excellent	China 68/68 Ecuador 59/68	Profitable producer, strong treasury, funded growth and exceptionally low FD overhang.
10. GGP 	73	 Good	Western Australia 13/68	Strong FCF and debt-free balance sheet; FY27 production step-down delays Havieron growth payoff.
11. AGMR 	72	 Good	Peru 42/68	Tight denominator and newly producing Reliquias; needs ramp-up and normalized FCF/share evidence.
12. JAG 	72	 Good	Brazil 29/68	Excellent ~85M-share structure and minimal overhang, but insufficient visible 2-3 year production/FCF-share growth.

Interesting Finds - Today's Scan

Only genuinely material current news appears here. No minimum number of names; routine releases are omitted. These names are outside the production-focused Challenger universe.

Company	Why today's news is actually interesting
Galleon Gold (GGO.V)	West Cache: all four new Zone #9 step-out holes hit gold mineralization; best broad interval 2.52 g/t Au over 26.5m. Zone #9 has now been traced over >500m vertical extent.
Southern Cross Gold (SXGC)	Sunday Creek: Golden Dyke infill included 2.7m at 178.6 g/t AuEq. Exceptional grade and tighter drilling continues to define high-grade cores.
GMV Minerals (GMV.V)	Mexican Hat: completed 4,775m/25-hole program; highlights include 12.64 g/t Au over 4.88m. Program feeds a forthcoming resource update.

Today's conclusion: No action. Core Five unchanged. Challenger Board unchanged. HSTR's TSX graduation is the primary portfolio-specific event; weaker gold/silver prices are not a reason to reshuffle quality miners.