Pandemic, War, Inflation: Oil Markets at a Crossroads?

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Helicopter View of Structural Changes in Oil Markets

• US shale oil sector

- Slow production growth since pandemic crisis
 - Physical barriers: supply chain bottlenecks, rising costs, labor shortages
 - Corporate barriers: investors demand capital discipline and returns
- New business model: shift from new drilling to creating shareholder value
- Moderate-growth strategy reflected in investment in production capacity





 \Rightarrow no longer swing-producer role

Helicopter View of Structural Changes in Oil Markets

• OPEC under leadership of Saudi Arabia

- Balance of power has shifted back to OPEC(+)
- Members consistently miss production quotas: underproduction
- Low levels of spare capacity limit OPEC's flexibility to balance the market



Helicopter View of Structural Changes in Oil Markets

• Russia

- Fundamental transformation of Russian crude oil market after invasion
- Change in composition of importing countries
 - New pattern of global oil trade flows
 - Fragmentation of export market for Russian oil into two geographic segments with different price and demand dynamics



Policy Interventions

- To promote stability of the global oil market and to counter inflationary pressures:
 - 1. EU embargo and G7 oil price cap
 - Insurance for cargoes carrying Russian oil only if oil is sold at or below cap
 - Intended goals:
 - Keep oil flowing to global markets to avoid price spike
 - Curtail fiscal revenue from oil sales that contribute to financing the war
 - -Assessment:
 - Seaborne export volumes remained stable, no material impact on global oil prices
 - Prices for Russian oil differ across locations (two-tier market):
 - ✓ Shipments from Baltic Sea and Black Sea sell at discount
 - \checkmark Pacific Ocean transactions exceed price cap
 - At first decline in government revenue, recently on the rise

Policy Interventions

- To promote stability of the global oil market and to counter inflationary pressures:
 - 2. Unprecedented releases from emergency stockpiles of crude oil



- Record size and duration of drawdowns
- SPR is at historic low of 350 million barrels
- US initiated process of replenishing SPR recently which creates additional demand

Drivers of Oil Price Fluctuations



Drivers of Oil Price Fluctuations



Drivers of Oil Price Fluctuations



Linking Oil Price Shocks to Inflation Dynamics

	Actual change	Contribution of	
Time period	in inflation	oil supply shocks	demand shocks
	United States		
Feb-Oct 21	4.5	0.10	1.42
Dec 21-Feb 22	0.8	0.03	0.31
March-June 22	0.4	0.29	0.06
June-Sept 22	-0.7	-0.15	-0.12
Oct-Dec 22	-1.3	0.05	-0.58
		Euro Area	
June-Oct 21	2.1	-0.06	1.11
Dec 21-Feb 22	0.9	0.03	0.69
March-June 22	1.2	0.20	0.22
June-Sept 22	1.3	-0.08	0.29
Oct-Dec 22	-1.4	0.02	-0.24

Inflationary Effects of Oil Supply Shocks: Headline

- Both US and Euro area inflation jump on impact by similar amounts.
- Pass-through is much faster in the US, while inflationary consequences are more persistent in the Euro area pointing to important second-round effects.



Inflationary Effects of Oil Supply Shocks: Expectations

- Household inflation expectations react more strongly on impact in US, but initial rise fades away quickly.
- Inflation expectations build up more gradually in the Euro area indicating that higher oil prices get more ingrained in expectations



Cross-country Heterogeneity in the Euro Area

• Sensitivity of inflation expectations varies greatly across member countries both in terms of magnitude and dynamics (speed of pass-through).

