



# LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF COVID ON GLOBAL OIL DEMAND



NETL & the USAE Three Rivers Chapter Welcome

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



NATIONAL  
ENERGY  
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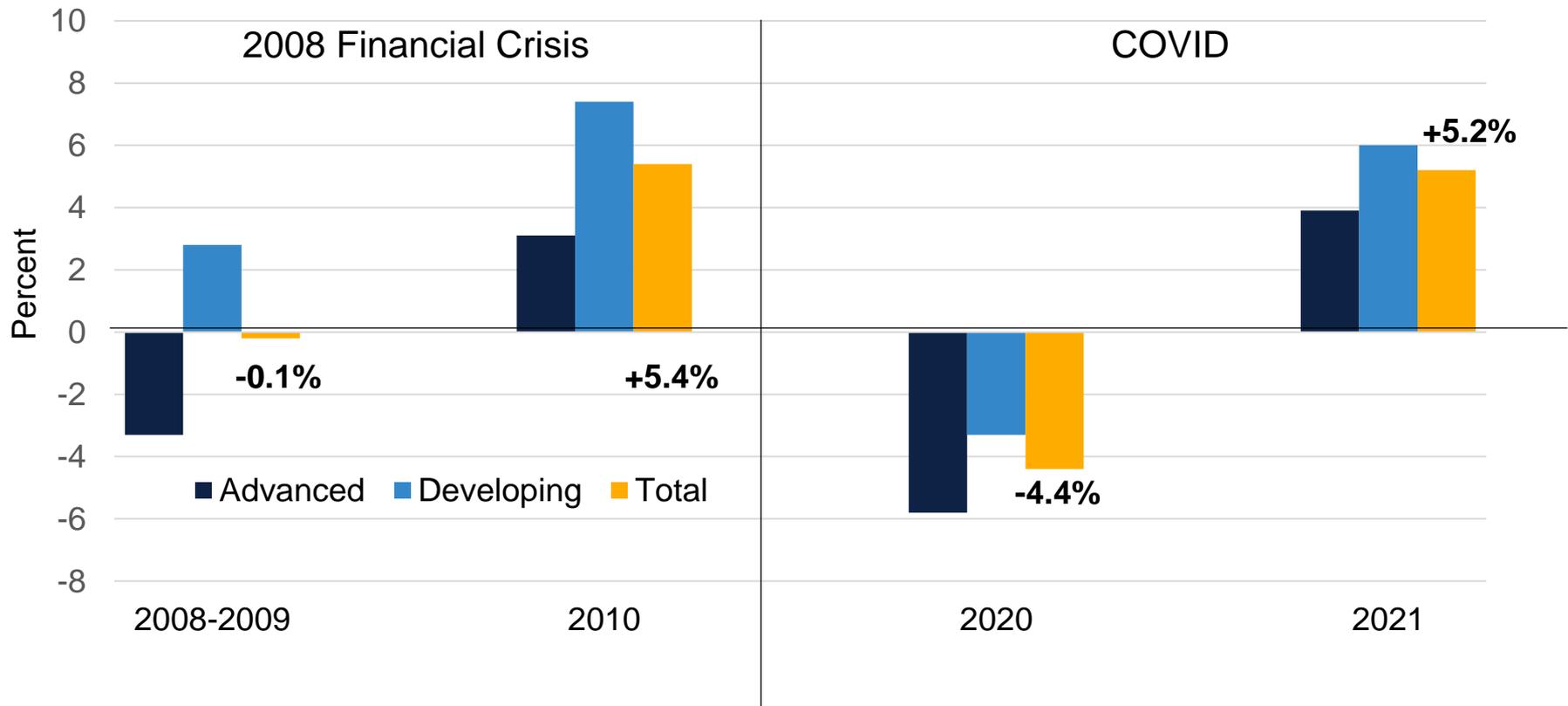
# Scenario Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Long-Term Oil Demand

