2016 REVIEW OF METAL PRICES

Following on from the Winlock review of currencies in 2016 we thought you might want to see how your favourite metals have fared in 2016!

Here is our summary of what has gone up this year – and what has gone up even more!!

N° 1   ZINC

A year ago it was $1500 per tonne and is now $2725. An increase of 82% (OUCH!). To make it even worse the sterling spot price has gone from £1005 to £2202, an increase of 119%. So Zinc is the big mover in 2016.

N° 2   COPPER

Copper has moved from $4700 a year ago to $5648 today, an increase of 20.1%, which is modest when compared to zinc. But again due to sterling's weakness the UK cost has increased by 45%. Considering that brass alloy is mainly copper and zinc, it is no surprise to see brass prices rising sharply recently and this will continue in 2017.

N° 3   ALUMINIUM

A relatively modest dollar price increase this year from $1510 to $1732 (14.7%) but in sterling terms the increase is over 38% in the year. Still a huge amount but a bargain compared to zinc!

N° 4   MILD STEEL

Although mild steel billet prices have gone from $170 a year ago to $300 now I have put mild steel towards the bottom of the pile because in historical terms these prices are still exceptionally low, and even at today's exchange rate a ton of billet steel is still less than £250. It has gone from ridiculously cheap to pretty cheap in 2016.

N° 5   STAINLESS STEEL

A personal favourite – not only is stainless steel an exceptional material for hardware purposes but it's price in 2016 has been almost flat in dollar terms and at UK prices stainless steel (304 or 316) is only approximately 15% dearer than it was a year ago – all due to sterling's weakness. If you were buying stainless steel products a year ago – your virtue has been rewarded!!

Let's hope the scrap man has a much less profitable year in 2017 and metal prices revert to something like normality.

Happy New Year from all at Winlock!

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