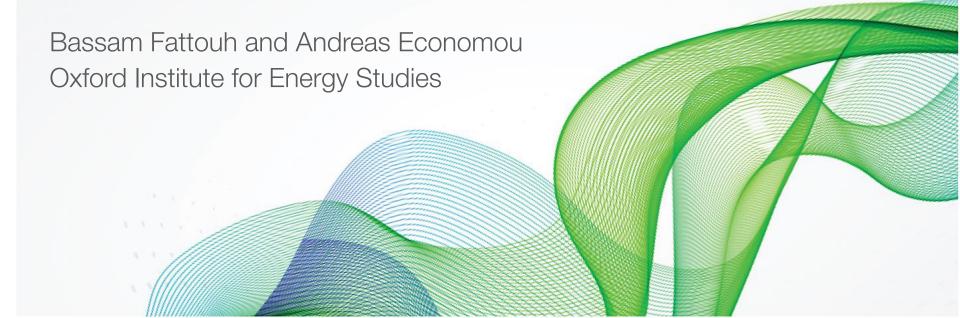


Short-Term Oil Market Outlook: Prospects, Risks and Uncertainty

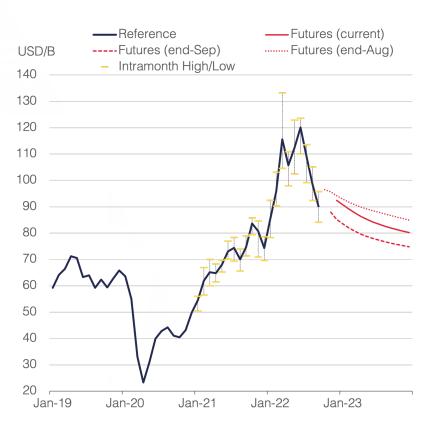




Volatility is the name of the game

- Volatility, uncertainty (and confusion!)
- Market torn between a bullish micro-oil story and a bearish macro story
- Exacerbated by potential government intervention that could have big impact on oil market dynamics (price caps, embargoes, restrictions of products exports, additional release of stocks from SPR) and macro policy (aggressive tightening of monetary policy)
- Volatility also reflects tightness in some market segments (refining constraints; low diesel stocks)

Brent price

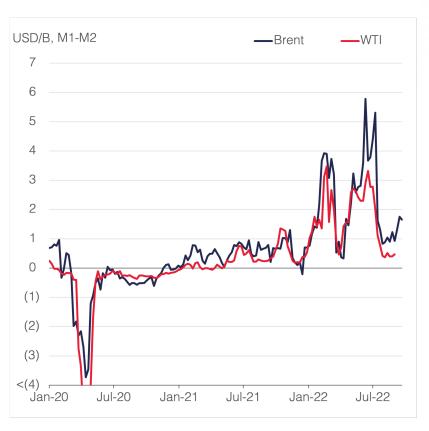


Notes: Brent price. Source: OIES

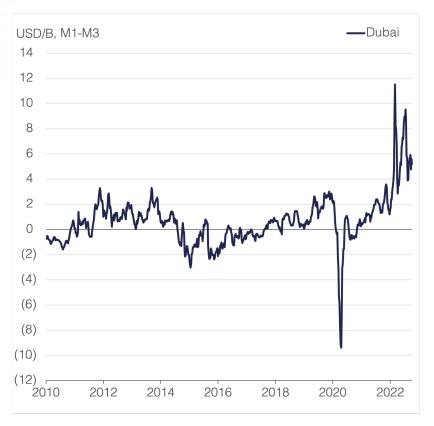


Volatility not limited to price levels but also to spreads

Brent and WTI, M1-M2



Dubai, M1-M3

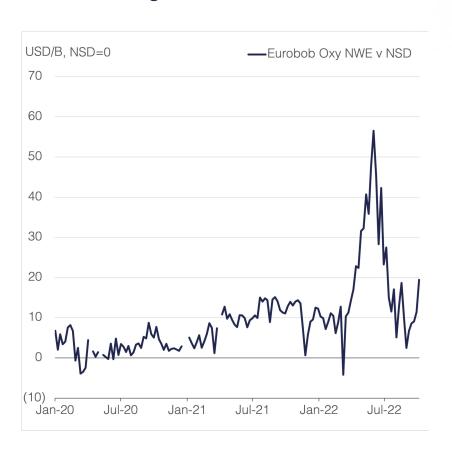


Source: Argus Source: Argus

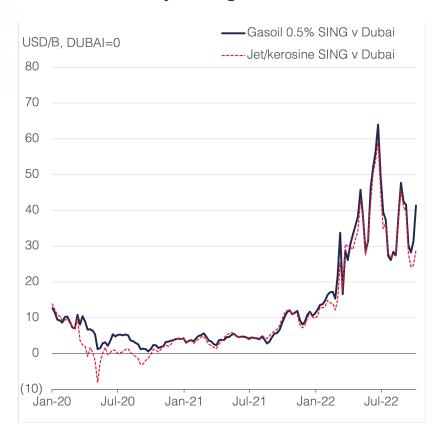


Volatility in products cracks

Gasoline margins NWE



Gasoil/Diesel and jet margins SING



Source: Argus

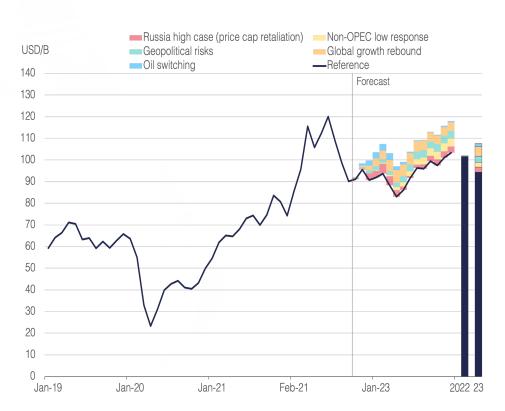
Source: Argus



Key elements of the micro-oil story

- Expectations of larger Russian crude and products disruptions as EU embargoes come into force
- End of crude stock releases from SPR
- OPEC+ will balance the market
- Moderate non-OPEC supply growth
- Geopolitical risks outside Russia (e.g, Libya, Iran, Nigeria)
- Low buffers in the system: Limited spare capacity; stocks well below the 5-year average (particularly products)
- Gas-to-oil substitution supporting demand

Decomposition of upside risks



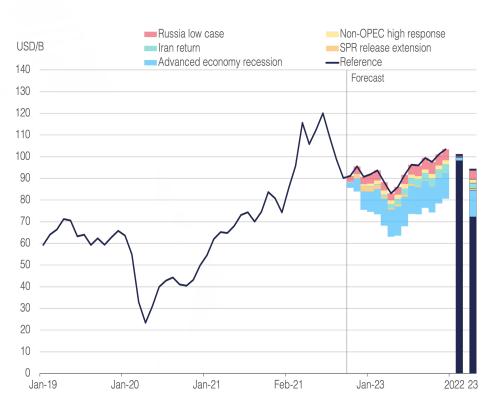
Notes: Brent price.