**Marianne Kah**  
**October 22, 2020**



# IMF Global Economic Growth Forecasts: COVID vs. the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis

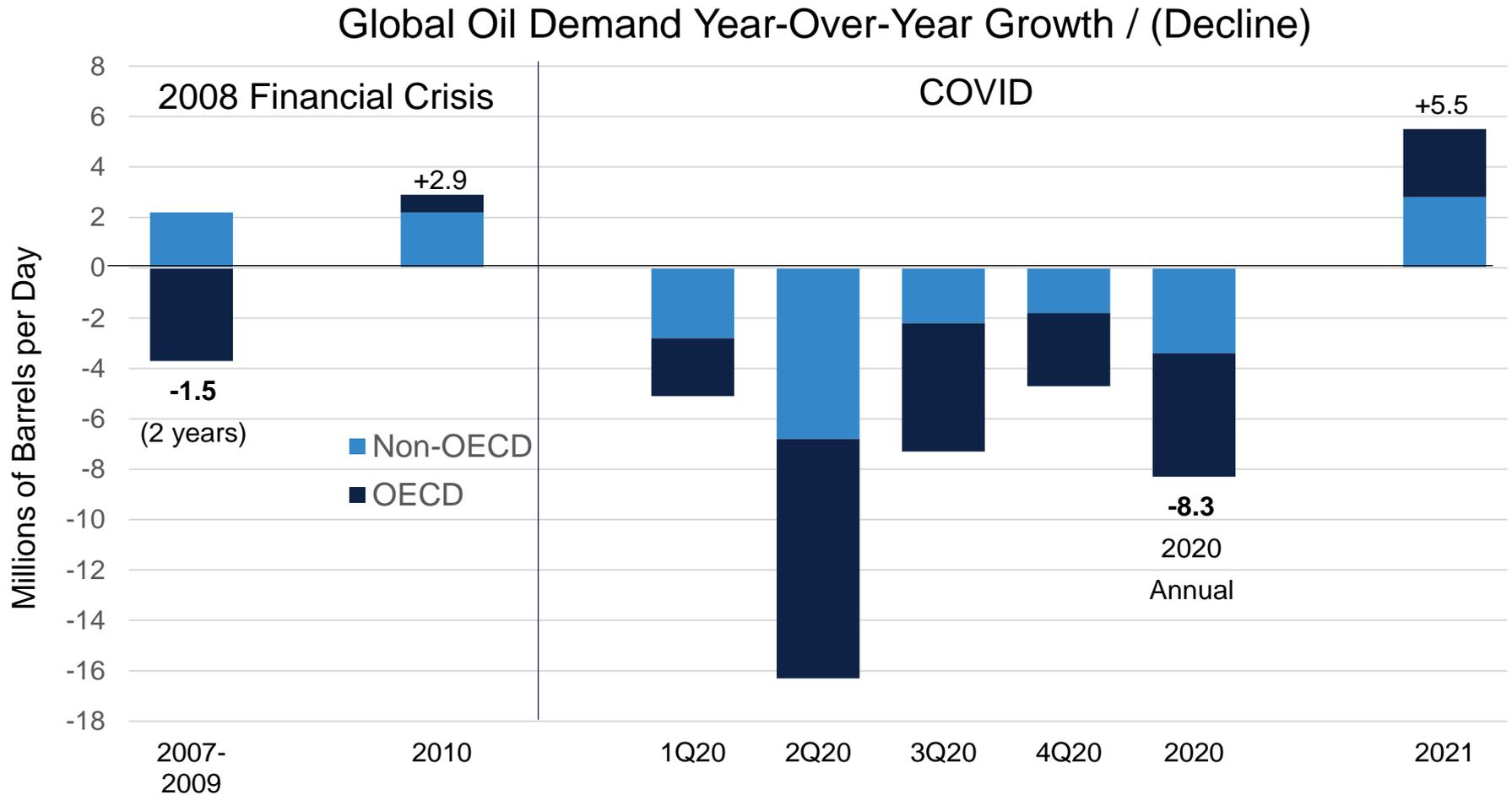
Global Real GDP Growth / (Decline)



The COVID-19 economic decline is on a different scale than the 2008 financial crisis

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook, October 2020 forecast for 2020 and 2021; Historical IMF for 2009 and 2010

# Change in Global Oil Demand: COVID vs. the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis



\*Year-over-year except where noted

Source: International Energy Agency, Oil Market Report, October 14, 2020 and IEA Annual Statistical Supplemental 2007-2009



