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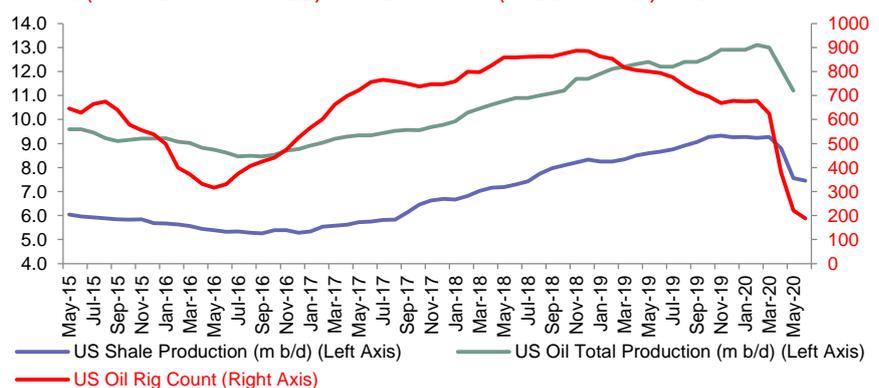
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Implications for global energy markets stemming from the US Presidential elections

- A second term for President Trump suggests a continuation of the status quo, US “energy dominance” policy, while a Biden presidency points to a spectrum of policies in carbon and drilling taxation changes that could become significant disruptions – both positive and negative – for the energy sector.** Should President Trump garner a second term, then markets can expect the continuation of the prevailing US energy dominance policy, signalling the least Federal government-led disruptions to hydrocarbon energy production, consumption or trade. Meanwhile, a Biden presidency would see a more middle ground approach anchored between a reengagement in US global leadership towards sustainable energy targets on the one hand, and the US energy dominance policy strategy on the other hand.
- Four months out, the outcome of the US presidential elections remain highly uncertain.** Whilst we take no view on the outcome of the Presidential elections, we note Biden's significant advantage across all major polls (some in double-digits). However, according to our Washington based political analyst, Jordan Heiber, President Trump does retain a high floor of support, and his numbers have rebounded from missteps in the past.
- Oil price implications.** The significant price and demand headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic has created a crisis in the oil patch. The fallout will continue post the November elections. Any effort to project medium term oil prices should account for the multifaceted set of factors and expectations surrounding future policies as well as the fundamentals of future demand and supply trends. Factoring in either a Trump or Biden win, we believe that prices are likely to fluctuate in a corridor between USD45/b and USD60/b for Brent between 2020-24, with a long-term anchor near the industry's marginal cost of production and support of ~USD55/b. In the more immediate term, and as we recently documented, we remain resolutely bullish on oil prices (see [here](#) and [here](#)), with the market rebalancing underway leading oil prices to transition from relief rally to cyclical tightening. The structural outcome of the ongoing rebalancing leading our models to forecast Brent averaging USD43/b and USD55/b in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

US OIL (TOTAL AND SHALE) PRODUCTION (MILLION B/D) AND US RIG COUNT



Source: Bloomberg, EIA, MUFG MENA Research

Implications for global energy markets stemming from the US Presidential elections

Energy dominance vs. more green driven energy policies

The Trump “energy dominance” status quo is likely to mean a continued surge in production of oil and gas, driving exports of crude oil, refined products, NGLs, LNG, and petrochemical products, keeping global prices relatively low, and putting geopolitical pressure on OPEC+ producers. On the other hand, a Biden presidency could see tight regulations drive some magnitude of a slowdown for US hydrocarbon production and export growth, with likely job, trade and economic impacts in varying scale and scope, leading to higher global oil prices in the medium-term, and inevitably emboldening OPEC+ producers.

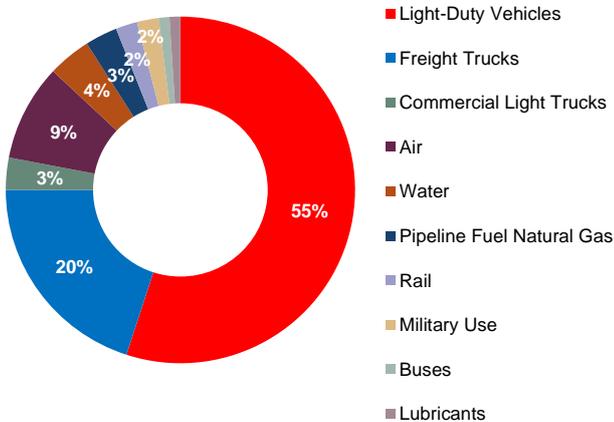
Status quo under Trump

If Trump garners a second term, then markets can expect more of the same on the international front. Trump will continue to focus upon US decoupling from China and pursuing international relationships that are more transactional in nature. This includes trade wars, shortening and reshoring of supply chains as well as pursuing of bilateral over multilateral trade deals. In general, investors should expect a continuation of the America first policies regarding trade, buy American initiatives for corporations and consumers, skepticism of transnational organisations like the WTO, greater international burden sharing under NATO, deglobalisation and protectionism. From an oil markets perspective, exporting US oil and gas would remain a priority. A continuation of various trade wars could pose downside risks to economic growth and oil demand, while also boosting some oil and gas trade flows over others, particularly US exports. US sanctions policy vis-à-vis Iran and Venezuela could remain volatile, adding geopolitical supply risks to oil markets. The Trump Administration could continue its recent hands-on approach to oil market management, pressuring OPEC+ to cut production should prices fall too low, hurting the US oil sector, but also potentially pressuring OPEC+ to raise production should prices move too high, hurting US consumers.

