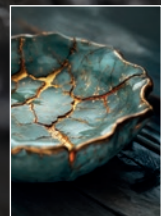




LBMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



The front cover image represents kintsugi - which means 'join with gold' - the Japanese art of repairing broken objects, often ceramic pottery or glass. Traditionally, gold lacquer is used to piece shards together again, creating a more beautiful object through the acts of breaking and repair. Gold plays a similar role in turbulent macroeconomic times, strengthening the financial system and creating something stronger than it would be without.

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Ruth Crowell, LBMA's CEO, introduces our 2024 report.



Shelly Ford
Editor and Digital Content Manager, LBMA

Shelly is responsible for the content published across the spectrum of LBMA's communications and is the Editor of the *Alchemist* magazine. In her role she is always reaching out to Members and market participants and is keen to hear from anyone wishing to contribute to LBMA's communications.

LBMA 2024 Highlights

JANUARY



Berlin Money Fair

Ruth Crowell discussed regulation / LBMA hosted Dealers & Distributors Dinner.

Indaba

Neil Harby and Gregory Mthembu-Salter attended - key topics included Global Demand & Security of Supply.

MARCH



The Gold Forum Europe

Ruth Crowell and Toby Brandon (IBA) spoke on learnings from LBMA Precious Metal Price Auctions.

MAY



Asia Pacific PM Conference

Ruth Crowell spoke on LBMA Strategy and Asia Engagement.

IPMI

Neil Harby discussed Recycled Gold.

Earthworm Foundation

Sakhila Mirza discussed - Importance of ASM, Role of Intermediate Refiners and Processing Plants and addressing challenges.

JULY



India Gold Conference

Sakhila Mirza discussed the Future of Gold Refining, LGD-related regulations and changing expectations.

The Jewellery Show

Neil Harby shared vital industry updates.

SEPTEMBER



LBMA/LPPM 2024 Conference

LBMA team hosted Annual Conference in Miami, with key speeches and summits with WGC.

LME Week, Metals Seminar and Annual Dinner

Ruth Crowell and Sakhila Mirza attended.

NOVEMBER

LBMA Women's Networking Event

LBMA team hosts an inclusive networking event - open to all.

LBMA Annual Dinner

LBMA team hosts at The National Gallery.

FEBRUARY

Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada

Alan Martin met high-level delegation from Peru, including the Minister.

LBMA S&RS Conference

LBMA hosts, with key talks on Sustainability.

Roundtable at LBMA Office

UK FCDO / Brazilian / Ghanaian Governments met WGC to discuss the Global Gold Market.



APRIL

LPPM Pt Week Cocktail Reception and Dinner

Ruth Crowell and LBMA Execs attended.



OECD

LBMA team attended OECD week, topics included Due Diligence and ASM.



JUNE

LBMA AGM

LBMA's 36th Annual General Meeting.

China Gold Congress & Expo

Ruth Crowell and Neil Harby attended - Ruth spoke on the Future Outlook of Gold.



AUGUST

CME Dinner

Ruth Crowell, Edel Tully and Neil Harby attended.

LPPM/LBMA Reception

Ruth Crowell, Edel Tully, Neil Harby and Sakhila Mirza co-hosted in New York.

World Jewellery Federation's Vicenzaoro Show

Sakhila discussed application of sustainability practices in the jewellery industry from the gold perspective.

OCTOBER

Dubai Precious Metals Conference

Sakhila Mirza discussed LBMA programme focus on High-Risk Incident Responses.



DECEMBER

Chairman's Message

Paul Fisher – Chairman, LBMA

We are living through interesting times. Over the past year, increasing geopolitical tensions and continued diversification of central bank reserves have driven up prices for gold and silver, with gold in particular achieving successive record high prices.

Expected cuts to interest rates are also supportive for prices, although markets may have forgotten what a 'normal' level of rates should be, consistent with established inflation targets.

Looking ahead, the result of the US election could very well exacerbate the growing trends of protectionism and regionalisation of the global economy. Investors are increasingly keen to diversify their portfolios while keeping a backstop of stability, and gold is seen as a general 'right-way risk', proving itself as a store of value in turbulent times and providing reliable liquidity.

It has become compelling to those in the market that gold merits reclassification as a High-Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA). We may have some way to go before convincing the authorities, but LBMA is committed to supporting market developments and transparency so that those HQLA-like properties are both embedded and visible. Read more in the Financial Markets section of this report.

For the market to continue to thrive, standards must be maintained and continually improved upon. The rise in prices and demand has attracted more legitimate investors – as well as actors whose actions could bring the market into disrepute.

LBMA plays a pivotal role in establishing, maintaining and furthering the standards that effectively safeguard the interests of legitimate market participants. The Good Delivery List remains vital to this work, as feedback from our latest Members survey recognised. Work has started on the next iteration of the Responsible Gold Guidance so please do get involved in that process. Furthermore, the Gold Bar Integrity Database is set to go live in January, bringing much needed improvements to gold's security, integrity and traceability.

It's fundamental, now more than ever, for all participants in the market to engage with LBMA as we deliver on these key strategic projects. LBMA's authority rests solely on the strength and support of its Membership and we need that now, more than ever.

CEO's Report

Ruth Crowell – CEO, LBMA

As the gold price increases, so does the significance of our work. As Paul highlights, the dynamic geopolitical and economic environment ensures that gold will remain in the spotlight in the coming year.

With the ever-growing global appeal of the gold market, LBMA's standards will continue to evolve and we are confident will continue to gain further global adoption. These standards are key to maintaining market integrity through responsible sourcing practices and enhancing liquidity via more consistent good delivery and settlement protocols.

This renewed focus on gold has provided us with a unique opportunity to advance our key strategic initiatives. These include strengthening the Responsible Sourcing Audit Programme, advancing the Gold Bar Integrity (GBI) Ecosystem, advocating for gold's recognition as a High-Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA), boosting Member satisfaction, promoting responsible sourcing of gold from artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM) and expanding access to educational programmes.

In March, LBMA announced the selection of aXedras to develop the GBI Database, promising enhanced transparency, security, and scalability in information sharing which will serve as a cornerstone of the broader GBI Ecosystem. By digitally tracing gold throughout the global value chain, the GBI Ecosystem will confirm provenance and provide greater transparency over the chain of custody. After a year of selection, design, and negotiations, we are thrilled that the GBI Database will launch in January 2025—a significant milestone in advancing market integrity.

Our efforts around responsibly sourced ASM gold have made significant strides this year. Through the ASM Taskforce—a coalition of industry players, NGOs, and international organisations—we have successfully ended the silent boycott of ASM gold. The Taskforce introduced the ASM Toolkit, a transparent framework to help refiners source gold responsibly from ASM.

Additionally, we've deepened our understanding of on-the-ground realities in Ghana and Peru—two of the seven countries identified by the Taskforce as having the potential to supply responsibly sourced ASM gold. While there is still much work to do, the Taskforce's efforts have built strong momentum. Find out more on page 12.

Another area of focus has been financial market development, particularly our campaign to have gold recognised as HQLA. While progress has faced challenges—partly because reclassification is not a top priority for central banks and regulators given current economic pressures—there have been notable developments. These include direct engagements with the BIS, IMF, and major central banks, as well as growing support from academia. An independent study by Professor Dirk Baur and Dr. Lai Hoang concluded that gold meets all HQLA criteria. This research, our discussion paper, and transparent LBMA Trade Data which highlights gold's resilience during two crises, are helping to elevate this issue on central bankers' agendas (see page 21).

Next Chapter of Integrity and Value for Members

I'm excited to introduce LBMA's new Three-Year Strategy (2025–2027), designed to build on our commitment to integrity while creating even greater value for our Members. A key addition to this strategy is a new strategic pillar: Strategic Partnerships. This initiative focuses on strengthening and deepening our collaborations with global organisations and associations—including the Shanghai Gold Exchange, China Gold Association, CME Group, LPMCL, LPPM, World Gold Council, SBMA, and IPMI—transforming them into truly strategic partnerships which are directed at working together to create a bright future for our industry.

Through this work, we aim to expand our global reach and influence, reinforce industry standards, and drive innovation, both in Loco London and in all regions where Good Delivery is recognised. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored how interconnected the gold industry and the global economy are, and highlighted the critical importance of harmonising standards and aligning innovation efforts. Building on the achievements of the past three years, I look forward to driving further advancements in these areas.

The next phase of the Responsible Gold Guidance (RGG) will continue to emphasise transparency and the industry's role in addressing this challenge, alongside broader efforts outlined in our ambitious Sustainability Strategy. Success will depend on your engagement, robust support, and spirited debate to ensure that LBMA remains the leading standard for the global precious metals industry.

For more details on our immediate priorities and long-term vision, please refer to the strategy illustration on the following page.

70% Member Satisfaction Achieved

This year, we once again reached out to our Members through an in-depth satisfaction survey to better understand how well we are representing your needs in the market and to assess our performance in delivering high levels of service. The results are in, and they're worth celebrating. **Member satisfaction has climbed to 70%, a marked improvement from 2021 in the last in-depth Member survey. Even better, dissatisfaction has dropped down from 8% three years ago to just 2% today – a testament to our unwavering focus on improvement.**

Our new strategic pillar on strategic partnerships is already gathering support: 80% of respondents see it

as a high priority for the market. Members shared exciting feedback about how stronger partnerships could transform the industry, from improving supply chain connectivity to unlocking new opportunities.