# China's Traffic Has Returned to 2019 Levels Except During Non-Peak Times on Weekdays

## Beijing traffic

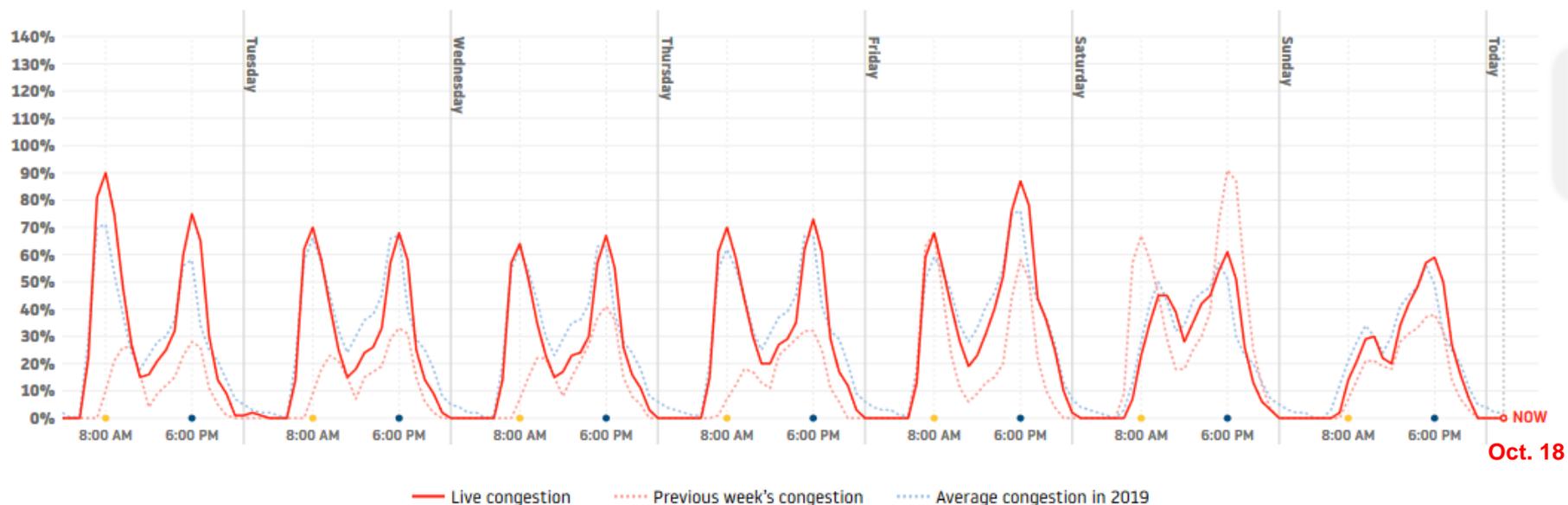
### HOURLY CONGESTION LEVEL

Last 48 hours

Last 7 days

Weekdays

Weekend

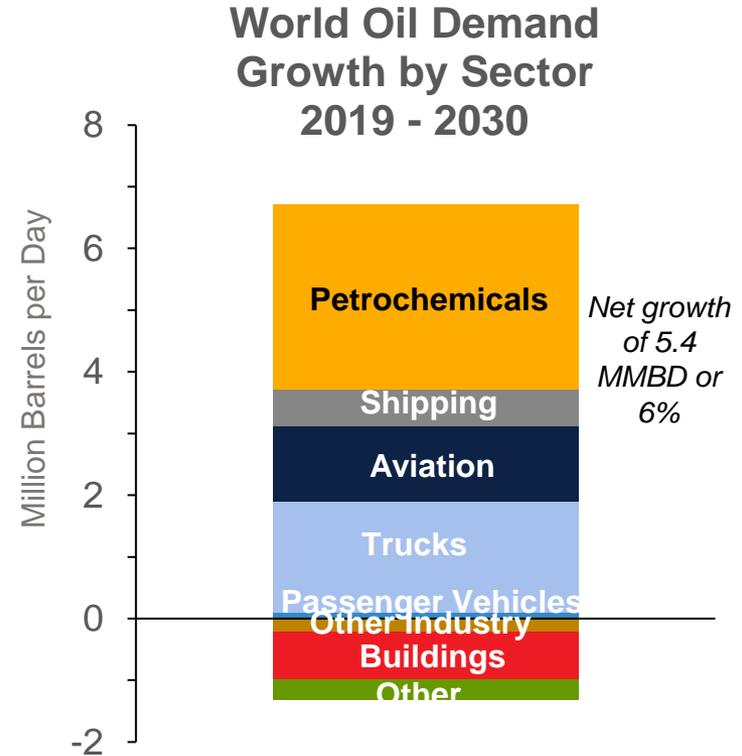
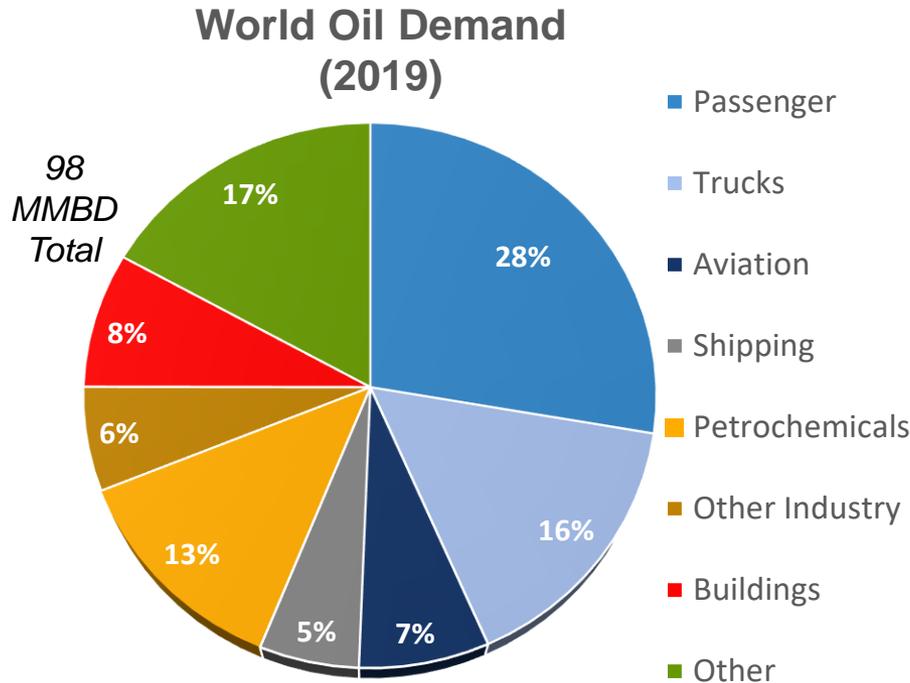


Source: TomTom, October 18, 2020; based on GPS data obtained from navigation devices and applications.

