

METAL NEWS REVIEW

Metal prices update – Here’s Winlock’s metals guide update....

January was a bad month for manufacturers of door and window hardware as the so-called “Trump effect” has pushed up prices of all the metals important to our industry. The theory goes that massive planned infrastructure investment in the US will increase demand for all construction related metals. Here’s what’s happening:

ZINC

Zinc has increased another 8% in the last month alone to almost \$2800, close to its peak of 2 months ago. In the last 3 months zinc has increased 20% and 74% in dollar terms the last year. This means in sterling prices zinc has more than doubled in a year. OUCH!! The hardware manufacturers cannot absorb this so prices will increase significantly and soon.

COPPER

Alloyed with zinc copper is used to make brass – an important material for our sector. Copper increased 7% in January and has now increased 29% in the last year. So look out for increases in all things made of brass.

ALUMINIUM

This material has been relatively stable in 2016 but has also increased by 6% in January alone, and has risen 13% in the last 3 months and 22% in the last year.

STEELS

Mild steel has increased sharply but is still at historically low levels so is not yet a major driver for cost increases. Stainless steel however has increased by around 20% in the last 6 months and as a metal used increasingly in top end product ranges it will start to cause higher prices for door furniture and some locking systems.

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