When it comes to LBMA's core mission, the survey also highlighted strong momentum, as 52% of respondents see advancing standards as our primary role, up from 45% in 2021. A resounding 75% agree that we're successfully meeting our promise on delivering against that mission.

We recognise the vital role our Members play in our work and we are committed to ensuring LBMA continues to meet your needs and exceed your expectations.

As we embark on this new phase of growth, we invite you to share your thoughts, whether about our Strategy, our communication efforts, or how we can work better for you. If you have any questions or ideas, please get in touch.

Top Five Strategic Outcomes

Our Member Survey results ranked these priorities in the following order:

ADVANCING GOOD DELIVERY STANDARDS

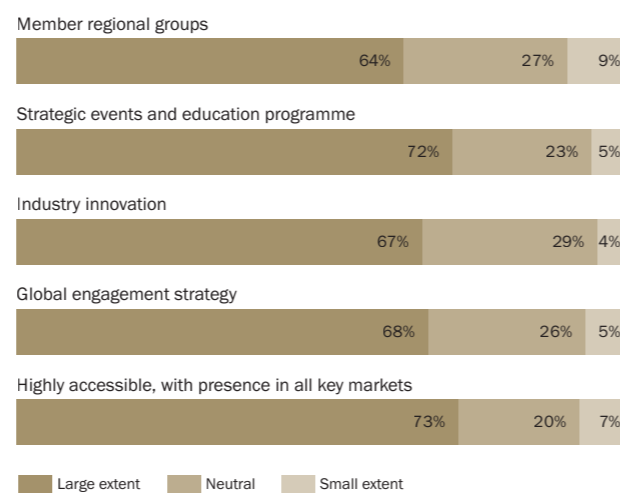
GOLD BAR INTEGRITY ECOSYSTEM GOLD AS A HIGH-QUALITY LIQUID ASSET

IMPROVING LBMA SUSTAINABILITY

TRANSPARENCY (TRADE REPORTING, FORWARD BENCHMARK, SPOT PRICE)


Strategic Partnerships

On strategic partnerships, we asked Members to what extent LBMA should focus on each of the following, as part of its commitment to expanding reach and influence by bringing market bodies together:



LBMA Strategic Plan 2025-27: Advancing Standards for the Common Good of the Global Industry


SUSTAINABILITY



ADVANCING STANDARDS AND DRIVING INDUSTRY TRANSITION

- Advancing the Assurance Programme
- ASM Demand
- Value Chain Engagement
- Improving LBMA Sustainability
- Biodiversity, UN SDGs Climate Change


PHYSICAL MARKET ENHANCEMENTS



GDL INNOVATES AS THE GLOBAL STANDARD

- Gold Bar Integrity ecosystem
- Advancing London Market Infrastructure
- Advancing Proactive Monitoring Requirements
- Advancing Good Delivery Standards
- Defining green/transition aligned products (recycled gold, etc.)


FINANCIAL MARKET ENHANCEMENTS



INCREASED CLIENT CONFIDENCE IN TRANSPARENT, ACCESSIBLE MARKET

- Gold as HQLA
- Infrastructure and Settlement
- Transparency (trade reporting, forward benchmark, spot price)
- Tokenisation
- Working Group/Forum

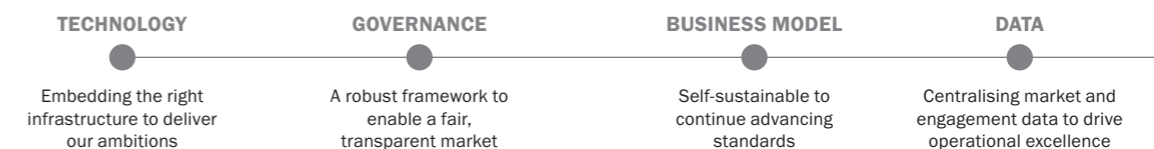
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



EXPANDING REACH AND INFLUENCE BY BRINGING MARKET BODIES TOGETHER

- Highly accessible with presence in all key markets
- Global engagement strategy
- Industry innovation
- Strategic events and education programme
- LBMA regional groups

THE FOLLOWING FUNDAMENTALS MAKE UP THE ENGINE ROOM OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN:



Sustainability and Responsible Sourcing



Sakhila Mirza
Deputy CEO & General Counsel, LBMA

Sakhila is our lead on sustainability, most notably the Responsible Sourcing and ESG agenda. In addition, Sakhila works on LBMA's market development projects, as well as government affairs.



Alan Martin
Head of Responsible Sourcing

Alan manages LBMA's Responsible Sourcing Programme for precious metals, which is mandatory for all Good Delivery List Refiners. Formerly director of research at IMPACT, Alan has an intimate understanding of the vulnerabilities and challenges of sourcing responsibly across the supply chain, which is crucial to the success of our Programme.

A cornerstone of LBMA is its Responsible Sourcing Programme. It underpins the drive for continuous improvement and responsible business standards designed to protect the value of the gold we all treasure.

LBMA is taking a leading role by creating a coalition of willing partners across the global precious metals industry, with the ultimate mission of positioning precious metals as part of the solution to the sustainability challenges we face.

Responsible Sourcing on the Agenda

Over the last year, LBMA's Responsible Sourcing agenda has focused on four areas:

- 1 ARTISANAL SMALL-SCALE MINED (ASM) GOLD AND RECYCLED GOLD**
Invest resources to address the governance challenges and market exclusion associated with ASM gold, while also responding to concerns that current definitions of recycled gold support unsubstantiated product claims.

- 2 PROGRAMME REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT**
Reinforce the integrity and credibility of LBMA's Assurance Programme. This consists of the development of a suite of guidance documents that support Assurance Providers before, during and after their annual engagements with GDL Refiners.

- 3 CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT**
Strengthen engagement with civil society partners. The exchanges of views are critical to fostering mutual trust and understanding of each other's perspectives and play an integral role in informing improvements to the Responsible Sourcing Programme (RSP).

- 4 VALUE CHAIN ENGAGEMENT**
Increase communication with the full spectrum of LBMA stakeholders. LBMA launched the inaugural edition of the Sourcing Advisory to raise awareness of GDL Refiners and Assurance Providers (APs) to ad hoc sourcing threats and vulnerabilities brought to our attention. The Responsible Sourcing team also increased its dialogue with both entities, proactively providing constructive feedback on the quality and LBMA expectations of assurance reports received during in 2024.

- i Back in March, Alan Martin met with a high-level delegation from Peru, including the Minister of Energy and Mines at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC).
- ii LBMA visited Ghana from 26 May to 8 June 2024, meeting with companies, visiting sites, and conducting process reviews as part of our mission to integrate more ASM material into the global precious metals supply chain. Here, Honourable George Duker discusses operations with LBMA's Chief Technical Officer, Neil Harby, at the processing of gold bearing ore by the Kacha machine.
- iii Alan Martin and Gregory Mthembu-Salter (LBMA's ASM consultant) visited Peru in November as part of a due diligence assessment of the country's ASM sector. The photograph was taken inside Santa Rosa mine, in the process of Swiss Better Gold Association accreditation.





LBMA can never be complacent to an evolving landscape and new threats; we must maintain our vigilance and continually strive toward better.

Key Highlights and Figures

1%

ASM Gold share of total GDL production

11

New Gold ASM flows

11

New Silver ASM flows

Strategy

Our three-year Sustainability and Responsible Sourcing Strategy (2024-2026) seeks to adapt and define best practice by identifying what needs to change, determining how to effect that change and then guiding change in line with our overarching approach of ‘continuous improvement’.

Our key deliverables that we are committed to in year one are below:



Leadership: Meaningful Collaboration and Engagement

Key deliverable: Undertake a stakeholder mapping exercise to support with the key deliverables.



Integrity: Strengthening Oversight and Standards

Key deliverable: Strategy for Assurance Provider training.



Transparency: Promoting and Enhancing Publication of Data

Key deliverable: Annual Publication of aggregate on gold and silver origin by country.

LBMA’s core values of leadership, integrity and transparency guide all focus areas of the Strategy. Rather than approaching one focus area at a time, we consider how these core values will both inform and propel action as we build on them each year.

Responsible Gold Guidance

LBMA has always sought to ensure that the Responsible Gold Guidance (RGG) – the 10th iteration of which will be launched in 2025 – remains at the forefront of all emerging challenges and debates related to the governance of the precious metals market.

LBMA can never be complacent to an evolving landscape and new threats; we must maintain our vigilance and continually strive to accomplish more in our efforts to do so. We often recall two foundational principles upon which both the RGG and OECD Guidance are premised: continuous improvement and progressive improvement. The former speaks to the need for industry schemes to never rest on their laurels. And so, with the conclusion of each new iteration of the RGG, we begin the process of identifying further areas of improvement. This commitment to continuous improvement is what keeps the Responsible Sourcing Programme fit for purpose.

ASM Initiative: A Pathway for Legal ASM

LBMA’s ASM Initiative is first and foremost an effort to address the governance challenges to the global legal gold sector posed by the unsupervised, marginalised and criminalised environment within, which the industry actors in the ASM sector are unfortunately often forced to operate.

While there is much more to be done, we are confident that the first concrete steps have been taken to promote engagement by GDL Refiners and reverse the avoidance that has hobbled the full economic potential the sector represents for millions of miners and producer countries around the globe.

