



# The Future of Rental

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How economic issues and the supply chain are affecting the equipment rental market

Wayne Walley, VP Publications



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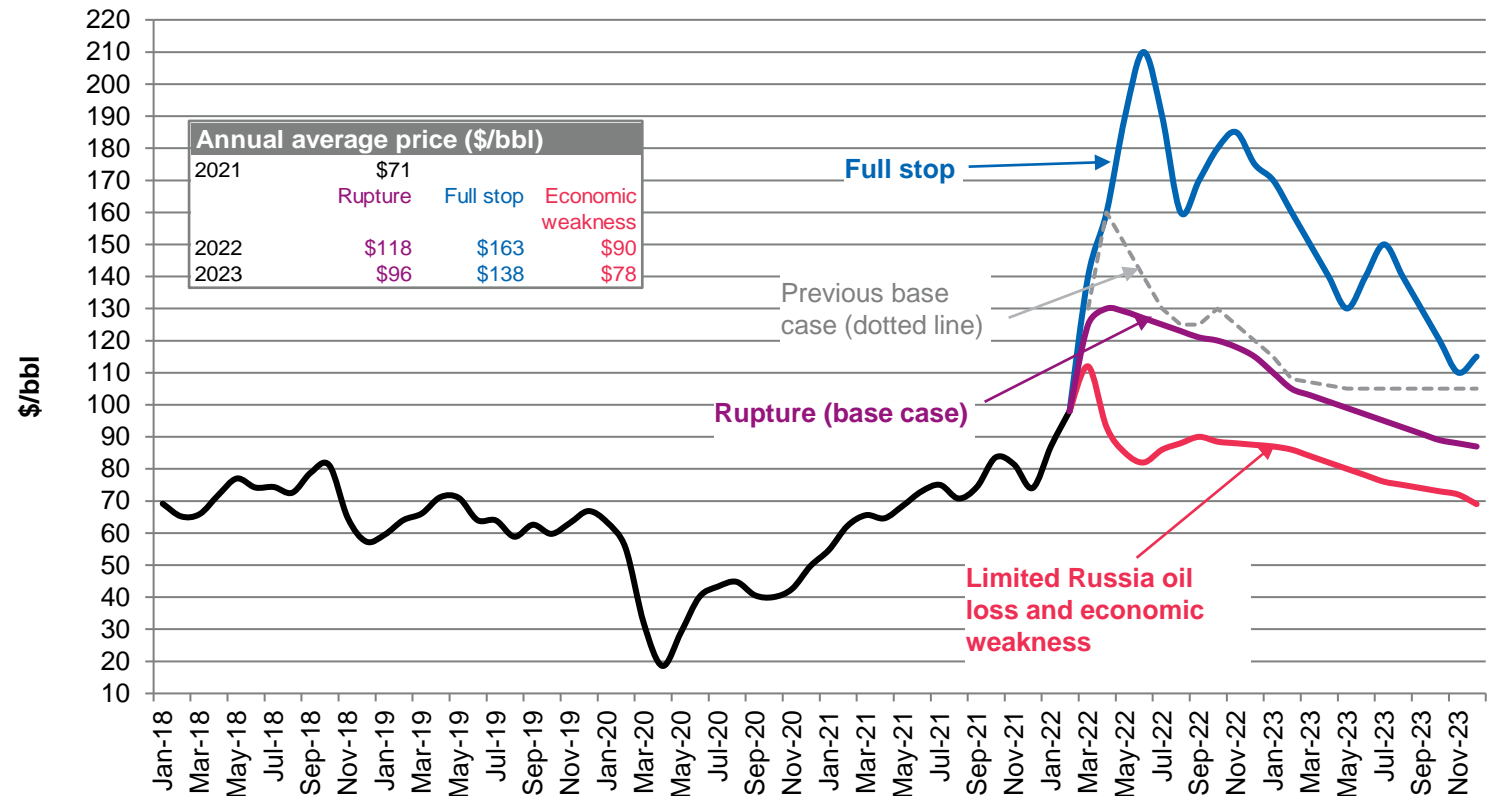
# S&P Global Presentations

# Diesel prices are high both in the United States and globally due to many factors

- High crude price due to the Ukraine/Russia war and supply constraints
- High demand
- High cost of production
- Low diesel inventory globally

# The primary cause of higher diesel prices are due to higher crude prices

Dated Brent price scenarios



Note: Prices shown are indicative monthly price averages and not intended to project daily/weekly high and low prices.  
Source: IHS Markit, Argus Media Limited (historical prices)

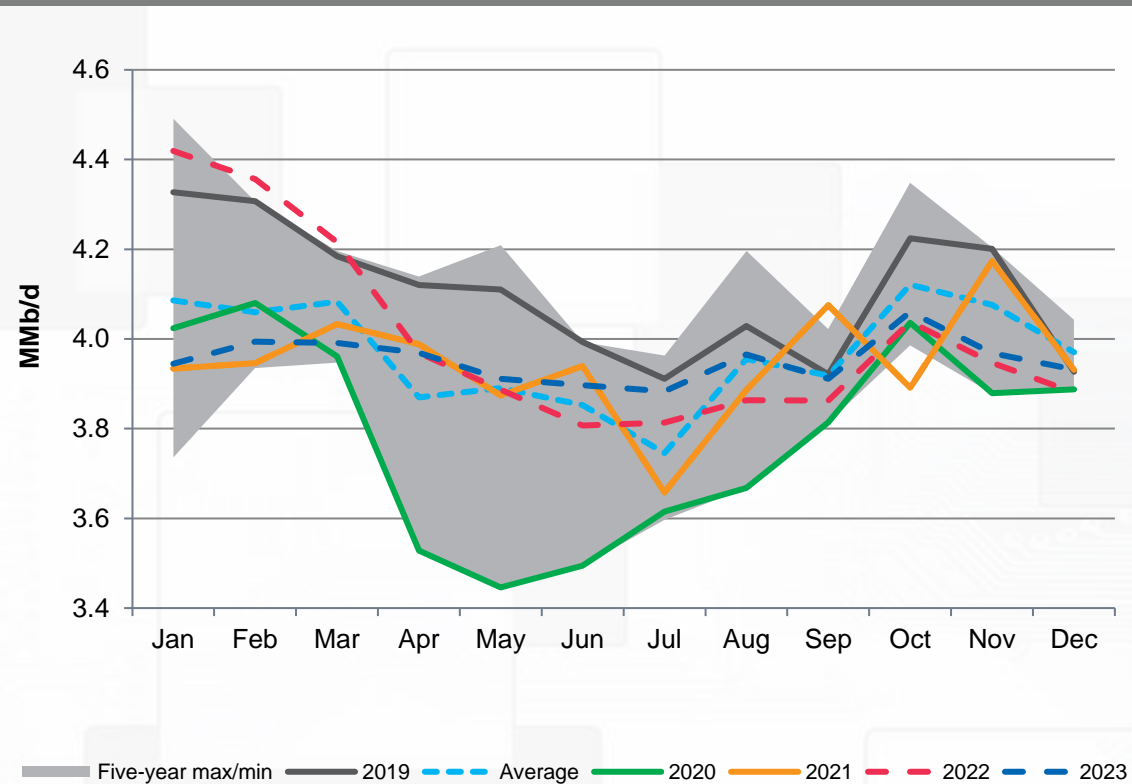
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- **Rupture (base case).** Volatile range of 1–3 MMb/d cut to Russian oil exports.
  - Saudi Arabia and the UAE raise output through 2022
  - World oil demand growth of 2.6 MMb/d in 2022, 3.2 MMb/d in 2023.
  - Production gains outside of OPEC+ deal total 3.7 MMb/d for the year, including growth from Iran in second half 2022.
  - Strategic reserves are released at times.
  - Commercial inventories rise from low levels of first quarter 2022.
- **Full stop.** About 4–6 MMb/d of Russian oil exports stop.
  - Little to no supply growth from Iran.
  - Increases in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are too little and too late.
  - Strategic and commercial inventories drained to low levels, even as demand falls.
  - Weaker than expected production gains outside OPEC+.
- **Limited Russia oil loss and economic weakness.** Estimated 0–1 MMb/d cut to Russian exports and weaker oil demand.
  - Weak oil demand growth as COVID-19 leads to widescale lockdowns in mainland China.
  - Inventories increase by the end of 2022.