Material shift in energy strategy under Biden

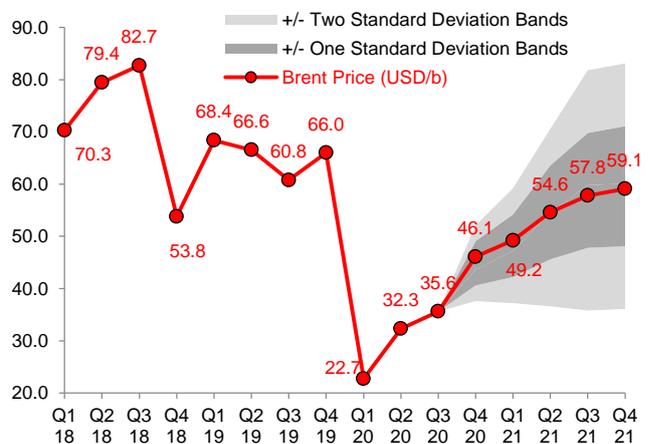
A Biden presidency would look quite different from the last four years and probably would be a return to traditional governance and global engagement. Regarding international policies, Biden will reengage the US in multilateralism and internationalism. From an oil markets perspective, investors will likely see a reversal of much of the deregulation that has occurred affecting the energy sector. Indeed,

ENERGY USE BY SECTOR IN THE US (% OF TOTAL)



Source: Bloomberg, EIA, MUFG MENA Research

BRENT QUARTER-END WITH STANDARD DEVIATION BANDS (USD/B)



Source: Bloomberg, MUFG MENA Research

there likely will be more regulation with clean energy more front of mind. Biden's platform is light with respect to taxation policy though it does target the energy sector. Biden has stated that he would cut fossil fuels subsidies and use tax provisions to help finance green energy and infrastructure policies.

A greener future under Biden

By and large, Biden's energy policies are anchored between the Trump Administration's US energy dominance goal on the one hand, and policies advocating keeping all fossil fuels in the ground on the other. His main focus is upon investment in green infrastructure and energy. There is a greater likelihood of realisation of these policies should the Democrats win the White House and both chambers of Congress. On green energy, Biden aims to reengage the US in global leadership towards sustainable energy goals. Biden does support a 100% clean energy US economy and net zero emissions by 2050. However, he does intend to help the US energy sector to transition towards a greener future. Some of his actions could include:

1. Recommitting to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
2. Investing in efficient buildings; clean energy: ethanol, biofuels, wind and solar energy, and nuclear energy
3. Investing in fuel efficient vehicles, electric vehicles and trucks; and bolstering the Clean Air Act
4. Advocating carbon capture and sequestration; lowering airline and shipping emissions; modifying royalties to account for climate costs

Sector implications are significant under a Biden presidency

Should Biden firm the position on fossil fuels production drawdown, this could prompt a material restructuring in non-energy sectors that use energy as an input. Clear sectors through a green future scenario include the transportation industry, which uses fossil fuels to propel passenger vehicles, planes, trucks and trains. A less obvious, though important example of the effects of a green future resulting in major changes in non-energy companies includes the plastics and chemicals sectors. Should fossil fuels are no longer allowed to be used for energy consumption, then energy companies might opt to take market share in the chemicals sector in the production of petrochemicals, where carbon content is not emitted, fuelling increased output, but capping prices.

Medium-term oil prices are likely to fluctuate between USD45/b and USD60/b

The significant price and demand headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic has created a crisis in the oil patch. The fallout will continue post the November elections. Any effort to project medium term oil prices should account for the multifaceted set of factors and expectations surrounding future policies as well as the fundamentals of future demand and supply trends. Factoring in either a Trump or Biden win, we believe that prices are likely to fluctuate in a corridor between USD45/b and USD60/b for Brent between 2020-24, with a long-term anchor near the industry's marginal cost of production and support of ~USD55/b. In the more immediate term, and as we recently documented, we remain resolutely bullish on oil prices (see [here](#) and [here](#)), with the market rebalancing underway leading oil prices to transition from relief rally to cyclical tightening. Indeed, the sheer velocity of OPEC+ cuts and involuntary shut-ins, alongside the oil inventory draws will likely to drive a strengthening of the forward curve and a flip from contango to backwardation in the second half of this year. The structural outcome of the ongoing rebalancing leading our models to forecast Brent averaging USD43/b and USD55/b in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Ranges & Outlook for the week ahead

BRENT – NEUTRAL BIAS – (38.00-48.00)

WTI – NEUTRAL BIAS – (36.00-46.00)

	Spot close 08.07.20	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
Brent	43.24	35.60	46.10	49.20	54.60
NYMEX	40.80	30.60	41.60	45.20	50.30
		Range	Range	Range	Range
Brent		28.35-54.85	35.10-57.10	37.70-60.70	43.10-66.10
NYMEX		23.35-49.85	30.60-52.60	33.70-56.70	38.80-61.80

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