

# Towards a new commodity super-cycle?

Presented to JP Morgan Center for Commodities Annual Symposium David Fyfe, Chief Economist 17 August 2021



Market Reporting

Consulting Events

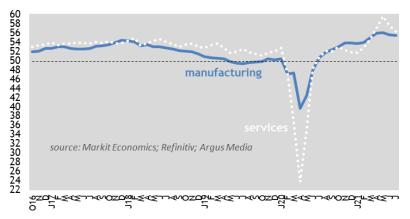
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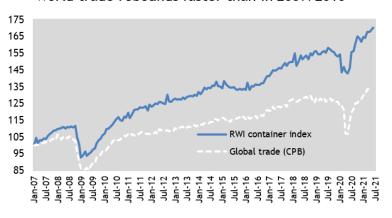


### An impressive global manufacturing & merchandise trade rebound





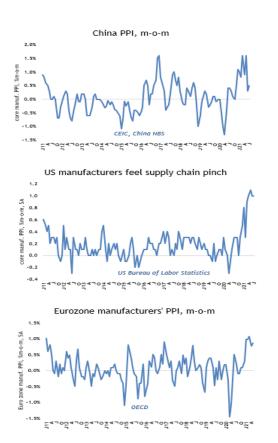
#### World trade rebounds faster than in 2009/2010



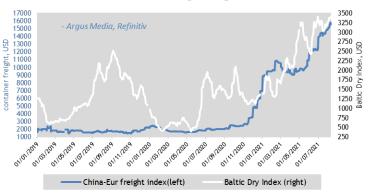
The recovery in activity has been rapid, but may be losing momentum



## Rebound revealed cyclical supply chain bottlenecks, stoked inflation



#### Bulk & container freight surge continues

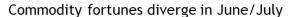


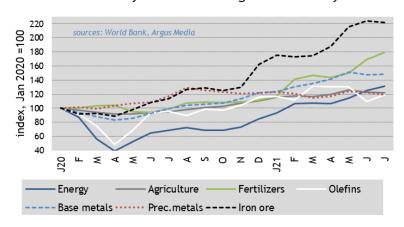
- "Post-pandemic" inflation spike on supply chain & workforce bottlenecks
- Freight surge, and extreme weather amplifier
- Investors see commodities as an inflation hedge
- Supply chain, inflationary factors may ease 2022/2023, but could re-emerge longer term



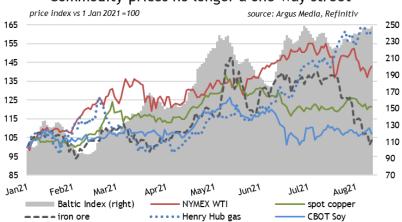


# Recent price trends imply super-cycle narrative is premature





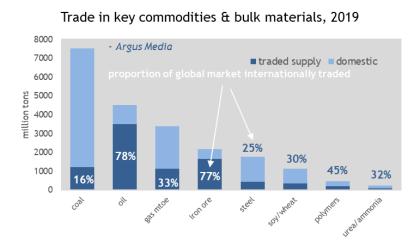
#### Commodity prices no longer a one-way street

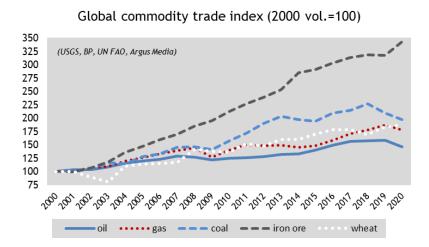


Since May, commodity price trends have diverged



### Trade rebound doesn't affect all commodities the same



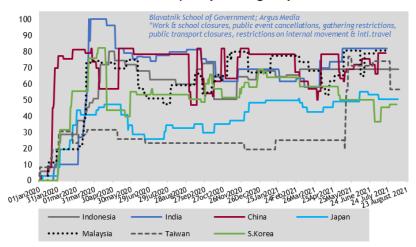


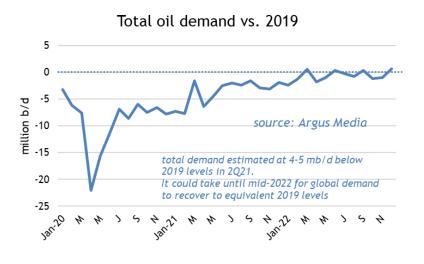
Prevailing fundamentals & trade dynamics vary widely across the commodity complex