Intermediate Refiners

LBMA also engaged with several intermediate refiners and aggregators in Ghana, Peru and Tanzania, encouraging them to undergo an assessment process led by the Responsible Mineral Initiative (RMI). Securing RMI’s conformance builds the credibility of prospective intermediate refiners, while providing GDL Refiners with additional comfort that they are dealing with an established and credible supplier.

Country of Origin Data

LBMA’s Country of Origin (CoO) data sheds light on the global movement of gold and silver, offering insights into where and how these materials are sourced and processed. By detailing the geographical origins of gold and silver, the CoO data helps maintain the integrity of the supply chain and provides valuable insights into global trade patterns and sourcing practices among leading Refiners.

Recycled Material

This is the second year that data has been submitted against the five recycled categories and so, this year, we have been able to do a direct comparison year-on-year with more granular data on recycled materials. This provides a clearer and more detailed picture of the types of recycled material that GDL Refiners are sourcing.

Previously, recycled materials were grouped under a single category. Disaggregating the data into five categories better captures the nuances within the sector: Unprocessed Recyclable Metals; Melted Recyclable Material; Industrial By-products; Mixed Materials; and Grandfathered Stocks.

Toward Greater Transparency and Disclosure by Refiners

Refiners continue to improve their systems and controls – with a lower number of non-conformances reported. One of the most significant developments in 2024 was the mandatory disclosure by Refiners of their high-risk suppliers, including their identity and location.

This disclosure is an important step towards meeting elements of Footnote 59 in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and responds to calls for greater transparency by civil society groups. The Footnote speaks of disclosing such information – subject to certain commercial sensitivities – to an “institutionalised mechanism” that is either regional or global in scope.

While LBMA remains committed to greater transparency and disclosure of information, in discussions with various stakeholders (including the OECD and civil society groups), greater clarity is needed as to what constitutes a universally accepted “institutionalised mechanism”. In an effort to advance discussion and forge consensus on this matter, the OECD – at LBMA’s behest – moderated the first discussion with affected industry audit schemes and civil society organisations in November.



CoO data helps maintain the integrity of the supply chain and provides valuable insights into global trade patterns and sourcing practices among leading Refiners.



FIND OUT MORE

Information on LBMA’s Responsible Sourcing Programme, Strategy and key workstreams can be found on LBMA’s website.



Physical Market Development



Neil Harby
Chief Technical Officer, LBMA

Neil is the main contact for LBMA's Good Delivery (GD) system for GD Refiners, applicants and LBMA Committees. His role includes managing the LBMA Good Delivery Lists, reviewing applications, Proactive Monitoring, Proficiency Testing and other GD-related projects. Neil also manages the efficiency and effectiveness of the Good Delivery work carried out by LBMA.

This year has, once again, demonstrated the critical nature of LBMA Physical Services in ensuring that the Good Delivery Lists remain the standard to which all gold and silver Refiners aspire, and upon which all other participants in the market rely.

We have seen record highs in Good Delivery applications, Proactive Monitoring, Responsible Sourcing audits and Proficiency Testing this year. Significant changes have been made in the Physical Services team to support this activity, as well as ensuring that the Good Delivery Rules remain fit for purpose and that we can respond to changes in an ever-evolving industry.

Other key projects such as the Referee expansion, GBI and A&R have all made significant progress that will ultimately benefit the market in 2025 and for many years to come. We continue to work closely with the CME, SGE and other international institutions to ensure that the global precious metals markets operate efficiently.

Changes to Good Delivery (GD) Rules in 2024

The LBMA Good Delivery Rules continue to be reviewed on an annual basis, and every three years an enhanced review takes place to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate.

As part of this year's annual review, LBMA focused on an enhanced review of the Proactive Monitoring (PAM) criteria, to ensure all aspects are still fit for purpose.

Other areas that have been reviewed include:

- Streamlining of the Application Process, including capacity building initiatives, and
- Weighing Rules.

The updated Rules will be launched before the end of this year, effective from 1 January 2025.

Proficiency Testing (PT)

Registrations for the 13th round of the PT Scheme closed on 24 October, with a record number of labs participating – 50 labs participating in gold and silver, 19 in gold, and 3 in silver.

The new schedule implemented in 2022 remains in place, as it has proven to be successful and has received positive feedback from participants.

50

Gold and Silver Labs

19

Gold Labs

3

Silver Labs



We have seen record highs in Good Delivery applications, Proactive Monitoring, Responsible Sourcing audits and Proficiency Testing this year.



The LBMA Good Delivery Rules continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.



THE 11TH ASSAYING AND REFINING CONFERENCE

London, 16 - 19 March 2025

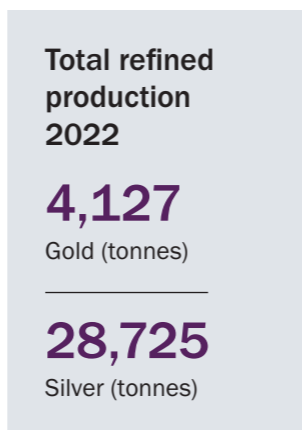
The theme for the Conference is 'Sampling and Analytical Methods for Improved Precious Metal Evaluation' and we are pleased to be joined by Kim H. Esbensen and Russ Calow as our keynote speakers for this event.



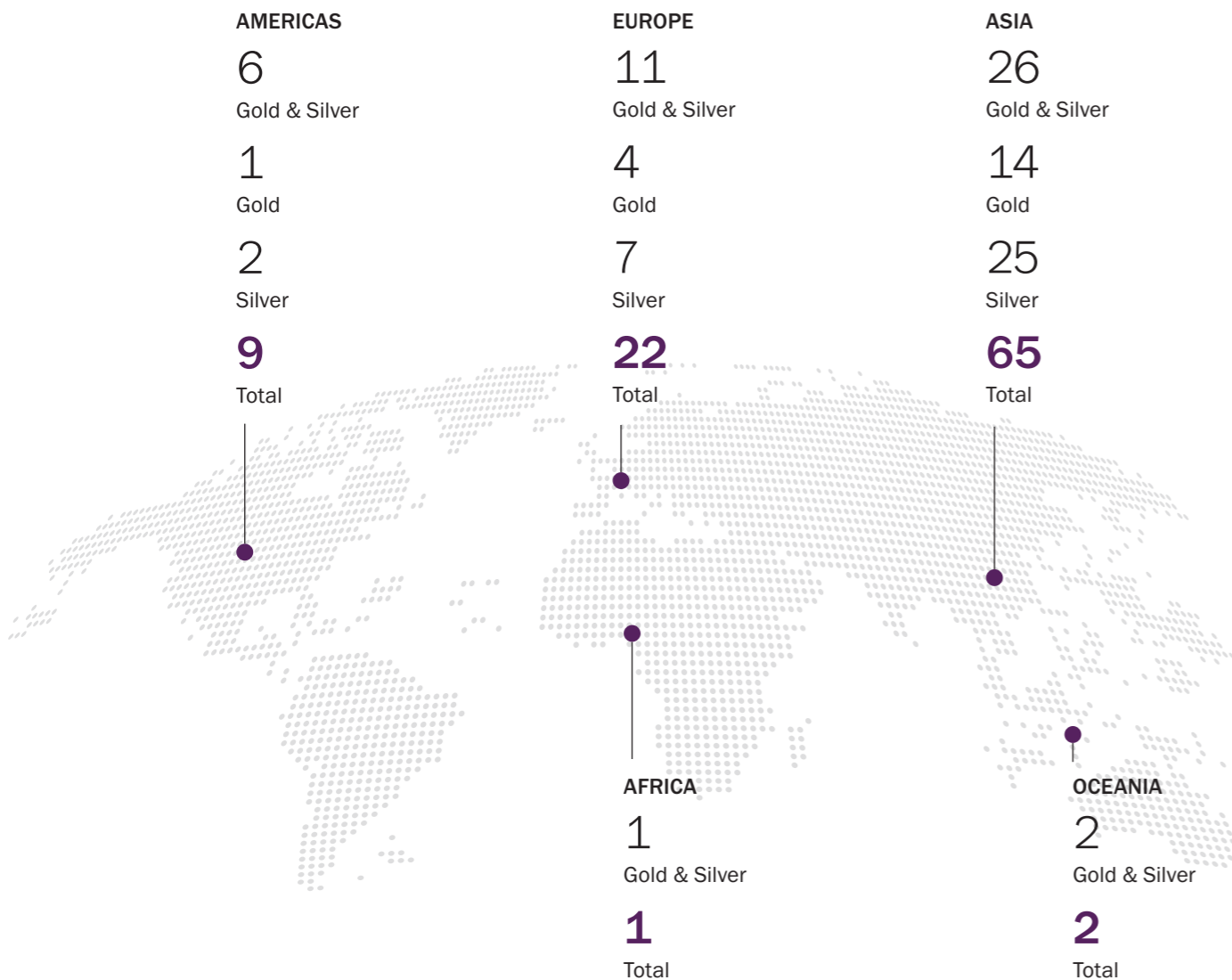
Refiner Numbers



There are now 99 Refiners on the Good Delivery Lists (GDL). We have 65 Refiners listed for gold, 80 listed for silver and 46 Refiners appear on both Lists. The demand for accreditation remains at an all-time high, with 13 active applications and eight expected to be submitted shortly. Only one refiner was moved to the Gold Former List, due to failing to meet its listing requirements for annual production/throughput. And over the year, several other cases were also reviewed to ensure that standards were being maintained.