Key elements of the macro story

- Global economic recession with big negative impact on oil demand
- Depth and duration of the recession
- No signs that China will alter its zero COVID-policy anytime soon
- Micro-oil factors (limited Russian supply disruption; continued release of stocks from SPR; high US shale response; until recently potential full return of Iran oil supplies)

Decomposition of downside risks



Notes: Brent price. Source: OIES



Key Factors Shaping Market Expectations I: Russian Disruption



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Prospects of Russian supply key factor

- Prospects of Russian supply disruption a key factor shaping expectations
- Disruption limited so far and well below initial expectations at the start of the Russia-Ukraine war (around 400,000 b/d)
- Ability to redirect crude exports away from Europe to other parts of the world (e.g., Asia, Med)
- Through offering discounts and easier payment conditions
- Services and logistics not acting as constraint so far (shipping, insurance)

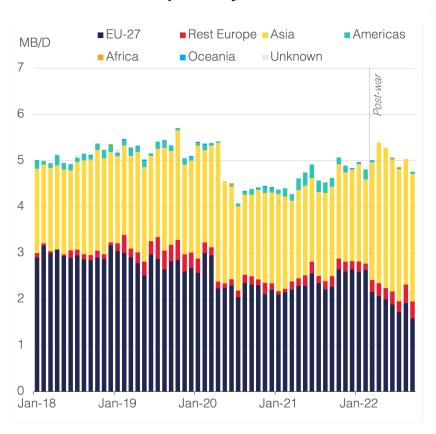
Russian crude supply disruptions



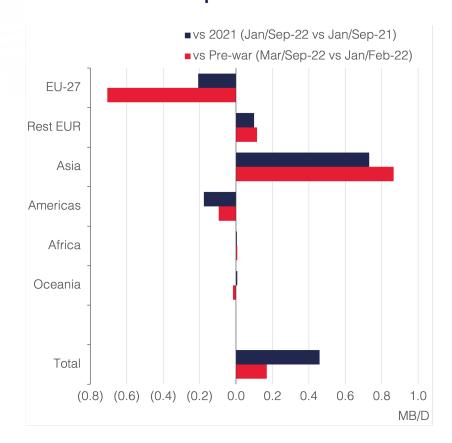


Crude exports are above pre-war levels

Russia crude exports by destination



Russia crude oil export shifts

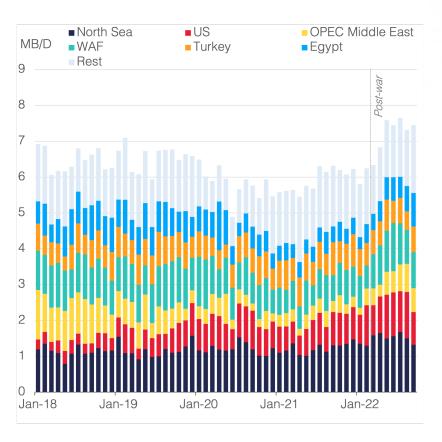


Source: Argus, Kpler, OIES

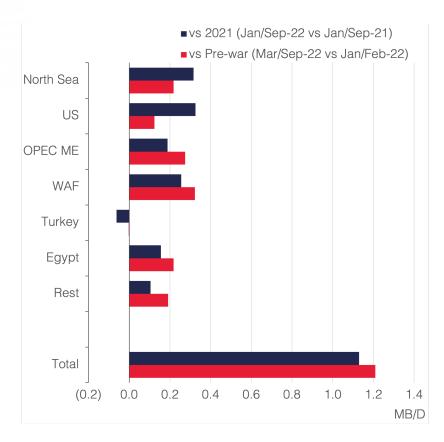


Alternative sources to cover loss of Russian supplies

EU-27 crude oil imports excl. Russia



EU-27 crude oil import shifts excl. Russia

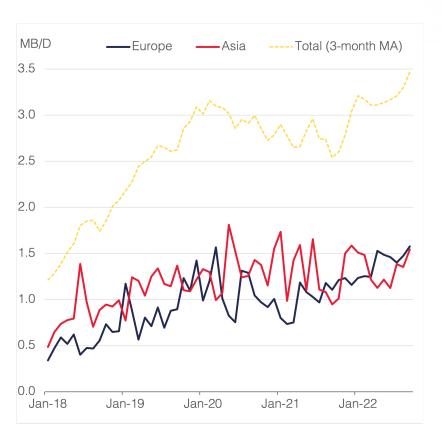


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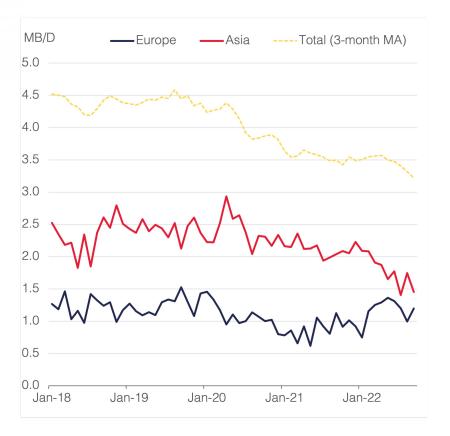