# March diesel demand maintains healthy rates on strong trucking VMTs; Softer demand expected through 2023 as durable good purchases subside

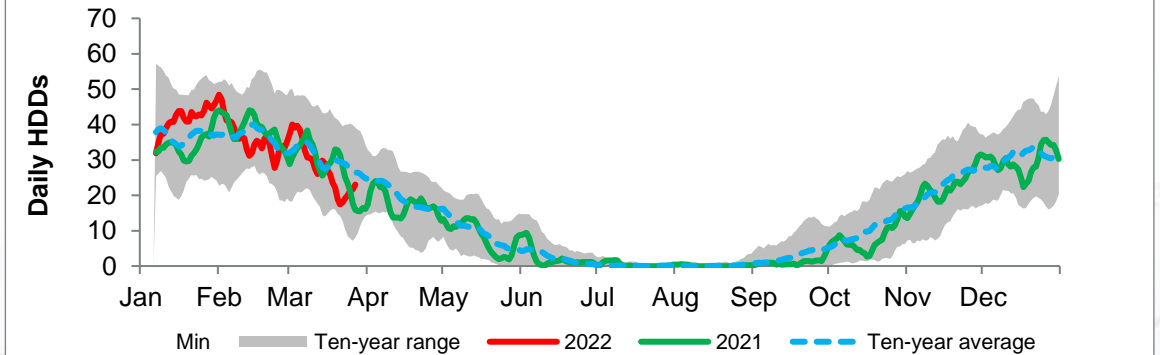
US diesel demand



Source: IHS Markit, EIA

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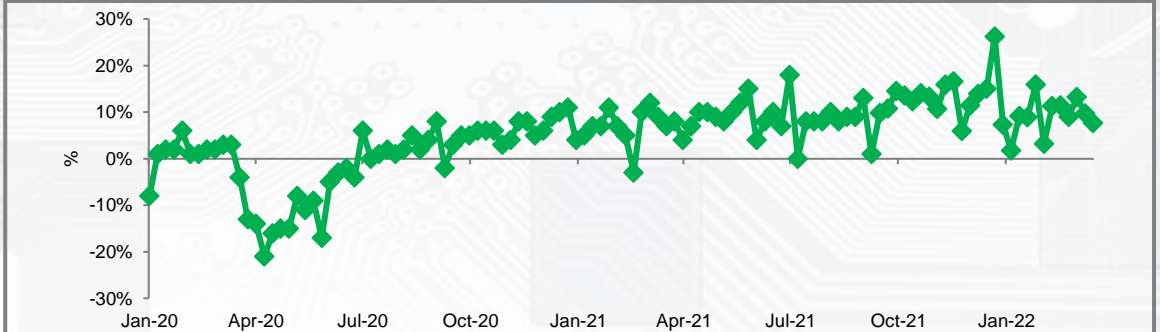
New England seven day moving average daily HDDs



Source: IHS Markit, NOAA

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Trucking VMT year over year change vs 2019