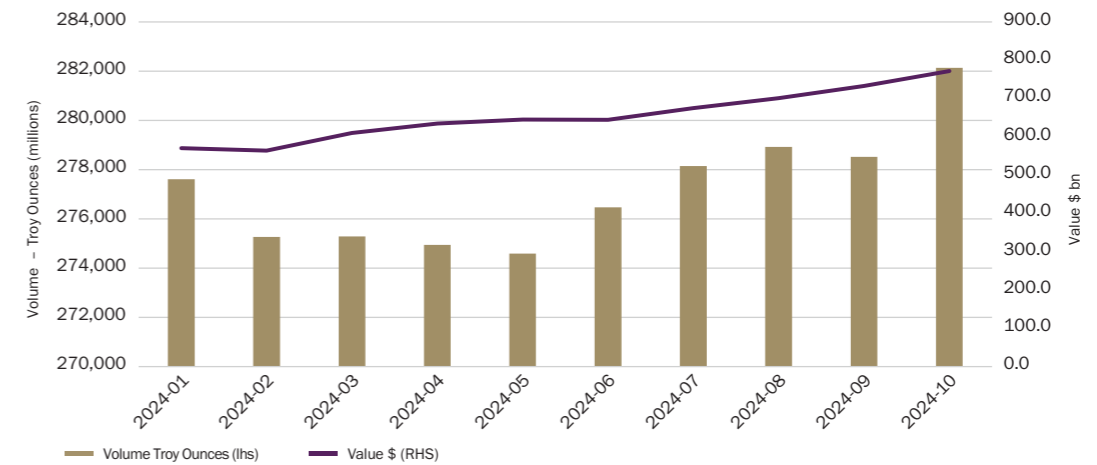


Geographical Breakdown 2024

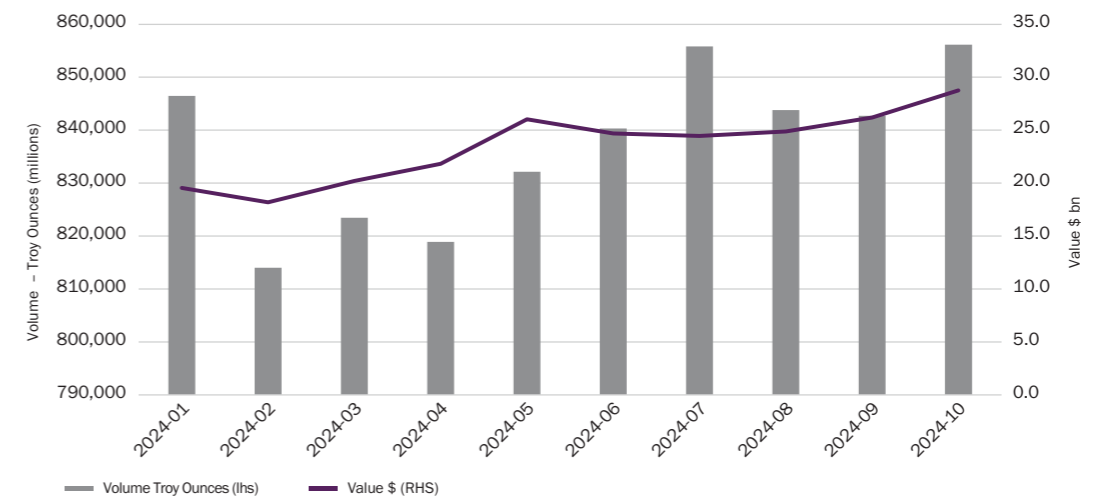


Vault Holdings Data

London Gold Vault Holdings



London Silver Vault Holdings



New Refiner Listings

Silver: Jiangxi Copper Lead & Zinc Metal Co Ltd

Silver: Shenzhen Cuili Gold Refinery Co Ltd

There continues to be a strong interest to List for silver from China, however, a small number of the pending applications are from various regions and both gold and silver refiners.



Always Improving Market Standards

As well as developing guidance on weighing, we have launched Best Practice Guidelines to be used by Loco London vaults opening a new vault for the storage of precious metals.

Gold Bar Integrity



Lili Meckler
Chief of Staff, LBMA

Lili is LBMA's Chief of Staff, who provides strategic development support and supports stakeholder relations, as well as providing advisory guidance to the CEO. Lili is responsible for the key operations involved in the launch and development of LBMA's Gold Bar Integrity initiative.

Gold Bar Integrity (GBI): Building the Foundation for Transparency

As global demand for transparency grows, LBMA continues to lead with innovation and collaboration. The upcoming launch of the GBI Database in January 2025 marks an important step in advancing market integrity.

As Ruth mentioned, GBI serves as the cornerstone of the wider GBI Ecosystem; this initiative lays the groundwork for a fully traceable and digitised global precious metals supply chain.

The GBI Database addresses longstanding challenges, replacing manual email submissions with a secure and standardised platform. Custodians will initially upload aggregated vault holdings data monthly, transitioning over time to bar-level data submissions, beginning with historical Russian stock.

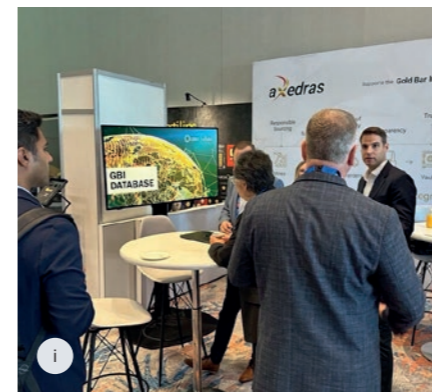
For Refiners, the focus will start with annual uploads of key Responsible Sourcing Assurance Deliverables, including Country of Origin data. Over time, we aim to increase the frequency of these submissions, progressing towards quarterly and eventually monthly updates. These enhancements will pave the way for more granular and timely reporting, ultimately enabling robust chain-of-custody tracking across the supply chain.

While the database launch represents a significant milestone, its long-term success depends on careful implementation and widespread adoption. LBMA is already working closely with Refiners and Custodians to ensure smooth onboarding and a seamless transition. Equally important is the development of strong governance frameworks and post-launch support structures to sustain momentum and adapt to evolving industry needs.

2025 will be a critical year as we shift focus to operationalising and embedding the database into daily workflows across the industry. Challenges remain—from updating data taxonomy to increasing user adoption—but the rewards are undeniable. With stronger accountability, enhanced transparency, and more efficient operations, the GBI Ecosystem will set a new standard for trust in the precious metals market.



With stronger accountability, enhanced transparency, and more efficient operations, the GBI Ecosystem will set a new standard for trust in the precious metals market.



i LBMA and aXedras hosted a booth at the Miami Conference, offering delegates an opportunity to learn more about the Gold Bar Integrity (GBI) database, its latest updates, and its role in enhancing transparency and traceability within the precious metals market.



ii Ruth Crowell's opening session at the Global Precious Metals Conference in October focused on key updates to the Gold Bar Integrity (GBI) database, providing an overview of its latest developments.

Financial Markets



Dr Edel Tully
Head of Communications, LBMA

Edel is an industry expert bringing over 20 years of experience in the precious metals market to her role as Head of Communications at LBMA. She also leads on LBMA's financial market development.



David Gornall
Senior Advisor, LBMA

David was a member of the Management Committee of LBMA for nearly 20 years and was previously LBMA Chairman. His metals market knowledge and investment banking experience are key to LBMA's financial market development, working with Edel.

Central Bank and Prudential Regulator Engagement

Gold as HQLA

The path of gold's reclassification to a Tier 1 High-Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA) is certainly a long-distance journey. But that doesn't daunt us; the work continues regardless.

LBMA, together with the World Gold Council (WGC), has been actively engaging with central banks as well as prudential regulators this year. While broadly sympathetic to the cause, one of the challenges we face is that a reclassification isn't high on the priority list of problems or must-fix issues faced by regulators.

Nevertheless, our outreach with these various stakeholders – as well as our education drive on what has changed in the gold market since 2013 when gold wasn't considered a suitable HQLA by the European Banking Authority (EBA) – will continue into 2025 and we will be updating you, our Members, on significant developments.



They find that gold generally performs similarly to a 30-year US Treasury bond, and that adding gold to a HQLA portfolio enhances its resilience.

Academic Work

The WGC has commissioned an independent academic study to examine gold's case for HQLA reclassification. Professor Dirk Baur and Dr Lai Hoang find that gold meets all HQLA criteria, namely low bid-ask spreads, high volumes, relatively low volatility and negative correlation with risky assets during stress periods. They find that gold generally performs similarly to a 30-year US Treasury bond, and that adding gold to a HQLA portfolio enhances its resilience.

Compared to other asset classes, academic studies on gold are not particularly common. Even more scarce are academic studies focusing on gold's potential reclassification as an HQLA - making this study a first of its kind. Once an early edition of the paper has been published, we will share it.

We know these findings won't surprise anyone who works in our market. However, a significant amount of education is required for those outside our market and that forms a large part of the market's HQLA drive.