Filling the Russian crude gap

US crude exports to Europe and Asia



WAF crude exports to Europe and Asia

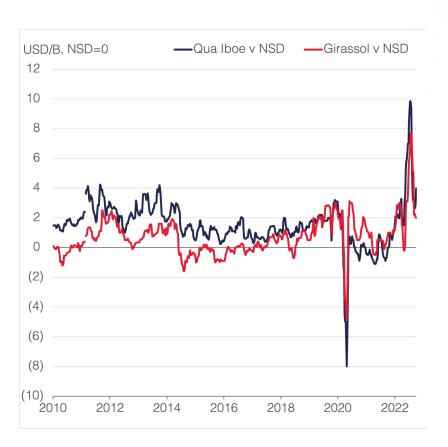


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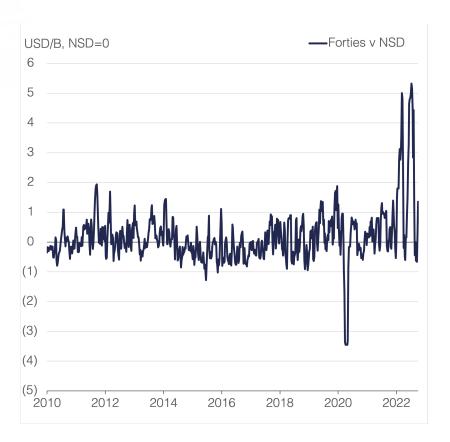


Reflected in sharp movements in differentials

WAF grades v North Sea Dated



Forties v North Sea Dated



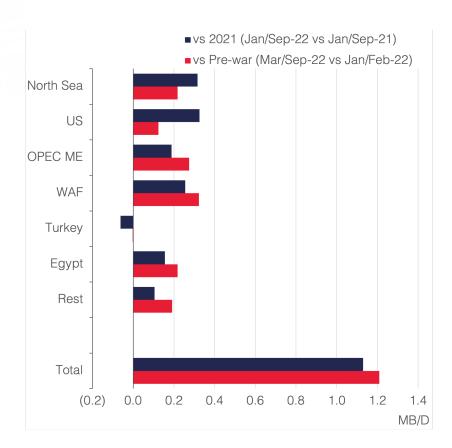
Source: Argus Source: Argus



Quality of EU crude imports changing

- European imports of medium/light sweet increased shifting the mix away from medium sour
 - Diesel cracks higher
 - Cost of desulfurization increased as gas prices increased
 - Imports of Russian Urals fallen