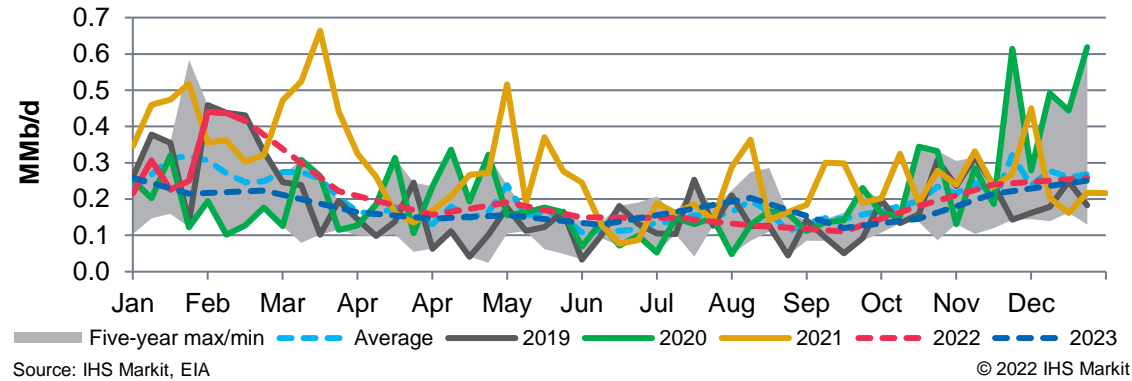


Source: IHS Markit, DOT

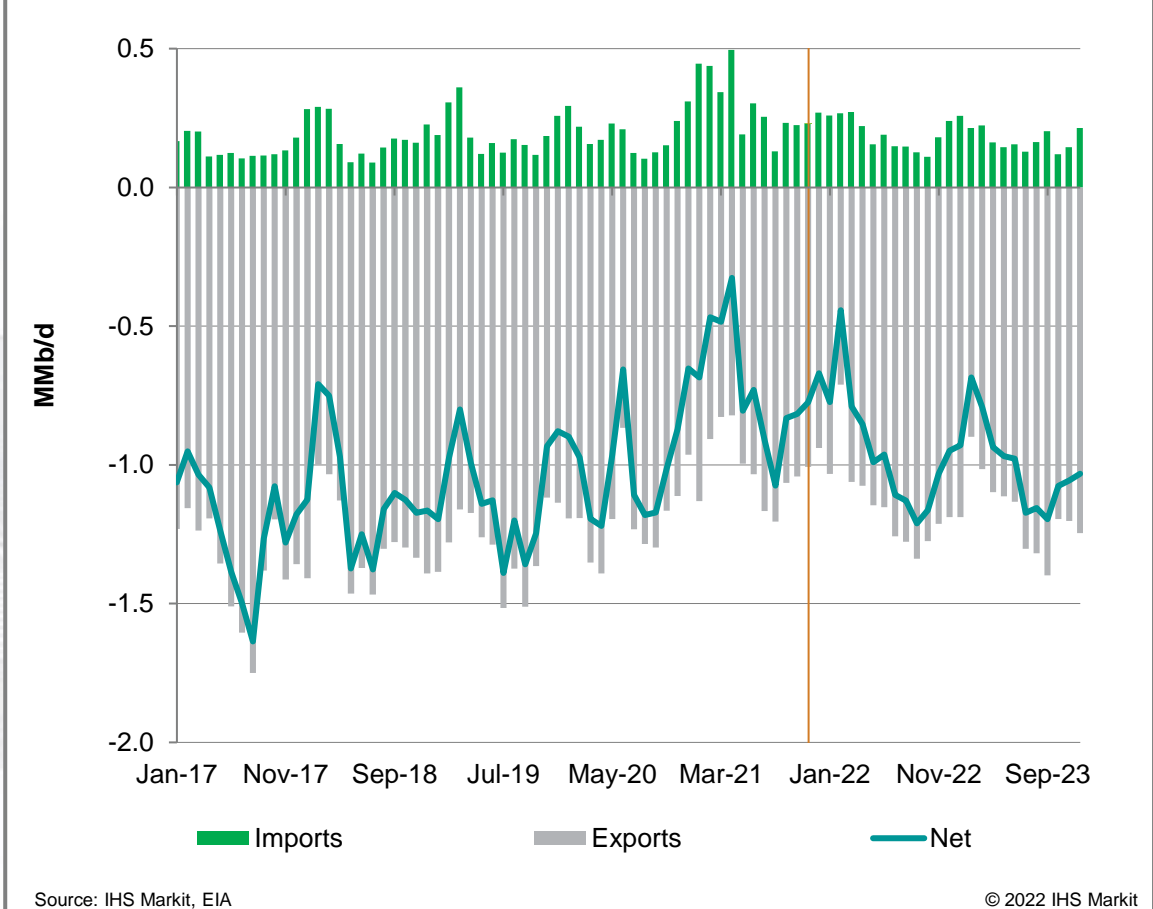
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# Europe requires diesel from the US Gulf Coast and Russia to balance their market. The US east coast also imported diesel from Russia