[https://www.tomtom.com/en\\_gb/traffic-index/beijing-traffic/](https://www.tomtom.com/en_gb/traffic-index/beijing-traffic/)

# World Oil Demand Growth by Sector

International Energy Agency 2020 Forecast

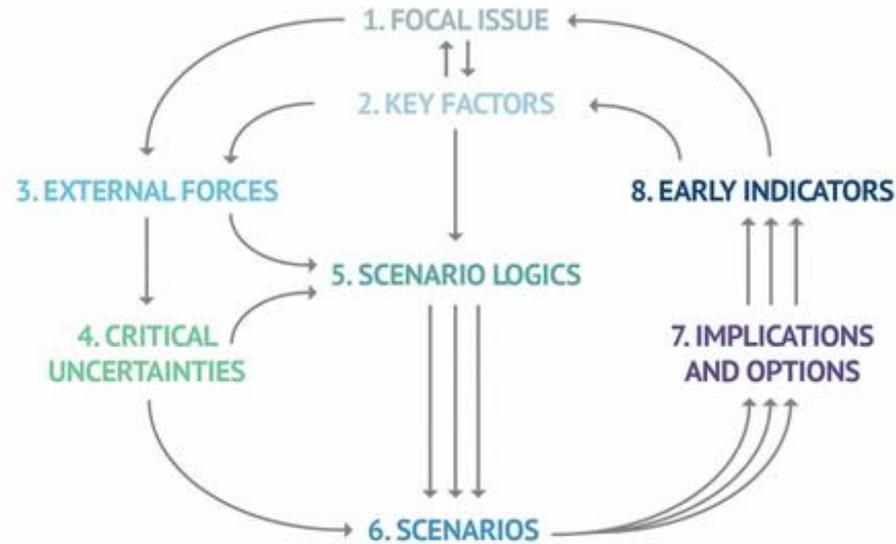


Source: International Energy Agency, 2020 World Energy Outlook, Stated Policies scenario, Other includes other transportation and power.