EU-27 crude oil import shifts excl. Russia

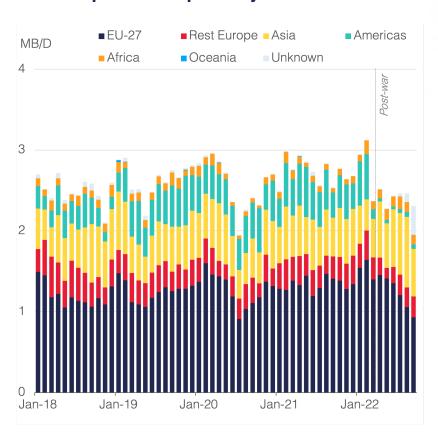


Source: Kpler, OIES

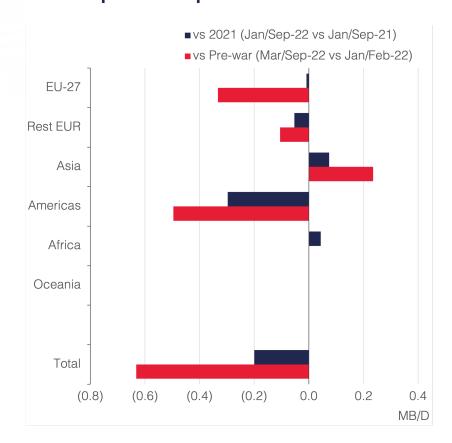


Russian product exports have declined

Russia product exports by destination



Russia product export shifts

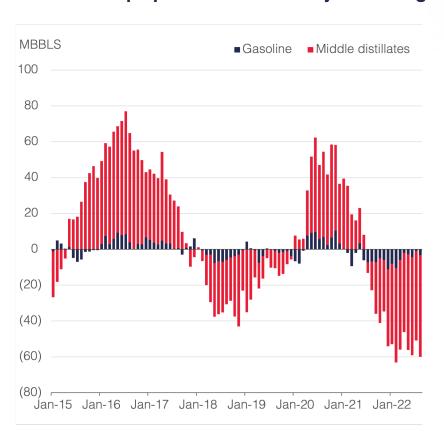


Source: Argus, Kpler, OIES

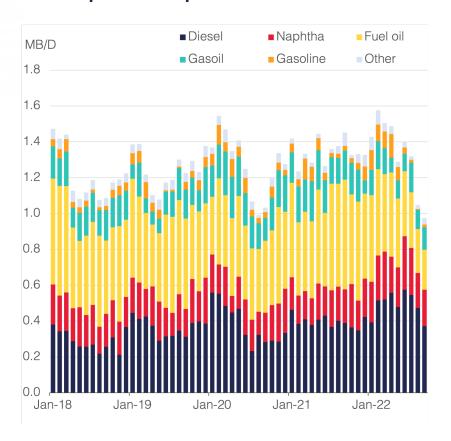


EU products market remains tight

OECD Europe product stocks v 5-year average



EU-27 product imports from Russia

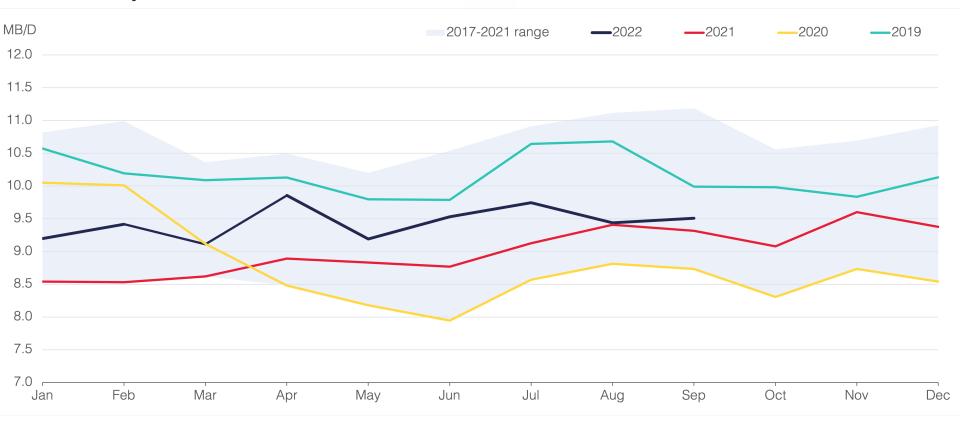


Source: IEA, OIES Source: Kpler



EU refinery constraints persist

EU-16 refinery runs



Notes: EU-16 refers to EU-15 plus Norway. Source: Argus



Diesel situation worsened

- Strikes have paralyzed French refining sector
- Strikes have taken more than 800,000 b/d almost 5% of EU refining capacity (also seasonal wave of maintenance)
- Suppliers had to draw heavily from inventories
- This is contributing to high and volatile margins

Gasoil/Diesel and jet margins NWE

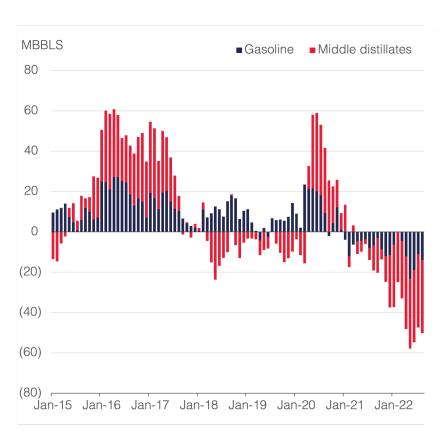


Source: Kpler, OIES



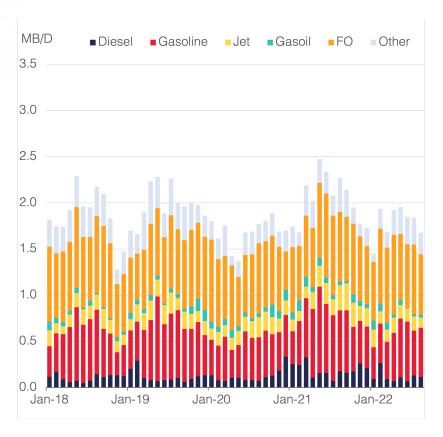
US products exports elevated

US product stocks v 5-year average



Source: IEA, OIES

US oil product exports



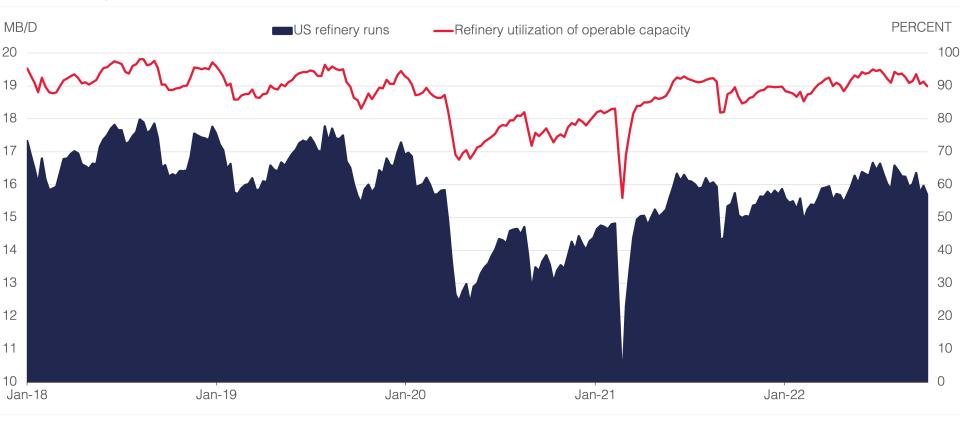
Notes: FO group includes cracked FO, SRFO, VGO, slurry, CBFS and cutter stock.
Source: Kpler

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US refinery utilization at high rate

US refinery runs and utilization



Source: US EIA

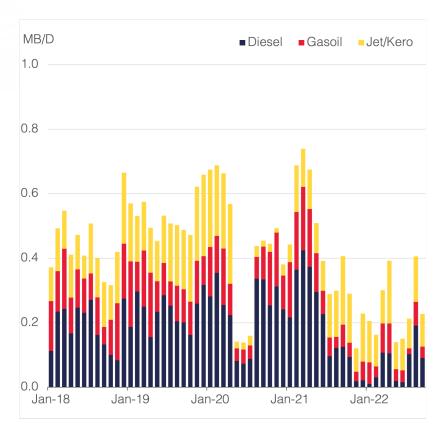


China's refineries come to the rescue?

China refinery runs



China oil product exports

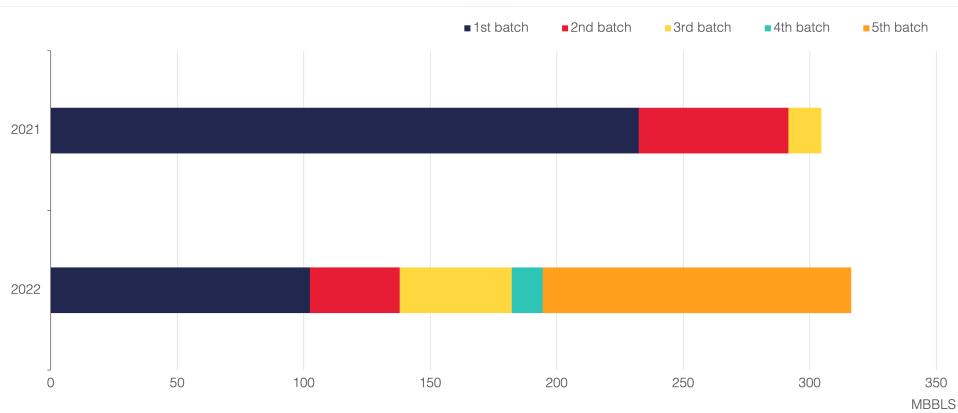


Source: Argus Source: Kpler



Export quotas raised but will China export more diesel?