# Covid-19 isn't over, and until it is, commodity demand will lag

#### Covid control policy\* stringency index

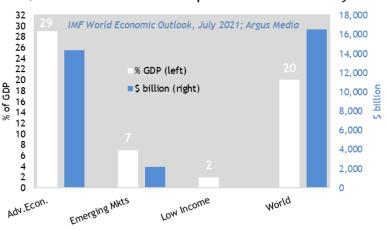






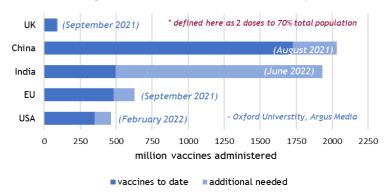
# Despite strong macro rebound, EMs face a sustained hit

\$16.5 trillion fiscal response Jan-20 to May-21

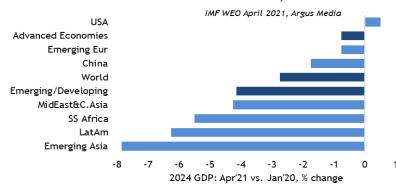


- Uneven nature of recovery cuts two ways for inflation & commodities
- On one hand it worsens ST supply issues...
- ...but crucially weighs on mid-term EM demand

#### Progress towards vaccine "herd immunity\*"



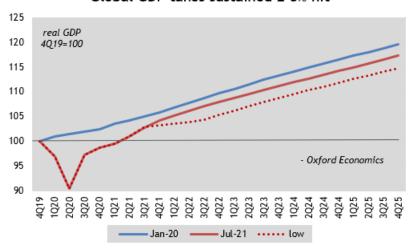
#### Medium Term GDP Loss, %





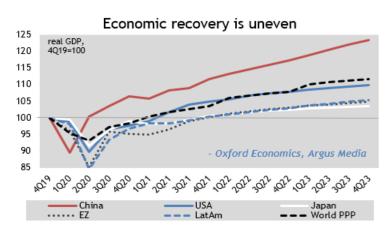
# Asymmetric recovery likely to weigh through medium term

Global GDP takes sustained 2-3% hit

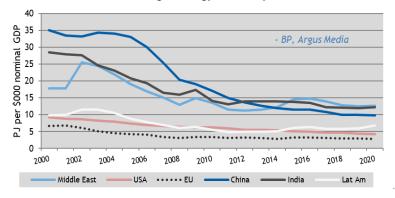


 Sustained hit on energy & commodity demand since EMs have a more commodity-intensive growth model

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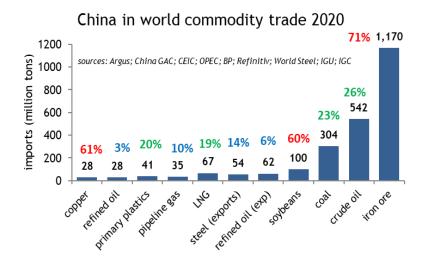


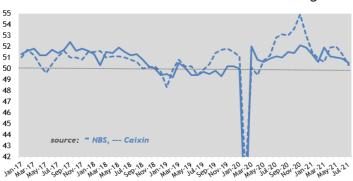
Average energy intensity



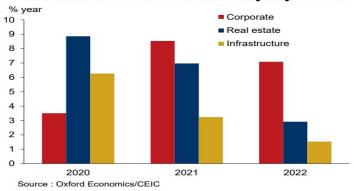
### The role of China looks different in 2021 than in 2020







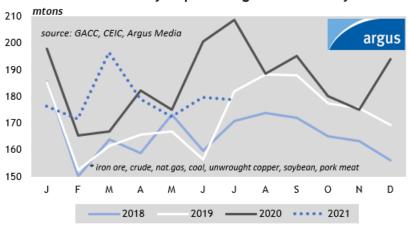
#### China: Real investment forecasts by key sectors