**Largest expected growth in petrochemicals and trucks with only slight growth in the passenger vehicle sector**

# Scenario Planning Process

## THE EIGHT-STEP SCENARIO PLANNING PROCESS

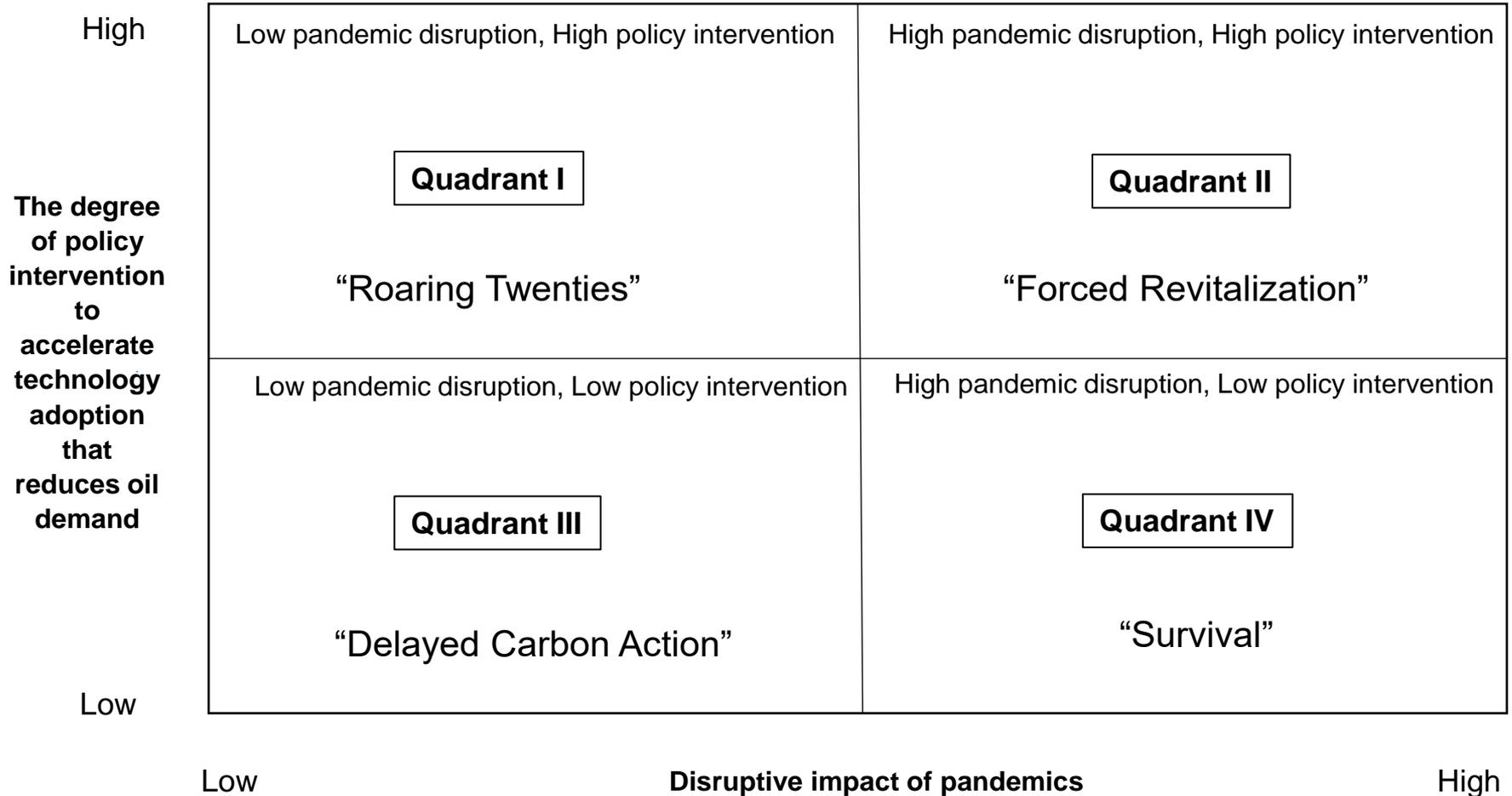


### Critical Uncertainties:

- **Disruptive impact of pandemics** to the global economy and mobility (including duration, recurrence or new diseases)
- **The degree of policy intervention** to accelerate technology adoption that reduces oil demand.