China oil products export quotas



Source: Argus

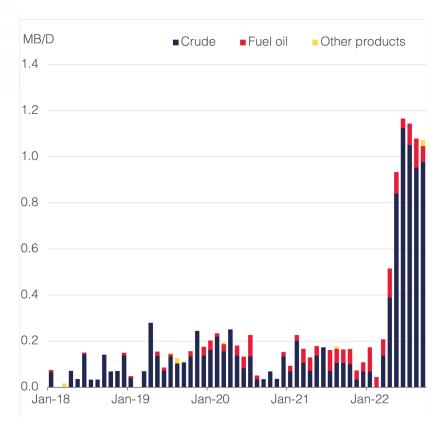


India refining have been a bright spot

India refinery runs



India oil imports from Russia



Source: PPAC Source: Kpler



Key Factors Shaping Market Expectations II: The Macro Environment



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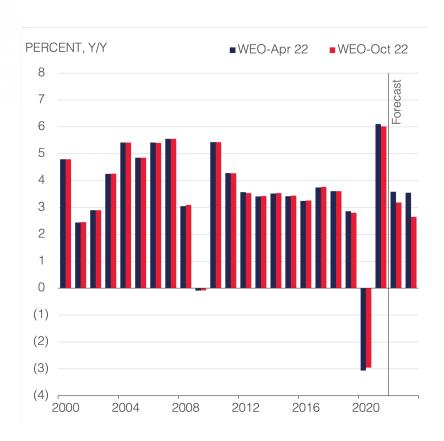




Recession and global oil demand

- Global growth prospects have been downgraded
- China's comeback will be delayed and more gradual than previously expected, due to COVID flare-ups, its strict zero-COVID policy and domestic economic challenges; A large stimulus remains unlikely, further weighing on the outlook
- Pent-up demand/ gas-to-oil substitution could offset some of the near-term demand pressures, but it is very challenging to quantify

IMF Growth Rates

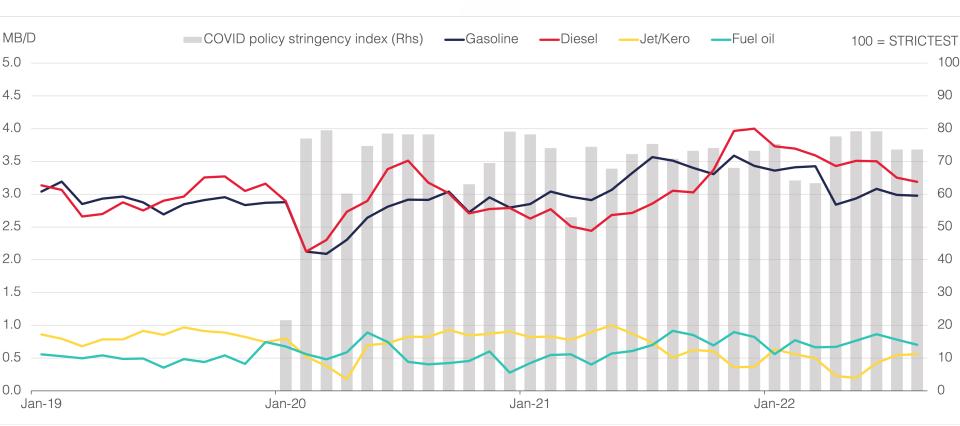


Source: IMF



China's demand contracts

China apparent products demand

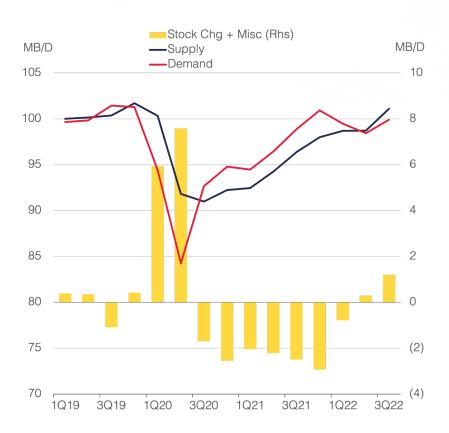


Source: Argus, Blavatnik School of Government (University of Oxford), OIES



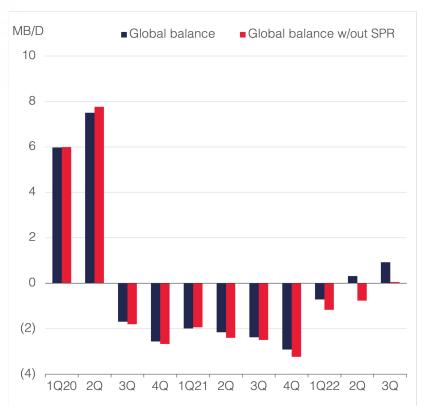
Market moves from deficit to surplus

Global supply/demand balance (consensus)



Notes: Consensus averages estimates from IEA, US EIA and OPEC. Source: OIES

Global supply/demand (with and without SPR)



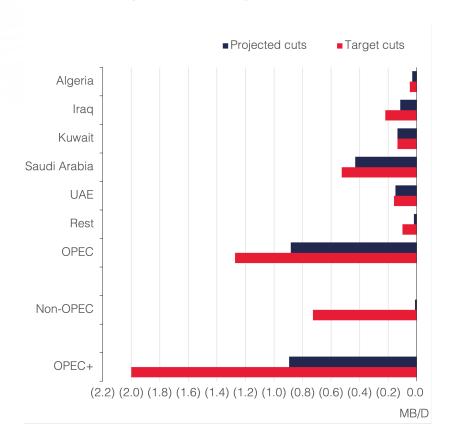
Source: IEA



The OPEC+ Response

- Real cut less than 2 million b/d announced (close to 1 million b/d)
- Decision not totally unexpected and consistent with previous cycles (in response to GFC)
- Consistent with most recent behavior during the COVID cycle (proactive and pre-emptive in face of deteriorating market balances)
- Cohesion of group (many members producing well below quota; no renegotiation of quotas)
- Context matters