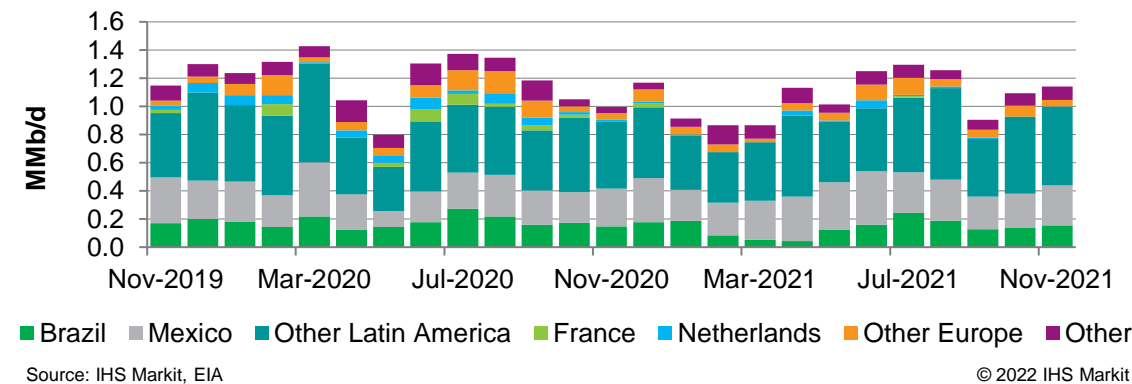
Distillate weekly imports



US diesel trade balance

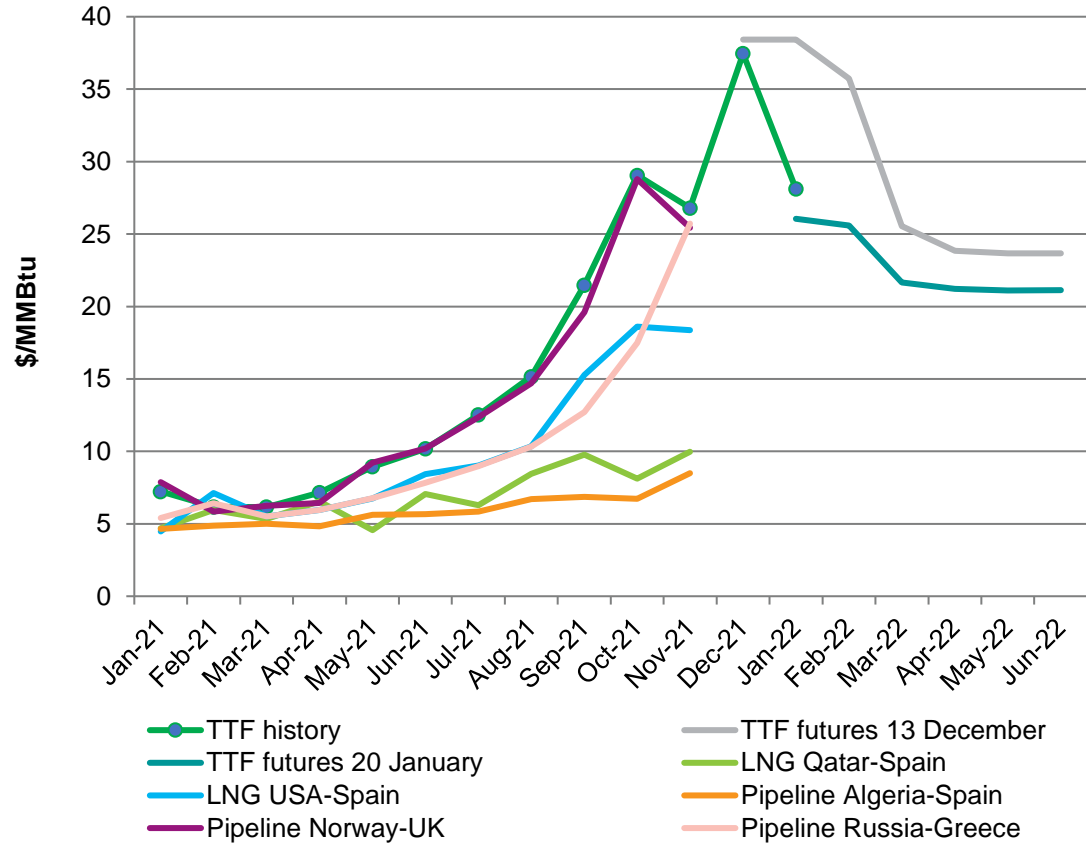


US diesel export by destination



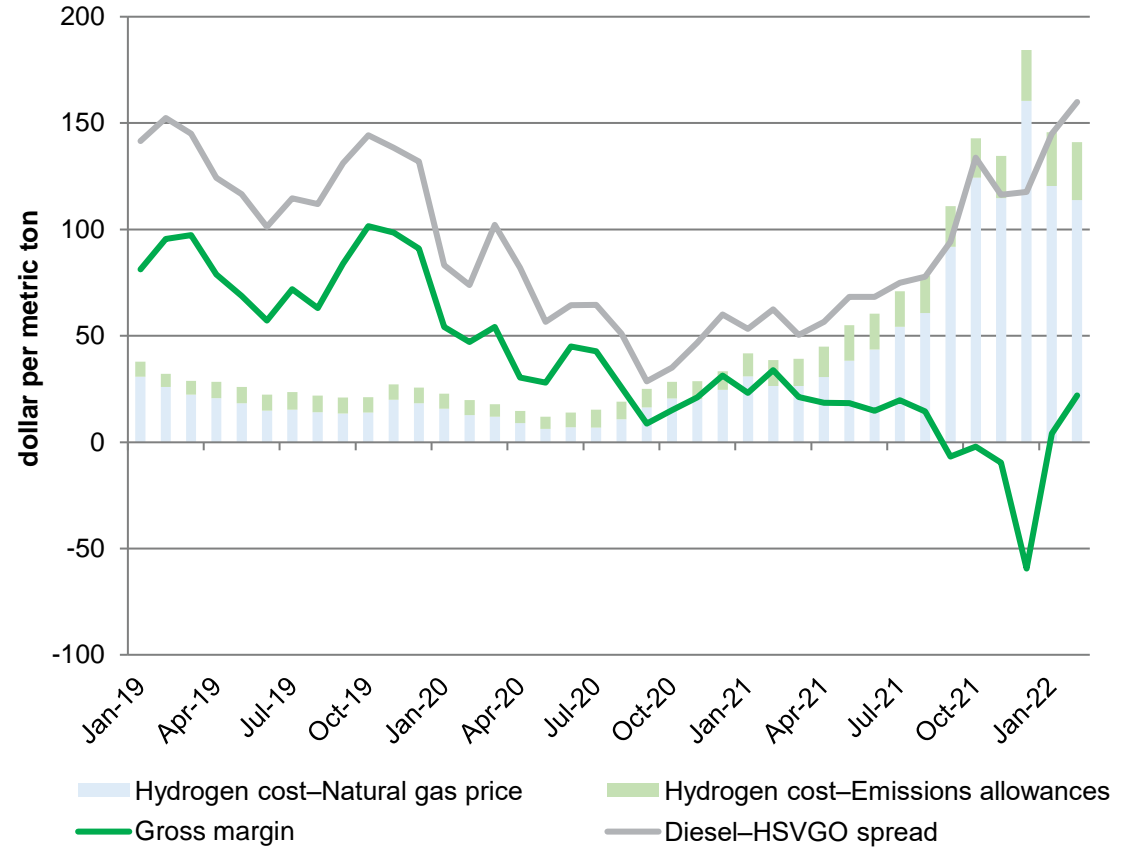
# High natural gas prices in Europe have significantly increased the cost to produce diesel

European natural gas prices



Note: bilateral trade derived from country pairs for HS codes 271111 (LNG) and 271121 (pipeline gas) reported in USD per GJ  
 Source: IHS Markit Global Gas, Global Trade Atlas, Argus Media, CME Group © 2022 IHS Markit

