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**Brian Hunt's
MARKET NOTES**

THIS IS SILVER'S YEAR

When they close the books on 2009, they'll chalk up a big win for silver vs. gold.

One of the big questions facing the precious-metals buyer is "Should I buy gold or silver?" As [we profiled in September](#), since the bull market in precious metals began in 2001, the answer is, "*There isn't much difference in the returns... but silver is much more volatile.*"

Since the 2001 "kickoff," gold and silver are both up a little over 300%. But as you can see from today's comparison chart, when a solid metals rally gets going, the returns in silver can get extraordinary. Our chart plots the percentage gains in gold (black line) versus silver (blue line). Silver is up nearly 65% this year, while gold is up 30%. The blue line, however, has much bigger peaks and valleys.

Moral of the story: You can make a heck of a lot of money in silver... just be willing to stomach a lot of volatility on the road to riches.