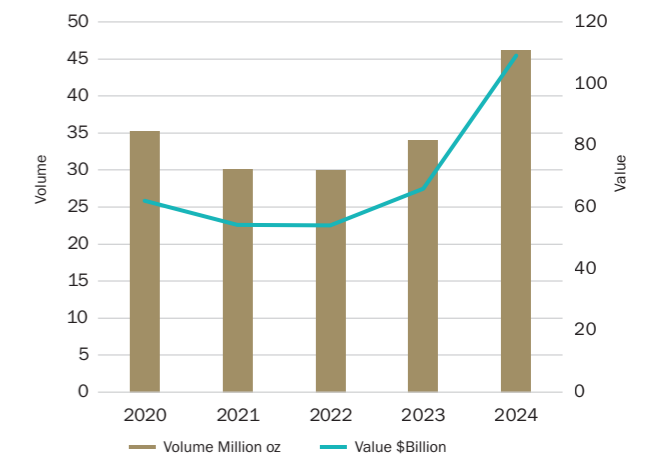
LBMA Trade Data

An initial assessment this year to determine the suitability of LBMA's Trade Data as a forward benchmark showed that there is sufficient volume of Tom-Next trades to support the calculation of a robust Gold Swap Rate in Arrears.

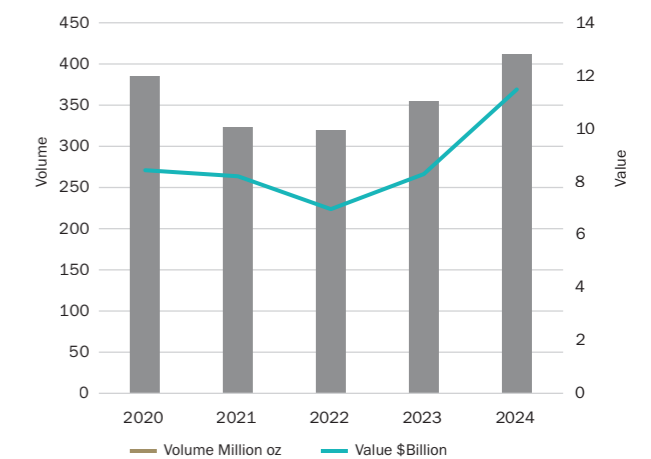
This daily Tom-Next average rate can be compounded in arrears to form a compounded index which could be published alongside a daily Tom-Next average rate. Regarding this, we are in consultation with a benchmark provider and we will consult with the market over the coming months.

This work also highlighted that some upgrades to the data, in certain areas, was needed and this work should be completed in Q1, 2025.

Trade Data: Gold Daily Average



Trade Data: Silver Daily Average



LBMA Gold and Silver Prices

The LBMA Gold Price and LBMA Silver Price are the global benchmark prices for unallocated gold and silver delivered in London.

The benchmarks are administered by ICE Benchmark Administration (IBA), which is regulated by the FCA. IBA ensures a robust governance framework is in place for the daily auction process and maintains high standards through its Auction Rulebook and the Precious Metals Oversight Committee. This committee, which includes LBMA representation, convened three times in 2024.

Version 2 of the Global Precious Metals Code (GPMC), to which all auction participants have attested, introduces specific principles tailored to auction participants. These principles are aligned with standards from the FICC Markets Standards Board and set clear expectations around policies, procedures, controls, governance, and the management of conflicts of interest. Additionally, the GPMC provides detailed examples of acceptable and unacceptable practices, offering greater clarity on market conduct expectations.

The benchmarks continue to demonstrate significant growth in both participant numbers and the proportion of transactions that are centrally cleared.



The Benchmark Administrator, ICE Benchmark Administration (IBA), regulated by the FCA, is responsible for ensuring there is a robust governance framework over the process and that the appropriate standards are met.

Gold benchmark participation has increased from six participants in 2015 to 19 today, while silver has grown from nine participants in 2017 to 18 today. This year, although the number of bank participants remained constant, two traders joined both the gold and silver auctions, resulting in a 29% year-on-year increase in trader participation. For the first time in the history of the LBMA Gold and Silver prices, the number of traders participating in the auctions now exceeds the number of banks.

In terms of the split between centrally cleared and bilaterally cleared contracts, the percentage of centrally cleared gold contracts has shown mostly consistent year-on-year growth, rising substantially from 62.6% in 2018 to an impressive 93.7% today. Silver, which started at a higher baseline with 82.8% of contracts cleared centrally in 2018, experienced a slight decline this year from 91.9% in 2023 to 89.7% in 2024. However, overall, centrally cleared silver contracts have still seen a 6.9% increase since 2018.

Examining daily average gross volumes through the auctions, a divergent trend between gold and silver is evident between 2018 and 2024. Notably, periods of increased gold auction volumes often coincided with decreased silver volumes, and vice versa. This inverse relationship suggests that participants may have been reallocating their focus between gold and silver in response to shifting economic conditions, geopolitical events, or changes in industrial demand. These dynamics underscore the distinct roles and investor perceptions of these precious metals within the broader market landscape.

In summary, the LBMA Gold Price and LBMA Silver Price continue to uphold their status as globally recognised benchmarks, underpinned by a robust governance framework and adherence to high standards of market conduct. The increasing participation and growth in centrally cleared transactions highlight the market's confidence in these auctions as transparent and reliable mechanisms for price discovery. With evolving principles under the GPMC and active engagement from market participants, these benchmarks are well-positioned to adapt to the dynamic needs of the market while maintaining their pivotal role in the precious metals industry.