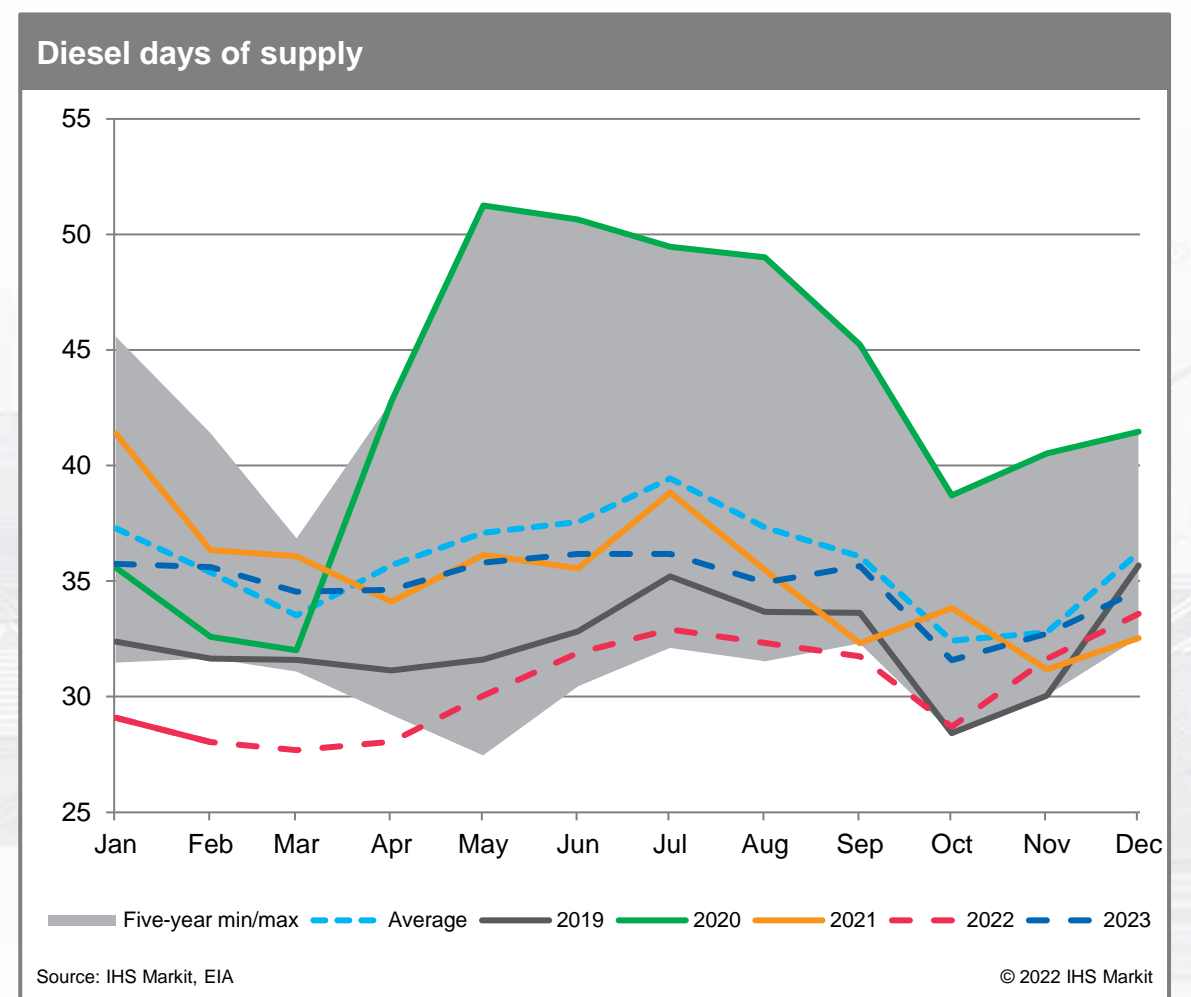
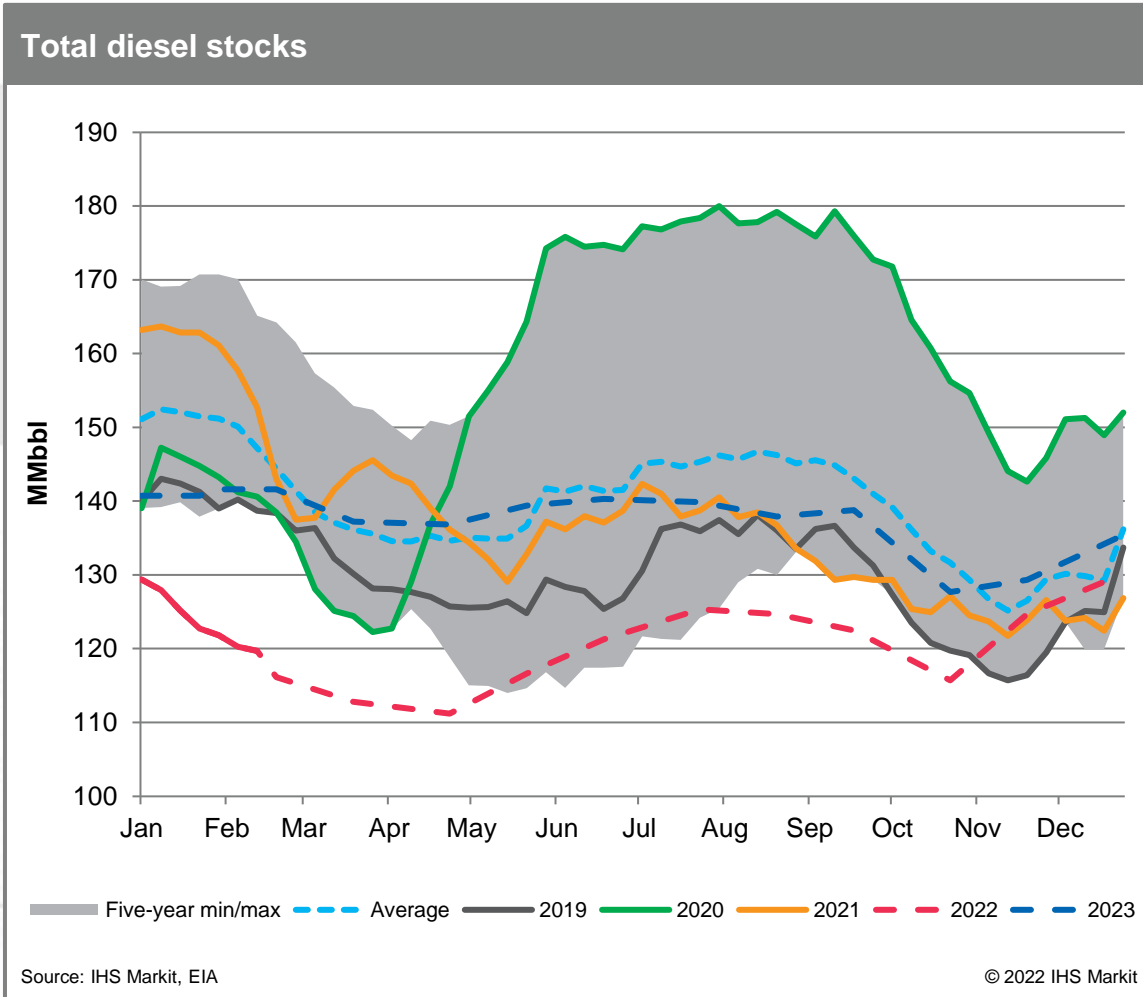
Indicative hydrocracker margin, full exposure to spot natural gas prices



Note: hydrogen cost based on 3 times the natural gas price and 9 times that CO2 price, assuming 2.94% H2/feed ratio  
 Source: IHS Markit © 2022 IHS Markit