OPEC+ projected vs target cuts





Short-term oil outlook

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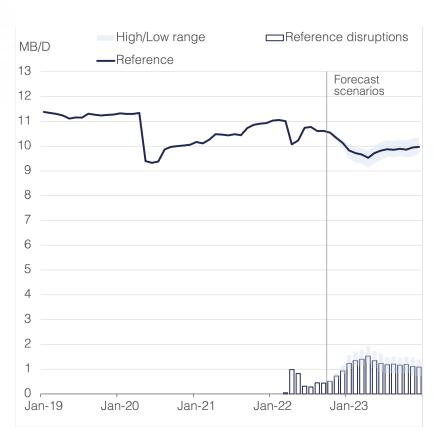




Key assumptions: Russian supply

- Russian oil production declines gradually towards year-end to reach close to 900,000 b/d below pre-war levels, before disruptions peak in February 2023 when EU sanctions are in full effect to average 1.25 mb/d in 2023
- Re-routing Russian crude from West to East can put strain on logistics (shipping; access to Aframax tankers)
- Finding insurance coverage outside
 EU/ G7 challenging

Russia oil production scenarios

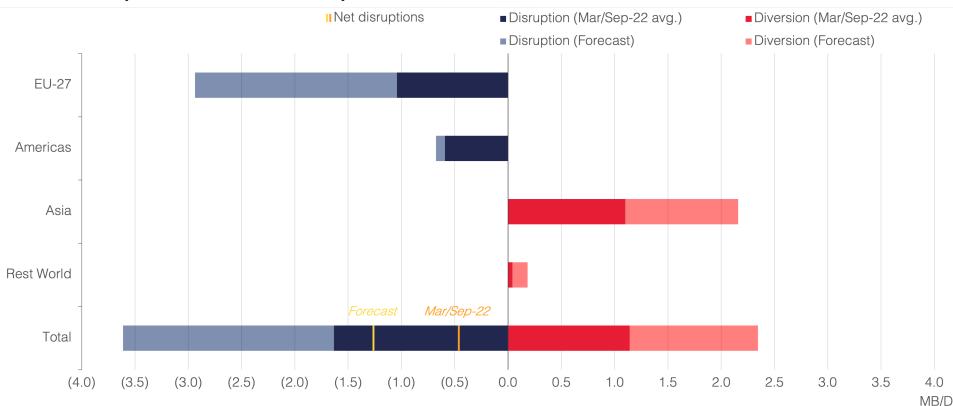




Key assumptions: Russian exports

Under the full effect of the EU ban, Russian total oil exports (crude and products) to Europe decline by another 1.9 mb/d, 1.2 mb/d of which are diverted to Asia and the rest of world.

Russia oil exports curtailment assumptions



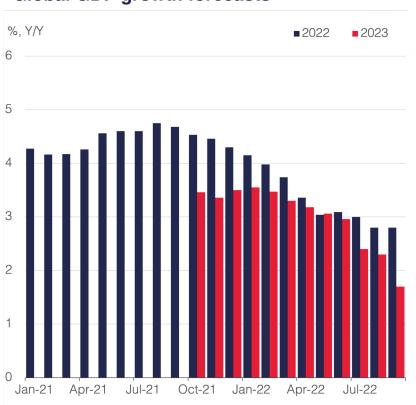
Notes: Compared to Jan/Feb-22 levels.



Key assumptions: Economic prospects

Monetary policy tightening and sticky inflation push several advanced economies into recession over the coming quarters.

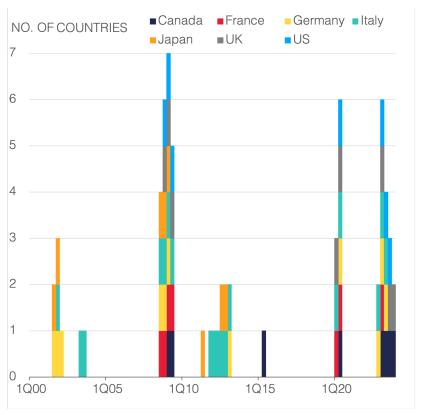
Global GDP growth forecasts



Notes: Global GDP is forecast to 2.8% in 2022 and 1.7% in 2023.

Source: Oxford Economics

G7 economies recession indicators



Notes: Shows simultaneous contractions in output, imports, exports, investments and industrial production in each member country.

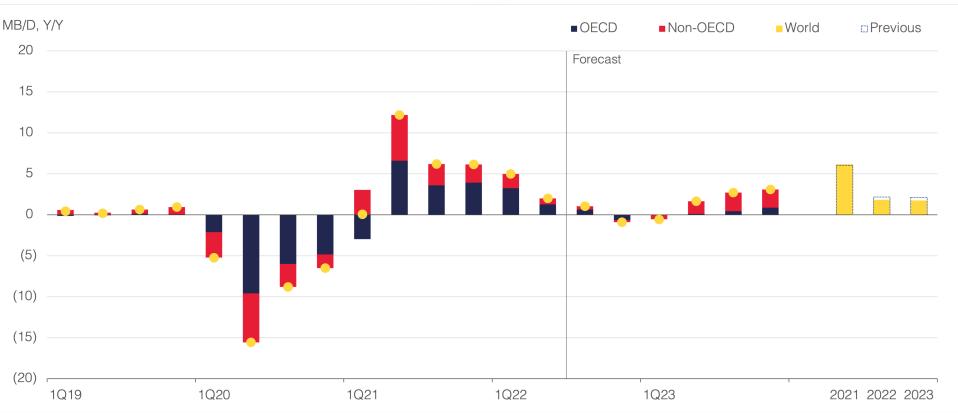
Source: Oxford Economics, OIES



Oil demand outlook (1/2)

Global demand growth is forecast to 1.8 mb/d in 2022 and 1.7 mb/d in 2023, as y/y demand is expected to contract in the coming two quarters for the first time post-2020.