19

gold participants

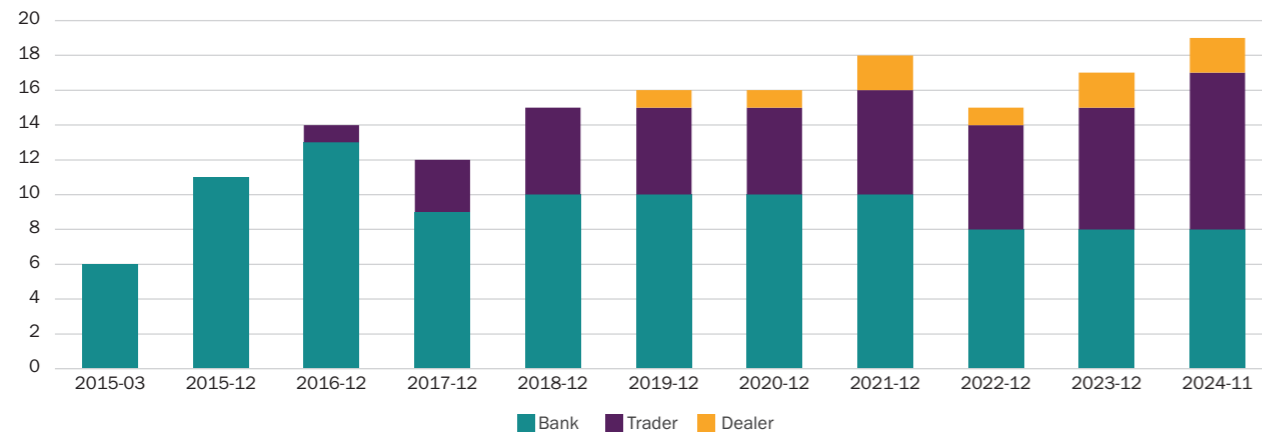


18

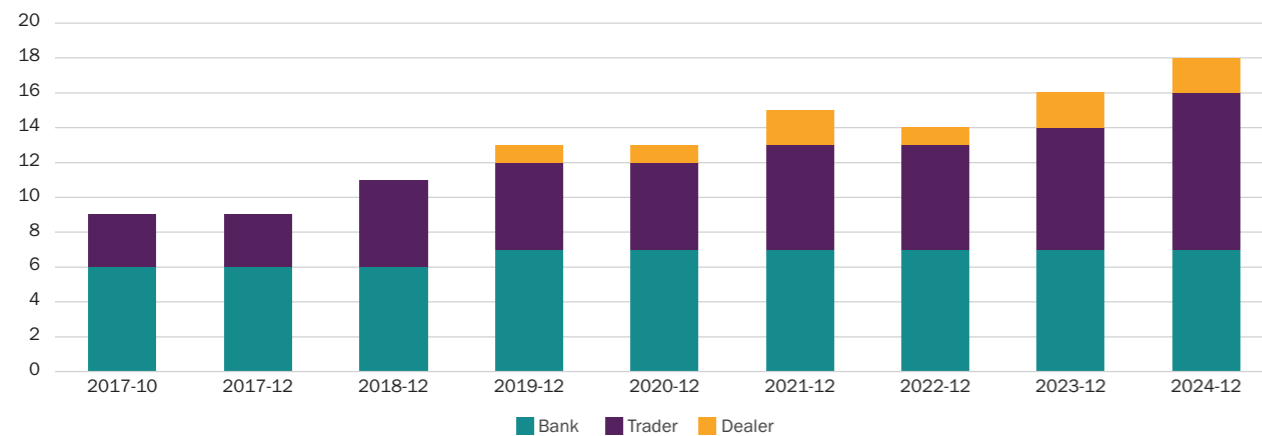
silver participants



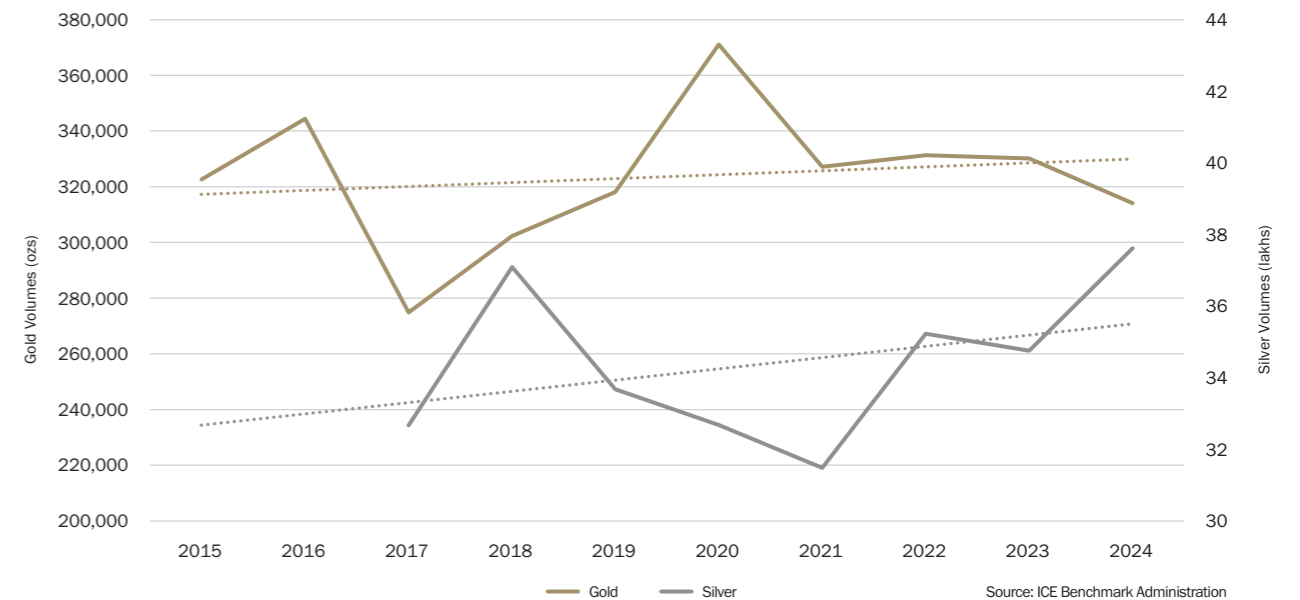
Gold Auction Participants



Silver Auction Participants



Auction Daily Average Gross Volumes Remain Robust



Source: ICE Benchmark Administration

Membership and Engagement



Ed Blight
Chief Finance Officer, LBMA

Ed has been part of LBMA's Executive Committee for more than nine years and is responsible for directing and defining LBMA's financial and business operations strategies. He is also Head of Member engagement and is the business lead for the LBMA Relationship Management programme and all new and existing Membership matters.

Interest in LBMA Membership from around the globe remains high. Building on the record numbers achieved last year, Membership has grown by a further 6.8% to 172 companies engaged either directly or indirectly with the Global OTC Market.

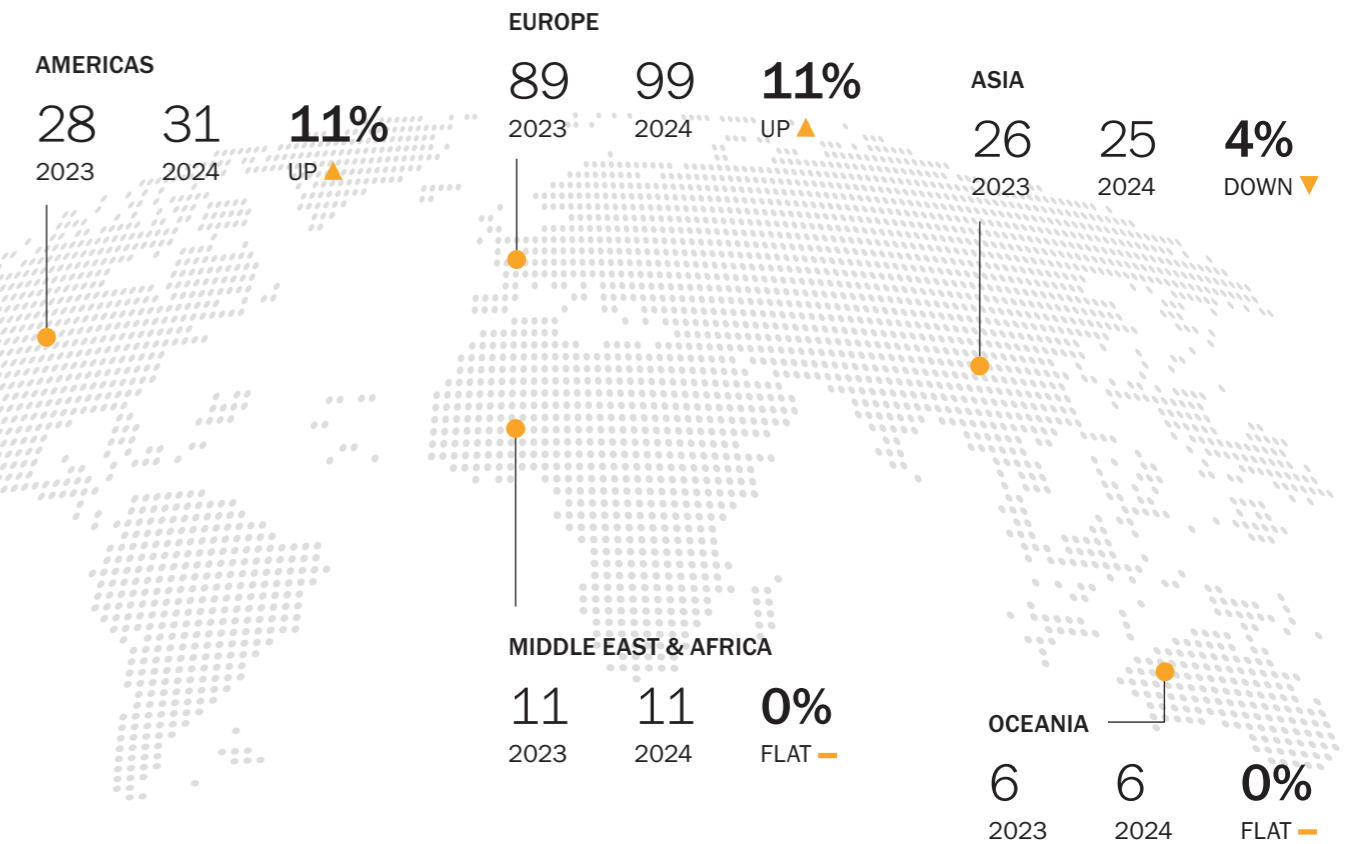
While there has been some growth in Members from the Americas, the largest growth this year was from the UK and Europe region, which saw an 11% increase. Alongside this, there has been significant reinforcement of LBMA's compliance structures and capabilities to maintain and monitor compliance with the Rules for Members and the Global Precious Metals Code.

With a growing Membership comes the need to invest in the systems and processes necessary to engage effectively with Member and stakeholders alike. To achieve this, LBMA has invested in a new Customer Relationship Management system and has rolled out a new Members and Stakeholders Portal. The service is still available through the same MyLBMA link on LBMA's website, but the experience has now been enhanced to provide greater information services.

“Being part of the global body responsible for setting industry best practices adds significant value to our organisation and further enhances our commitment to excellence.”

Silver Gold Bull
LBMA Affiliate Member

Regional Split



Breakdown by Classification

	2023	2024	% Change
Market Maker	11	11	Flat —
Full Member	81	83	2.5% ▲
Affiliate Member	69	77	11.6% ▲

The application functionality for Members, Subscribers and GDL applicants has also been streamlined and progress can be tracked through each of the application stages. Members can now enjoy a more user-friendly experience through the MyLBMA Portal and gain direct access to Member-only resources, connect with their Relationship Manager and personalise their LBMA communications.

As part of the evolution of our Membership and stakeholder relationship management capability, LBMA has a new team in place to support both new and existing members, deliver a clear induction process for new Members, and implement a refreshed Relationship Management Framework for all Members and key stakeholders which will be put into action from 2025.















In addition to outreach conducted by the LBMA Executive throughout 2024, three Town Halls opened up dialogue with the market on key topics, and kept attendees updated on LBMA's strategic objectives and developments.

LBMA's Working Groups – such as the Vault Managers Working Group, Refiners Working Group, ASM Task Force, and London Gold Market Working Group – have enabled wider industry engagement this year thanks to engaging participants across the value chain. This work has led to advancing standards and improving transparency on crucial workstreams. In addition, no fewer than 250 one-to-ones have been conducted by the LBMA Membership team.



LBMA has invested in a new Customer Relationship Management system and has rolled out a new Members and Stakeholders Portal.

New Members for 2024

 Andean Precious Metals AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Andorrano Joyeria AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Bulmint One LTD AFFILIATE MEMBER
 Chards Coin & Bullion Dealer FULL MEMBER	 DV Trading LLC FULL MEMBER	 Edgewater Markets LLC FULL MEMBER
 IGR Metals Trading AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Mennica Polska AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Mennica Skarbowa AFFILIATE MEMBER
 Prosegur Cash AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Silver Gold Bullion AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Strategic Wealth Preservation AFFILIATE MEMBER
 The Pure Gold Company AFFILIATE MEMBER	 Wells Fargo Bank FULL MEMBER	

LBMA/LPPM Global Precious Metals Conference 2024

Our Conference in Miami welcomed some 776 delegates who enjoyed keynote speeches from Gideon Rose (Senior Adjunct Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations), Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles (Senior Advisor, HSBC Holdings) and Robert Armstrong (US Financial Commentator, Financial Times), covering such topics as geopolitics, growth in China, globalisation, and the performance of gold.