### Time Period: through 2030

# Scenario Logics



# Roaring Twenties: Description

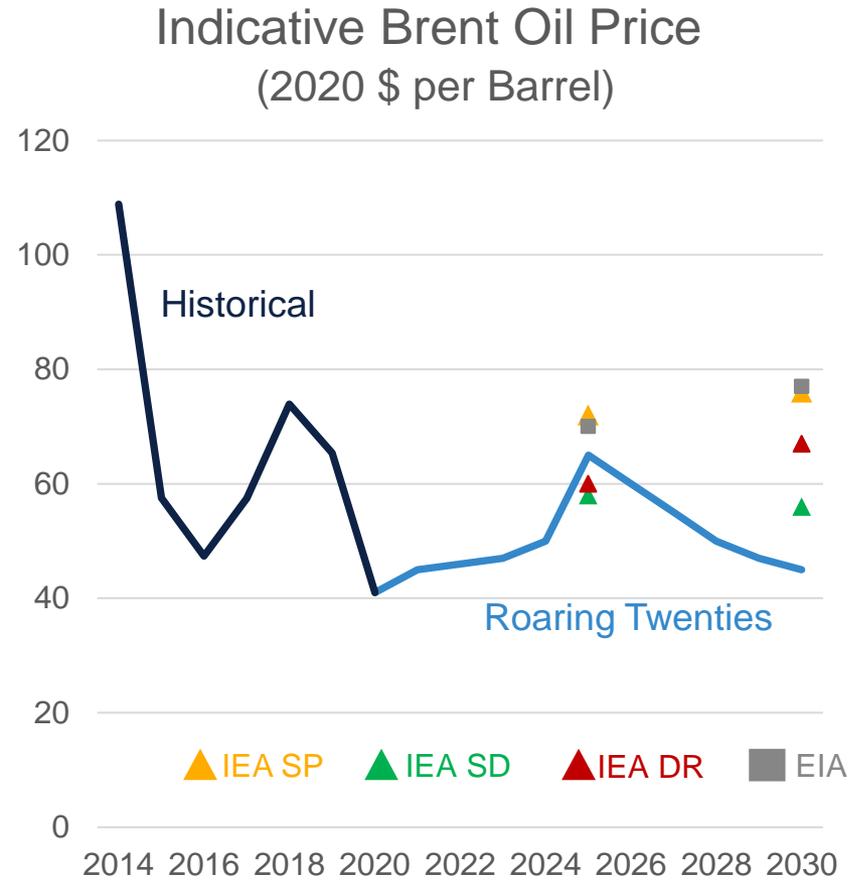
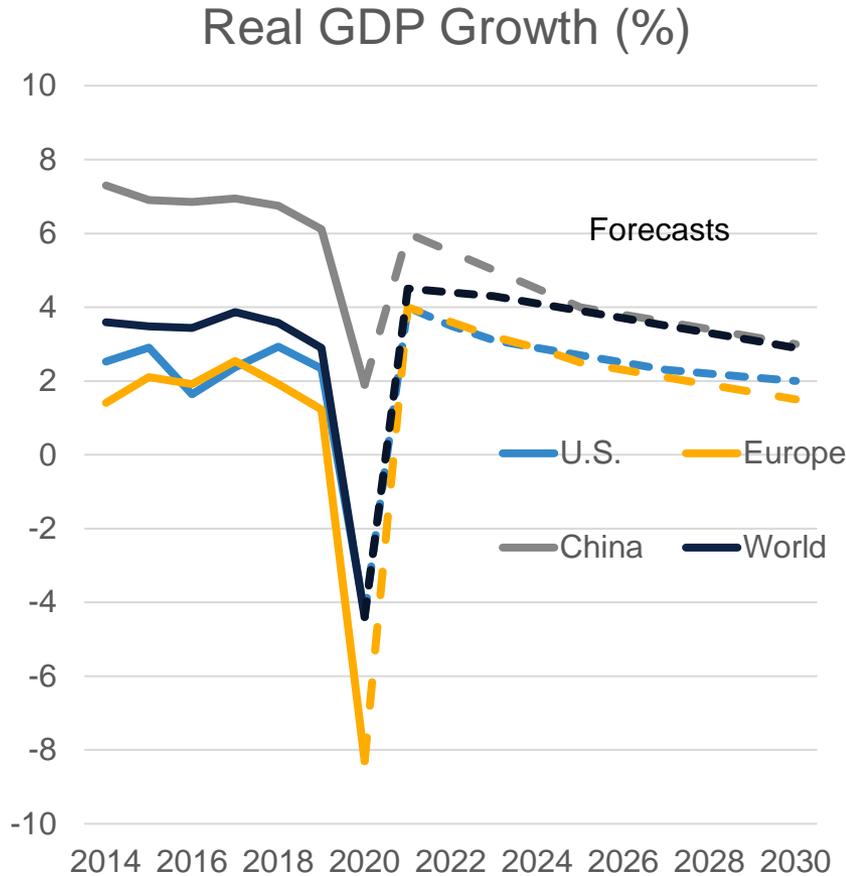
## Low Pandemic, High Policy Intervention