Global oil demand

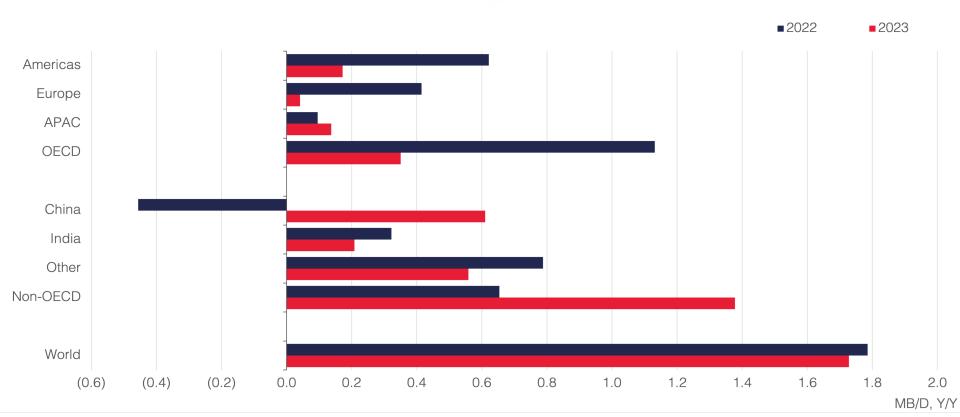




Oil demand outlook (2/2)

OECD demand growth in 2023 is expected to fall to 400,000 b/d from 1.1 mb/d in 2022 and China's demand to contract y/y by 460,000 b/d in 2022 and rebound by 610,000 b/d in 2023.

Global oil demand growth by region/country

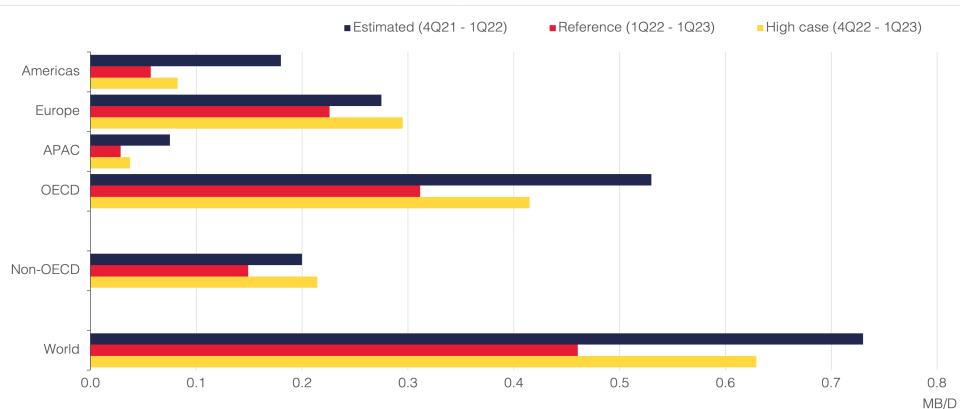




Gas to Oil substitution

Oil substitution results to 460,000 b/d incremental demand over October 2022 and March 2023, with 50% of the gains concentrated in Europe.

Oil substitution assumptions





Global balance risks

A global recession remains the largest downside risk in 2023 having the potential to induce a substantial negative impact on demand growth that could slow sharply to 0.5 mb/d versus the *Reference* 1.7 mb/d.

Global oil demand growth: Reference v Recession scenario



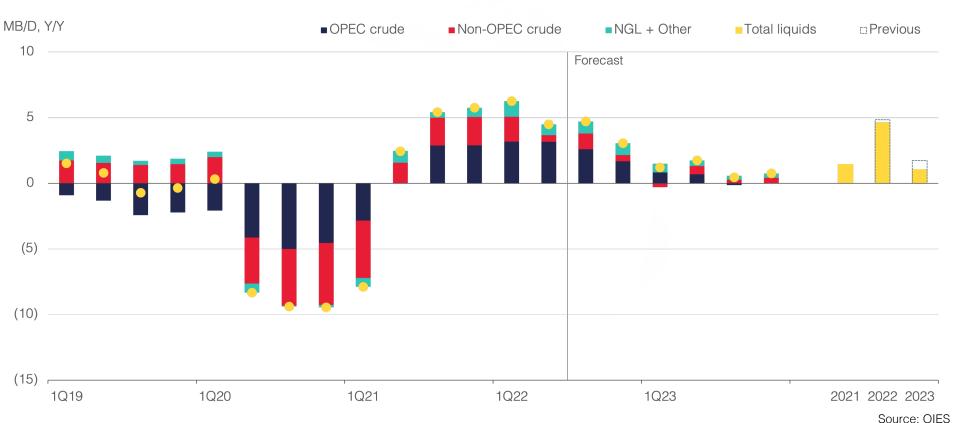
es. Modelled projections. Source: OIES



Oil supply outlook (1/2)

Global oil supply is forecast to grow by 4.6 mb/d in 2022 and 1 mb/d in 2023, with non-OPEC crude adding 1 mb/d of growth this year.

Global oil supply



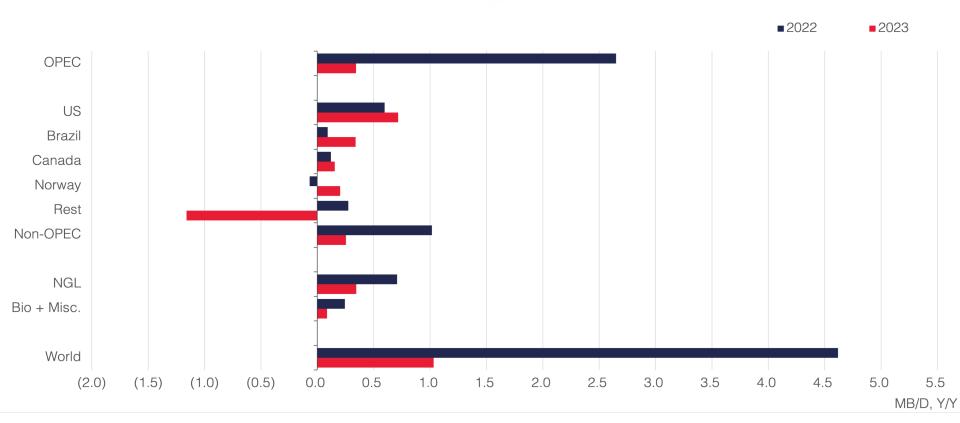
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Oil supply outlook (2/2)

US crude supply is seen leading growth by 700,000 b/d in 2023, followed by 300,000 b/d from Brazil and 200,000 b/d each from Canada and Norway, while further gains from elsewhere remain marginal.