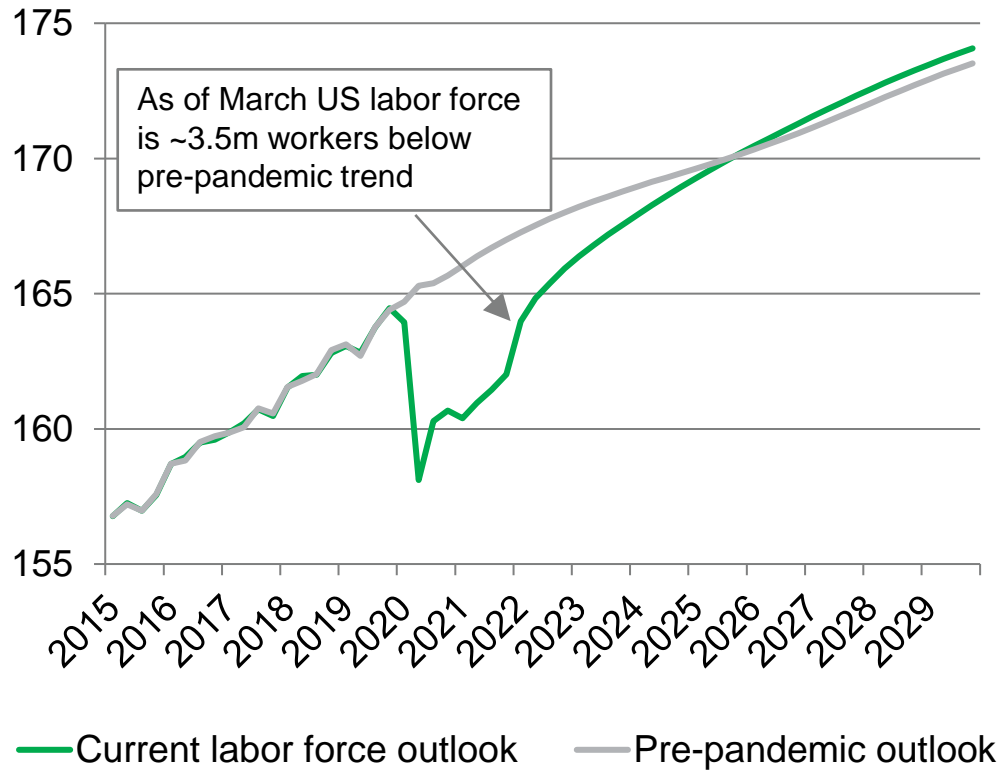


# Distillate stocks exit February at critically low levels; Softer diesel demand through second half of the year and yield shifts towards distillate should help inventories rebuild



# US labor markets experiencing historic shortages

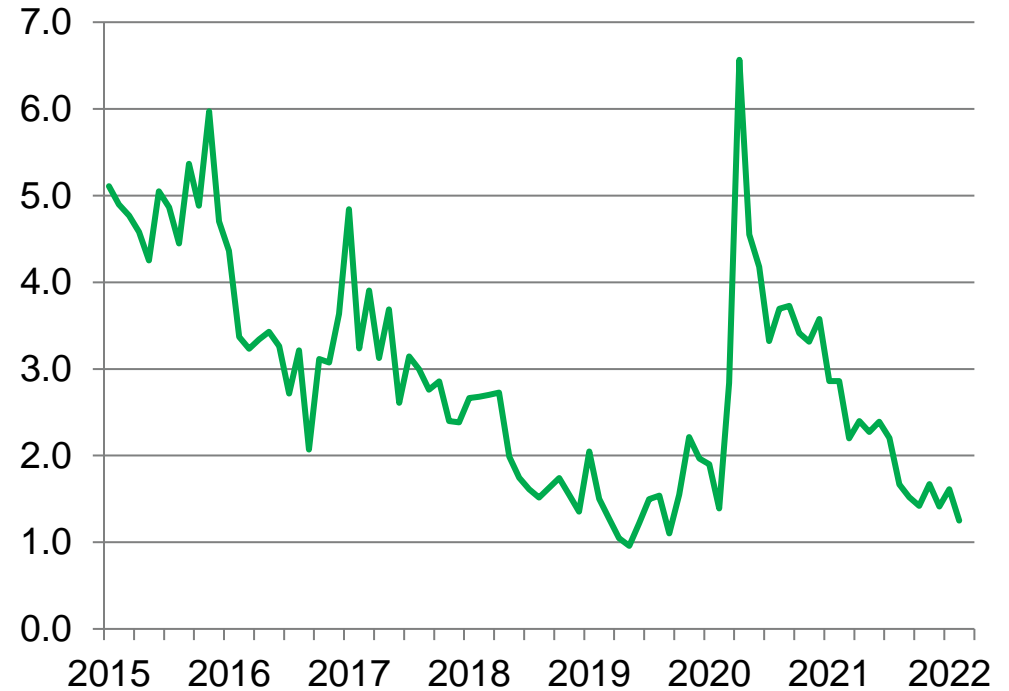
## US Labor Force (millions)



Source: IHS Markit

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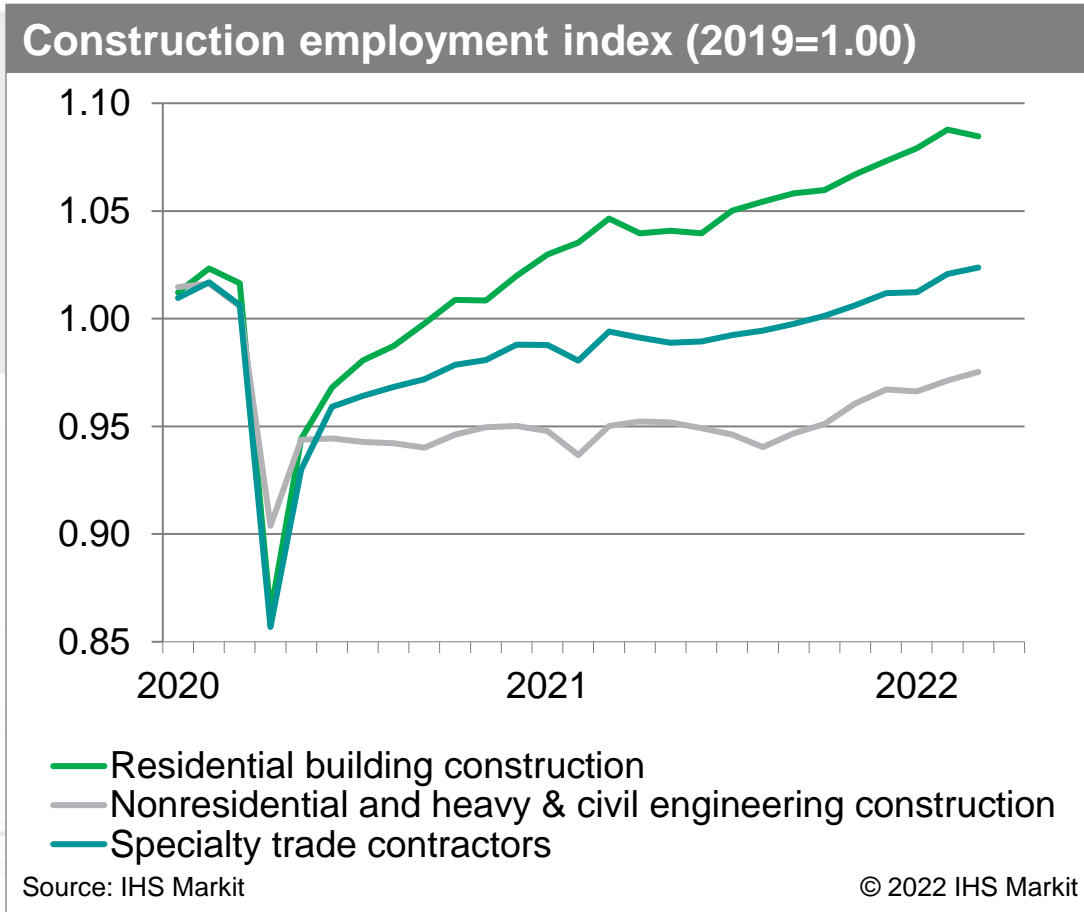
## Construction industry: available workers per job opening (seasonally adjusted)



