

METAL NEWS REVIEW

Here is the latest Metals update from Winlock...

ZINC

Just when we thought the worst was over back it comes again!!

Zinc spot rates went back up to \$2900 recently and are up 16% in the last 3 months (32% year on year). This remains a thorn in the side of hardware manufacturers and we can expect to see these increases being passed on.

ALUMINIUM

The most likely alternative to zinc has also seen a significant recent increase of almost 7% in the last month alone and at \$2030 is 35% higher than a year ago. With aluminium usage increasing in the UK this will put up construction costs for many sectors.

COPPER

As with zinc we thought the worst was over, but the spot rate has increased 6.8% in the last month and 35% in the last year, meaning more bad news for users of brassware generally and eurocylinders in particular. \$6300 is still some way below the highs of 2008/9 but the combination of high copper prices and weak sterling is pretty toxic.

STEEL

Mixed news here, with cheaper carbon steels rising but from historically low levels, with most grades up 15% or so year on year and billet prices of approx. \$400 per tonne – the glut of cheap Chinese low grade steel appears to be over . On the other hand stainless steels are around 35% up year on year and as they are becoming increasingly important in our sector this is likely to mean price rises.

Sorry to be bearers of bad tidings but forewarned is forearmed !!

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