Global oil supply growth by producer/liquids

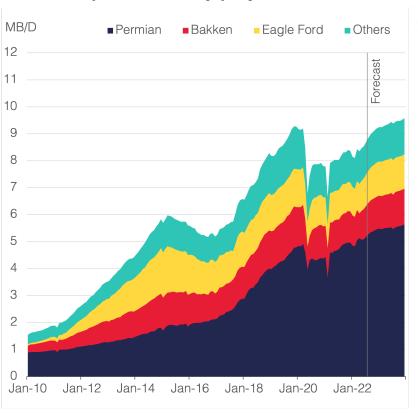




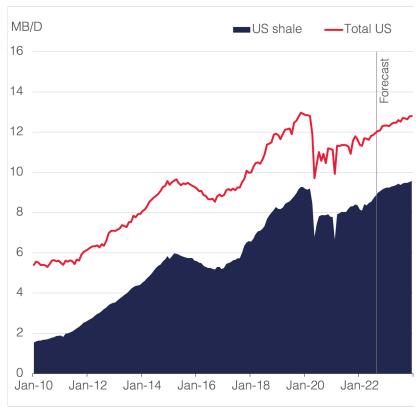
US shale supply outlook

US crude supply in 2022 is expected to grow by 600,000 b/d, a rise by nearly 700,000 b/d exit-to-exit by December, and 720,000 b/d in 2023 albeit exit-to-exit growth falls to 460,000 b/d.

US shale production by play



US crude supply



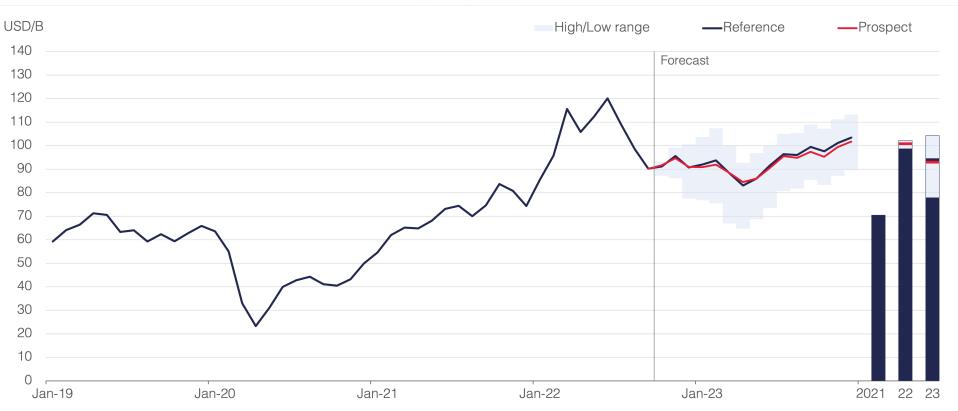
Source: OIES Source: OIES



Price outlook (1/2)

Reference forecast for Brent stands at \$100 in 2022 and \$94/b in 2023, while the Brent Prospect that considers the uncertainty underlying the outlook edges slightly lower at \$93/b in 2023.

Brent price outlook

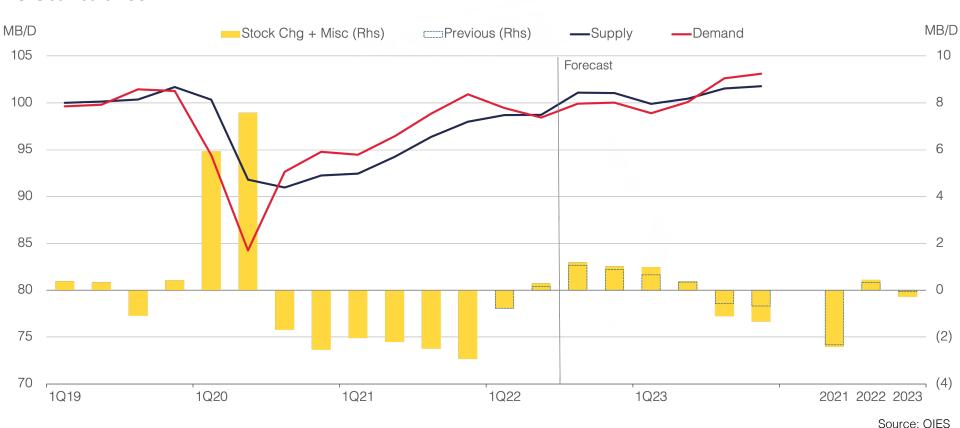




Global balance

The oil market is expected to shift into surplus in 2022 by 430,000 b/d and return to a small deficit of -270,000 b/d in 2023, with deficits on a quarterly basis reappearing no sooner than H2 2023.

Global balance

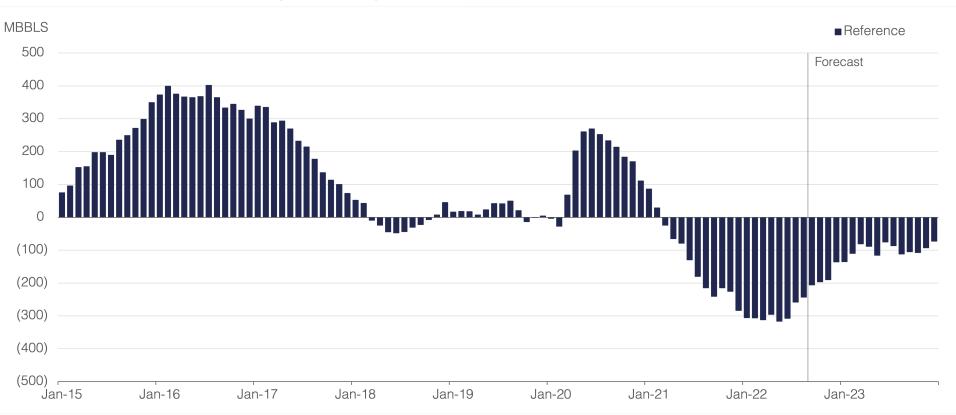


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Stocks remain below the 5-year average

OECD commercial stocks v 5-year average





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Director, Oil Research Programme

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OIES OII Monthly

Short-term oil market outlook

For access please contact: andreas.economou@oxfordenergy.org