Other sessions explored platinum group metals, gold investment, mining, the future of silver, recycled material and responsible sourcing. Rounding off the conference was a dedicated Sustainability and Responsible Sourcing summit which received excellent feedback, as many delegates learned more about our ASM initiative and ASM toolkit.



Member Satisfaction

Member Satisfaction Reaches 70% Overall – A Strong Foundation for Growth

This year’s Member Survey revealed exciting progress: 70% of respondents reported satisfaction, reflecting a solid foundation for ongoing improvement. Members recognised LBMA’s strengths in advancing regulation, sustainability, physical and financial market enhancements, and building strategic partnerships—showing that our efforts to drive meaningful change are paying off.

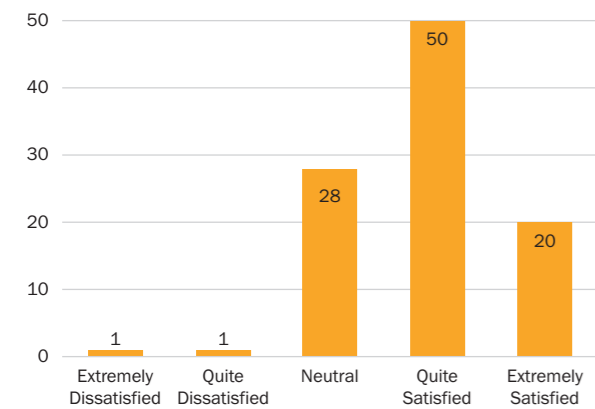
Focus on What Matters Most

Feedback highlighted the importance of finding the right balance between advancing industry standards and supporting Members’ interests—a responsibility we take seriously. There were also calls for new working groups, which we’re exploring for 2025 to provide more opportunities for Members to contribute their voices and shape the future.

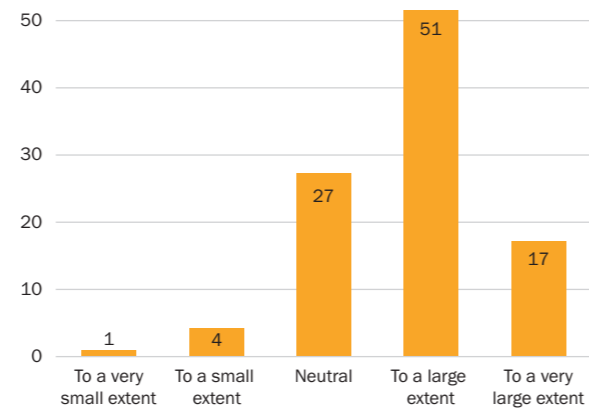
Powering Progress Through Partnerships

Members underscored the value of strategic partnerships—both internally with Members and externally with global organisations—as a vital driver of progress. Strengthened collaboration will unlock opportunities, from onboarding new Members to enhancing networks, events, and industry-wide connectivity.

How satisfied are you with the service you receive from LBMA?



To what extent does LBMA Membership meet your expectations?



75%

In the survey, 75% of Members agreed that LBMA is delivering on its promise to advance standards for the common good, a powerful endorsement of our mission.

“LBMA is the most prestigious organisation in the global precious metals market. Our membership offers Heimerle + Meule significant benefits, including increased credibility, improved market access, valuable market information, and support in maintaining high quality standards. These factors contribute significantly to strengthening our competitiveness and market position in the long term.”

Heimerle + Meule
LBMA Affiliate Member

Training

Earlier this year, LBMA conducted virtual training for seven central banks, with 15 attendees, focusing exclusively on the Loco London market. The course provided portfolio and reserve managers with a comprehensive understanding of gold trading infrastructure, clearing and settlement processes, and the role of Good Delivery standards.

This initiative reflects LBMA’s commitment to educating key stakeholders, enhancing market transparency, and promoting best practices within the global bullion market. By equipping Central Banks with this specialised knowledge, we support the development of more efficient and informed market participants, strengthening the integrity and efficiency of the Loco London system.

Furthermore, more than 70 market participants benefited from LBMA’s regular training sessions covering Responsible Sourcing and the Loco London market throughout 2024.

“

LBMA is the key link between all parts of the global precious community and will allow us to grow our product offering in responsive alignment with topics that matter to our consumers and investors alike: transparency, liquidity, ethics and sustainability.”

Wells Fargo Bank,
LBMA Full Member

A Year of Events and Engagement



i Ruth Crowell and Wings of Peng City representatives at the China Gold Congress in Shanghai, July 2024.

ii Ruth Crowell and Lili Meckler with KL Yap, Mike Dirienzo, Tom Kendall, Trevor Raymond and other delegates at the Gala Dinner, Asia Pacific Precious Metals Conference in Singapore June 2024.



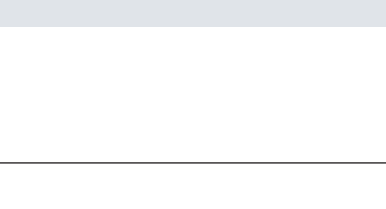
iii LBMA and WGC meeting with UK FCDO, Brazil and Ghanaian governments, at LBMA Offices, March 2024.

iv Sakhila Mirza with delegates at the Dubai Precious Metals Conference November 2024.



v Ruth Crowell’s Welcome Speech at the Sustainability & Responsible Sourcing Summit, March 2024.










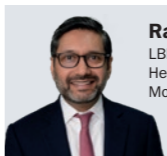



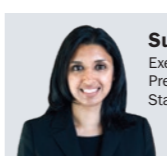

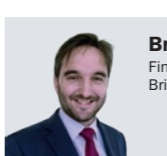
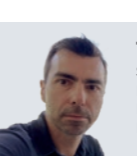
vi Olabisi Porteous and Ed Blight with Members at the Global Precious Metals Conference in Miami, October 2024.



vii Ruth Crowell, Neil Harby, Jeremy East and Bonnie Li visiting Wings of Peng City.

Governance and Oversight

The LBMA Governance Structure

 <p>Ruth Crowell Chief Executive, LBMA</p> <p>B SB REC RC</p>	 <p>Dr Paul Fisher LBMA Chairman and Independent Non-Executive Director (INED)</p> <p>B SB RC</p>
 <p>Sakhila Mirza Deputy Chief Executive & General Counsel, LBMA</p> <p>B SB</p>	 <p>Andrew Quinn Independent Non-Executive Director (INED)</p> <p>B SB FC RC</p>
 <p>Isabelle Strauss-Kahn Independent Non-Executive Director (INED)</p> <p>B SB RC</p>	 <p>Peter Zoellner Independent Non-Executive Director (INED)</p> <p>B SB</p>
 <p>Praveen Bajinath Chief Executive of Rand Refinery and Director of Prestige Bullion, a JV with the South African Mint</p> <p>B REC</p>	 <p>Wenjian Fang CEO, Bank of China (UK) Limited</p> <p>B</p>
 <p>Dr Robin Kolvenbach Co-Chief Executive Officer, Argor-Heraeus SA</p> <p>B REC</p>	 <p>Raj Kumar LBMA Board Vice Chairman/ Head of Strategic Development, Morgan Stanley</p> <p>B RC</p>
 <p>Matthew Slater Global Head of Precious Metals Forwards & Physical Trading, UBS AG</p> <p>B</p>	 <p>Paul Voller Managing Director, Global Head of Precious Metals, HSBC</p> <p>B</p>
 <p>Vikas Chamarla Managing Director and Head of EMEA and India Commodities Sales, The Toronto Dominion Bank</p> <p>PC</p>	 <p>Suki Cooper Executive Director, Precious Metals Research at Standard Chartered Bank</p> <p>PAC</p>
 <p>Nicholas Frappell Global General Manager, ABC Bullion</p> <p>MC</p>	 <p>Brian Pereira Finance Director, Brink's Limited</p> <p>FC</p>
 <p>Tobias Wilson Senior Manager, Commodities and Financial Benchmarks, Markets Regulatory Compliance, HSBC Bank PLC</p> <p>RAC</p>	<p>FIND OUT MORE Further information on LBMA's Committees and Groups can be found on LBMA's Website. →</p>

B

LBMA Board (B)

The Board which meets quarterly sets our strategic and business vision and scrutinises LBMA's performance, the Board is supported by a number of sub-committees which advise on specific areas of expertise (list of these appears below).

SB

LBMA Sub-Board (SB)

The Sub-Board was created to reassure and reinforce the Independence of LBMA, its purpose is to review matters arising in relation to incidents and enforcement with regards to LBMA Members and Good Delivery List Refiners. Any decision by this Group is considered final.

LBMA has the following Market and Board Sub Committees which advise on specific areas of expertise, enabling us to benefit from the knowledge, experience and dedication of industry experts:

FC

Finance Committee (FC)

PC

Physical Committee (PC)

PAC

Public Affairs Committee (PAC)

MC

Membership Committee (MC)

REC

Refiners' Committee (REC)

RAC

Regulatory Affairs Committee (RAC)

RC

Remuneration Committee (RC)

Chair



We are pleased to announce that Peter Zoellner joined the Board on 1 December 2024 as a new Independent Non-Executive Director.