Source: IHS Markit

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# IIJA poses upside risk for construction trade workers



- Activity has been concentrated in residential building, where employment is now 9% higher than pre-pandemic levels (72k workers)
- Meanwhile nonresidential building and heavy and civil engineering employment are still 3% below pre-pandemic levels, and have lost nearly 60k workers
- Looking forward we expect rising interest rates combined with the higher cost of construction to begin to cool residential markets, taking some pressure off of labor demand
- However, IIJA spending will partially offset this slowing demand
  - IIJA increased our outlook for wage growth for heavy and civil contractors by half a percentage point per year between 2023 and 2025

# Recent weakness in nonresidential and heavy and civil construction likely to have longer-term impact on worker availability

- The Good News:
  - Not all workers have left construction, occupations like electricians, plumbers, roofers, have moved into specialty trade contractors or residential building
- The Bad News:
  - Workers in professions more highly concentrated in nonresidential and heavy and civil construction have faced 2 years of weak job prospects, and are at a higher risk of permanently leaving workforce
    - These workers have a higher level of training and experience and will be difficult to replace, and also tend to be older
    - IIJA will increase demand for many of these occupations, increasing risk of shortages

## Occupations at highest risk of shortages

### Millwrights

- 50% of workers over 45
- Requires up to 1 year of training
- Very small labor force

### Riggers

- 75% of workers over the age of 45
- Requires up to 1 year of training

### Industrial Machinery Mechanics

- 50% of workers over 45
- Requires up to 4 years of training

### Pipelayers

- 30% of workers over the age of 45
- Heavily exposed to nonresidential downturn

### Heavy Equipment operators

- 40% of workers over 45
- Requires up to 1 year of training

# Many metals under pressure from the invasion

## Ferrous

- Scrap
- Pig iron
- Slabs
- Iron ore
- Sheet

## Nonferrous

- Aluminum
- Titanium

## Precious

- Palladium

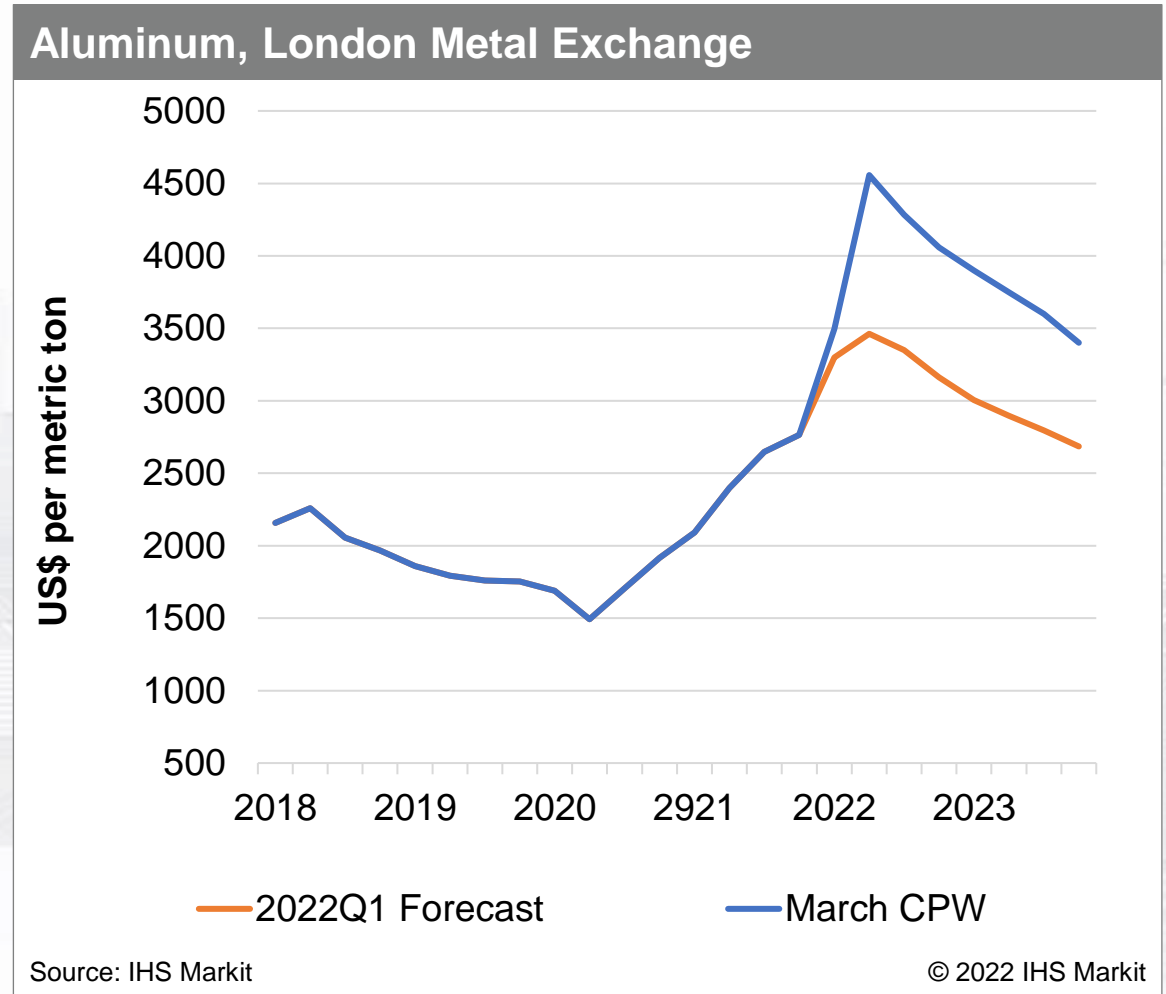
# What do we expect for steel? Record prices, tight supply.