- Effective COVID vaccine and large government stimulus lead to strong and fast global economic rebound.
- The mid-2020s are marked by rapidly rising global oil demand, congestion, pollution and increased GHG emissions.
- Re-globalization shifts government focus from domestic economies to global issues like climate change.
  - U.S. and China work on carbon policies jointly
  - \$50/tonne global carbon shadow price in 2030
- Stringent government policies to address these issues lower oil demand growth.



# Roaring Twenties: Macro Drivers

Low Pandemic, High Policy Intervention



Source: Historical data – IMF for GDP and EIA for Brent spot price; IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Delayed Recovery (DR) scenarios; EIA 2020 Annual Energy Outlook

# Roaring Twenties: Impact on Transportation and Petrochemicals

## Low Pandemic, High Policy Intervention



- Rise in transportation activity
  - Improved global economic growth increases driving, particularly with the return of ride-hailing services.
  - Improved global trade causes rebound in long distance trucking and marine shipping
  - Air travel returns to 2019 levels in 2024
- Governments increase fuel efficiency regulation post 2025 in all modes of transport
- Government zero emissions vehicles policies drive electrification of cars and trucks globally. By 2030:
  - Electric vehicle passenger car sales are 30% of new global car sales.
  - For light-duty commercial trucks, nearly 20% of global sales are electric
  - For heavy-duty trucks, 15% of global sales are for alternative vehicles (e.g., electric, LNG, fuel cell)
- For marine fuels by 2030, more than one-quarter are alternative to oil (e.g., LNG, biofuels, other).
- For petrochemical feedstock by 2030:
  - Global recycling has doubled (from 12% to 24%)
  - Alternative feedstock becomes 10% of the mix (e.g., bioplastics, other low carbon feedstock)
  - Ban on single use plastics increases to 6% of global plastic supply