Board Composition and Leadership

Following a comprehensive process to appoint a new Independent Non-Executive Director, we are pleased to announce that Peter Zoellner joined the Board on 1 December 2024. Peter brings expertise from his previous role as BIS Head of Banking Department and his experience as a member of the Governing Board and Executive Director for Financial Market Operations at the Central Bank of the Republic of Austria (OeNB).

The Board election process saw Raj Kumar, Head of Strategic Development at Morgan Stanley, re-elected as a Market Making Member. Praveen Bajinath, Chief Executive of Rand Refinery and Director of Prestige Bullion, and Wenjian Fang, CEO of Bank of China (UK) Limited, were reappointed for further terms. We welcomed Robin Kolvenbach, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Argor-Heraeus SA, to the Board.

The Board marks the retirement of Hitoshi Kosai, whose exemplary dedication and tireless service to LBMA has spanned eight years on the Board and over twenty years on the Referees. His profound industry knowledge and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in shaping LBMA's development. While stepping down from the Board, we are delighted that he will continue to serve on the Referees, ensuring his valuable expertise remains within the LBMA community.



The Board continues to play a vital role in shaping LBMA's strategic direction.

Strategic Direction and Governance

The Board continues to play a vital role in shaping LBMA's strategic direction, and this year has been particularly significant as we develop and implement our new Three-Year Strategy. This strategic framework will guide our priorities and initiatives through to 2027, ensuring we remain responsive to market evolution while maintaining the highest standards of governance.

The Sub-Board Group, comprising independent Non-Executive Directors, Chief Executive, and Executive Directors, continues to strengthen our governance framework. This Group exercises delegated authority in reviewing matters related to Incidents or Enforcement regarding members, particularly where potential conflicts of interest may exist for elected Board Members.

Risk Management and Compliance

In 2024, the Board has enhanced its overall risk management work and conducted thorough policy reviews, particularly focusing on cyber risk management, anti-bribery measures, and travel policies to ensure they remain appropriate for our evolving business environment set out in the Responsible Gold Guidance and the LBMA Rules for Members.

Incident Review Process

An Incident Review Process (IRP) is launched when LBMA becomes aware of allegations of criminal activity and/or potential serious breaches of the Responsible Gold Guidance or Responsible Silver Guidance.

Escalation to an IRP may come from a variety of sources, such as industry press and civil society, as well as LBMA's own proactive monitoring achieved through our internal due diligence procedures.

The failure to appropriately adhere to the Responsible Gold Guidance or Responsible Silver Guidance may result in the Refiner being removed from the Good Delivery List, following LBMA's robust Incident Review Process.

In 2024, LBMA engaged one Refiner and one Affiliate Member to address either potentially serious sourcing issues or a failure to meet the standards set out in the Responsible Gold Guidance and the LBMA Rules for Members.

PT ANEKA TAMBANG TBK (LOGAM MULIA)

An IRP was launched against PT Aneka Tambang Tbk (Logam Mulia) in June 2024 following the launch of a criminal investigation by the Indonesia Attorney General's Office. The investigation is looking into concerns about the actions of former general managers relating to the Refinery's brand stamping operations from 2010 to 2021.

The IRP is ongoing at the time of writing and LBMA will provide further updates once the review process has concluded. The Refiner is cooperating fully with LBMA.

VPOWER FINANCE SECURITY (HONG KONG) LTD

In June 2024, LBMA moved to immediately revoke the membership of VPower after its designation on a Russia-related sanctions list maintained by the US Office for Foreign Asset Controls (OFAC).



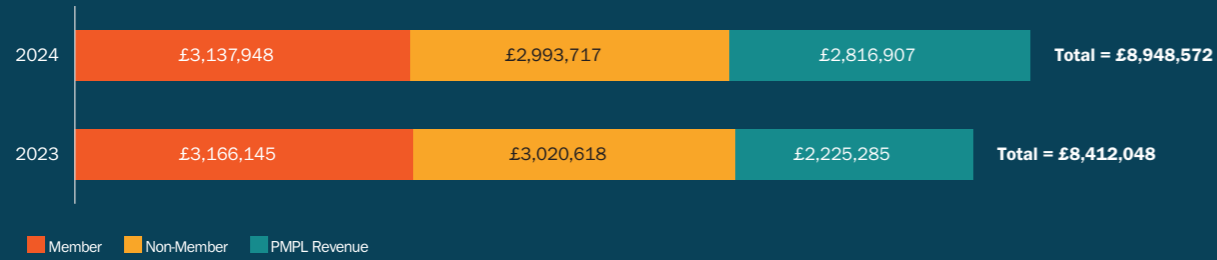
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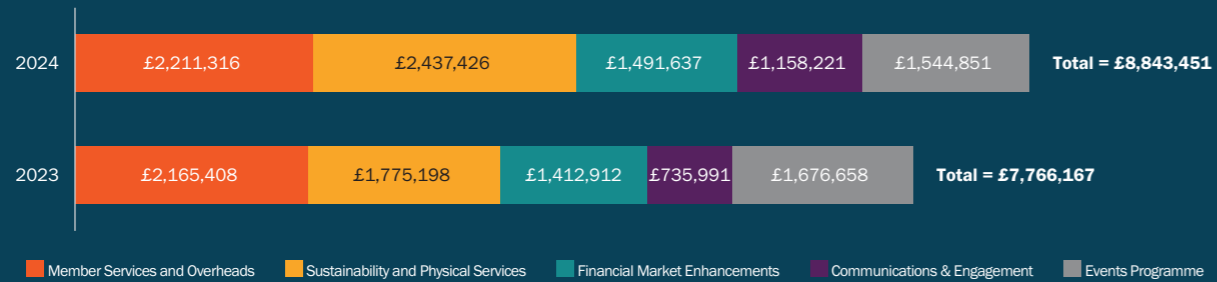
FIND OUT MORE
More information can be found on LBMA's website.



LBMA & PMPL Income Analysis



LBMA & PMPL Expenditure Analysis



Financial Overview



Ed Blight
Chief Finance Officer, LBMA

Ed has been part of LBMA's Executive Committee for more than nine years and is responsible for directing and defining LBMA's financial and business operations strategies. He is also Head of Member engagement and is the business lead for the LBMA Relationship Management programme and all new and existing Membership matters.

Whilst defined and evolved by the Executive, LBMA Financial & Risk Management strategies, together with annual budgets, are subject to rigorous independent scrutiny by the Finance Committee. The Committee, in turn, makes the budget and financial target recommendations to the Board which agrees to their adoption. This process includes direct engagement with both the Membership and Physical Committees who provide further independent scrutiny on all proposals for Membership and GDL fees. Through this process, LBMA took the decision in late 2023 to freeze Member fees at 2023 rates for 2024. This decision was taken as LBMA was moving into the final year of a Three-Year Strategic Plan to advance standards for the common good of the global industry and to reinforce its position as the independent authority for precious metals.

Across the Three-Year Strategic Plan (2021-24), the Executive was charged with the specific business financial objective of:

“Maintaining reserves and financial performance to agreed targets to deliver the long-term strategic plan and enhanced financial risk management capable of sustaining LBMA through geopolitical and economic uncertainty.”

The audit of 2023 accounts saw positive returns for both LBMA and PMPL with total revenues growing by 20% on that received in 2022. Within that, non-Member and PMPL revenue accounted for 66% of all revenues and Membership fees plus other revenue from Members (such as event delegate fees, and *Alchemist* advertising) accounting for the other 34%. Expenditure was also up in both companies, but by far the biggest influence on LBMA returning a surplus in 2023 was the huge success of the Barcelona Conference.

2024 has been a tough year made all the more difficult by the impact of the Conference 2024 fraud identified in May. The loss arising from this has been taken in-year, and whilst it has had an impact on LBMA's financial performance for the year, the forecast still indicates that a modest surplus will be achieved at year-end. The incident and circumstances surrounding the fraud have been fully investigated by the relevant authorities, as well as independent experts in our own Finance Committee, and clear and decisive action has been taken where necessary.

Despite this, indications are that both companies will return a surplus for the year and reserves will be maintained above the target recommended by the Finance Committee and agreed by the Board.

Investment in delivering our Strategy has remained the priority despite the freeze in fees for 2024 and the fraud setback. LBMA has continued to invest more into its Strategic Plan than in 2023, with the minor dip in event expenditure driven by the Assaying & Refining Conference and Sustainability & Responsible Sourcing Seminar being run in alternate years.

Strategic Deliverables	2023 Investment	2024 Investment	Growth
Physical Market Enhancements & Sustainability	£1.9M	£2.4M	26.3% ▲
Financial Market Enhancements	£1.4M	£1.5M	7.1% ▲
Communications & Engagement	£740K	£1.2M	62.2% ▲
Annual Event Programme	£1.7M	£1.6M	5.9% ▼

Under the guidance of the Finance Committee, the focus now is very much on closing the year successfully and putting in place the investment necessary to deliver the new strategic plan 2025-27, whilst mitigating against the strategic financial risks to both LBMA and PMPL.

Fees

for Members were frozen in 2024, and set to increase only by inflation in 2025.

20%

total revenue growth in 2023 compared to 2022.



Global Precious Metals Conference 2025

Kyoto, Japan

The Okura
26 - 28 October

Register



www.lbma.org.uk/events