- Input costs are already spiking
  - Ore, scrap, coal, energy will all approach or exceed the extreme prices from last year
- European prices have already exceeded mid-2021 all-time records. **Supply shortages likely.**
  - Hot rolled coil prices fell from record \$1500/metric ton to \$1000 or less, now up to \$1600 and climbing
  - Production cuts happening in the Mediterranean; Northern Europe will soon be short of ore and coal.
- North American price declines turned into rapid increases. **Supply shortages possible.**
  - Russian slabs not going to Mexico, US forced to import pig iron from China
  - European imports not undercutting domestic pricing so not flowing
- Asia feels least impact but cannot escape rise in raw materials. **Supply shortages unlikely.**



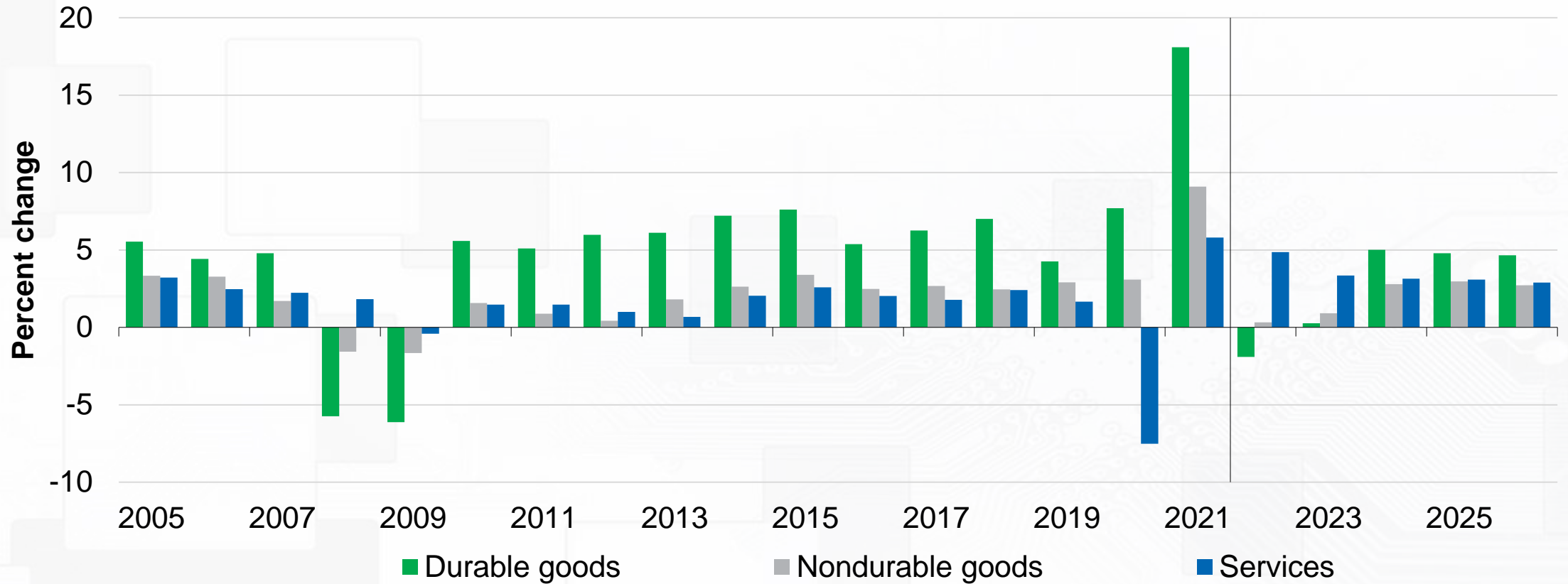
# Aluminum: from bad to worse

- Production cuts in China and EU widen the projected deficit for 2022 before the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Russian sanctions add to concerns about supply
- LME price has hit a 34-yr high with cash prices near \$4,000/mt in early March
- US and EU premiums have also risen, highlighting which regional markets are most vulnerable
- Risk premium has also risen
- Record prices above \$4,200/mt are possible should Russian production falter
  - RUSAL's alumina refinery in Ukraine is closed (1/5 of Russia's requirement)
  - RUSAL's Ireland refinery is not receiving bauxite shipments
  - Australia is refusing to ship alumina to RUSAL
  - Traders in China do have an alumina export arbitrage and may be able to fill some of the gap
- Bottom line: strong fundamentals and supply-side risk provide support for elevated prices



# Transportation system catching up in 2022 as US consumer spending shifts towards services (+4.9%) and away from durable goods (-1.9%)

Real US consumer spending by category



Source: S&P Global

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# What do we expect for logistics? Total costs still high due to fuel

- Trucking, rail and ocean shipping 'base' rates soften from 2021 highs
  - Carriers worked to lock in elevated rates, and shippers, capacity, in Q1 contracts for rest of 2022
  - Shippers who rely on spot market will benefit from softening base rates
  - Overall supply / demand for freight transport moves back toward balance
- Fuel surcharges hit shippers; protect carriers. Partially offset supply/demand rebalancing.
  - Except in very short run spikes, carriers pass through most higher fuel costs to shippers by all modes
- Trucking capacity availability improving with fleet additions and expanded driver workforce.
  - Segments of trucking such as intermodal terminal and container ports still have equipment shortages
  - Intermodal rail likely to increase capacity / performance in 2022, supplementing effective truck capacity
- Warehouse/distribution center/fulfillment center space still tight. Labor still a challenge.

# Freight system capacity / performance improving

- Congestion metrics show reductions in 2022 in trucking, rail and container shipping delays
  - As freight shipments velocity increases, effective capacity increases with same equipment and crews
  - Modest equipment and labor additions combined with past-the-peak demand improves performance
  - COVID shutdowns in China threaten supply chains but not likely worsen shipping performance itself
- Containership backlog at Port of Long Beach/Los Angeles down 60% since January
  - Vessels slow-steaming in 'virtual' queue now, with almost zero ships at anchor awaiting berths
  - Port terminals and rail system still operating at near practical capacity, but improving
- Risk of US West Coast port disruption from dock worker union contract expiration July 1
  - History of labor negotiations shows delays / disruptions possible
  - Main contract issue is not compensation but harder-to-resolve terminal automation limitations
- Diversion to East / Gulf Coast ports already has led to some South Atlantic port congestion



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