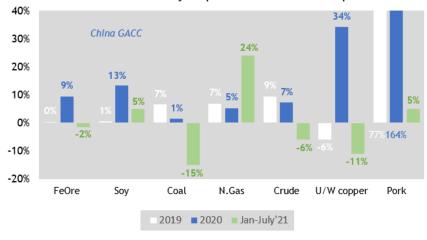


## China's 2021 commodity imports won't match +10% growth of 2020



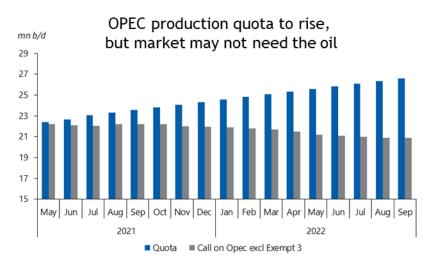


#### China commodity imports start to look tepid





# Oil fundamentals tighten 2H20 & 2021, surplus-prone 2022 & 2023

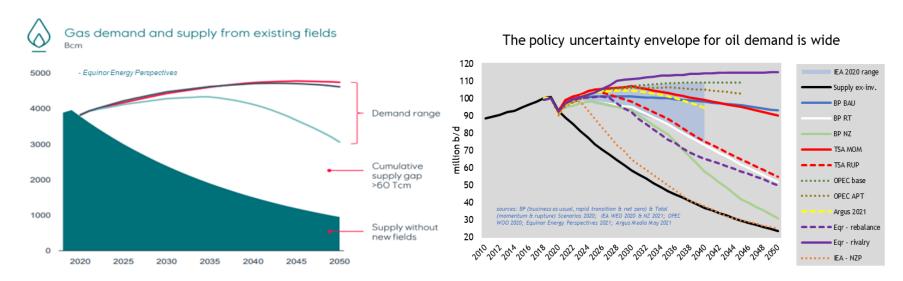




Of the key commodities, short-term crude fundamentals look the most challenged



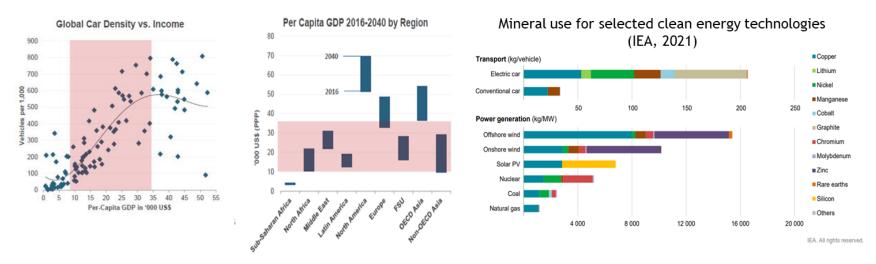
## Longer term, real questions over adequacy of upstream investment



 The pivot of governments, regulators, financiers & the IOCs away from hydrocarbon investment risks stoking price spikes longer term



## Nor will energy transition pathways be uniform



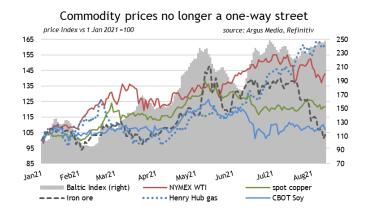
- Population & income growth, plus urbanisation, still have further to run
- Between 2020-2040, 85% of the world's population will be in the takeoff zone of the income/commodity demand S-curve
  - Energy transition/electrification will also prove commodity intensive





# Commodity super-cycle narrative looks premature...for now

- 1. Cyclical post-2020 inflationary surge underway, with commodities as a potential inflation hedge.
- 2. Post-pandemic supply chain bottlenecks should start to ease in 2022, suggesting short term inflationary spike could then moderate.
- 3. No synchronous commodity demand surge underway like 2000-2008, amid heterogeneous fundamentals, slowing China & challenged EMs.
- 4. China's restructured & slowing growth, ageing global demographic, industrial automation & Central Bank levers could moderate inflation...
- 5. ...but offsets via supply chain resilience + trade barriers, managing cyber risk, energy transition, extreme weather impacts & worker shortages.
- 6. De-carbonisation/electrification agenda longer term curbs upstream hydrocarbon investment *and* prompts a key metals/minerals demand surge.









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# Thank you for your attention

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