# Forced Revitalization: Description

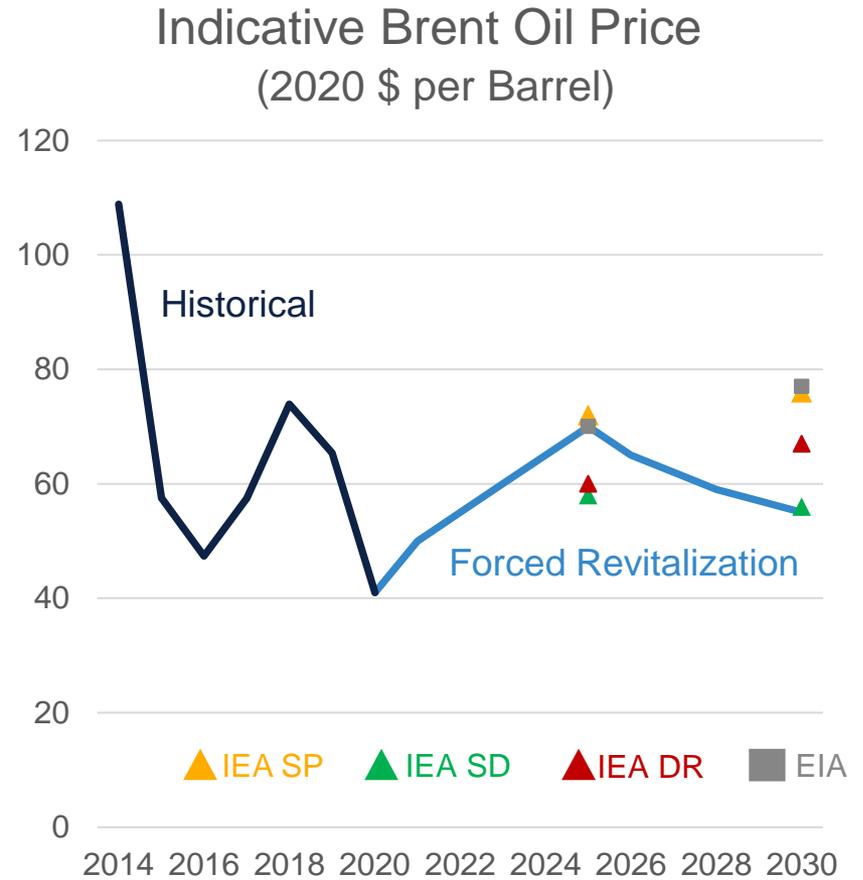
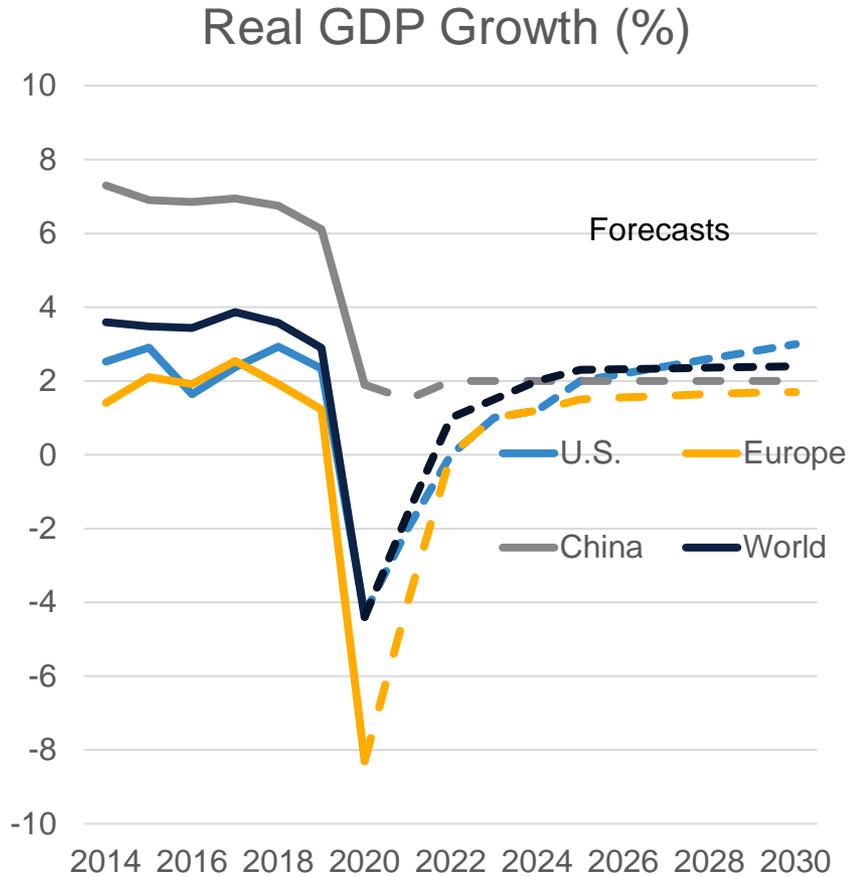
## High Pandemic, High Policy Intervention



- Successive waves of pandemic lower economic growth, and governments view technology innovation as the key to recovery. There is a high-tech competition between the U.S., Europe and China.
- The U.S. develops an industrial policy that incentivizes investment in green technology and innovations in bio-tech and other strategic industries.
- R&D reduces the cost and increases the range of batteries and helps develop affordable low carbon bio-fuels.
- The U.S. and Europe cut China out of their supply chains, which hurts China's economy and reduces global trade. Advances in 3-D printing shorten trading distances.
- A sustained period of low oil prices leads to political instability in oil-producing countries and a temporary supply disruption and higher oil prices in the mid 2020s.

# Forced Revitalization: Macro Drivers

High Pandemic, High Policy Intervention



Source: Historical data – IMF for GDP and EIA for Brent spot price; IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Delayed Recovery (DR) scenarios; EIA 2020 Annual Energy Outlook

# Forced Revitalization: Impact on Transportation and Petrochemicals

## High Pandemic, High Policy Intervention



- Travel activity weakened somewhat
  - Passenger VMT down due to telecommuting and weaker economic growth but offset by significant reduction in use of mass transit and ride-hailing.
  - Weak global trade hurts long distance trucking and marine shipping. Large volume of e-commerce deliveries.
  - Air travel returns to 2019 levels in 2027
- Cost declines from advanced R&D drives vehicle electrification and an increase in the use of biofuels post 2025 across modes of transport. By 2030:
  - Electric vehicle passenger car sales are 30% of new global car sales.
  - For light-duty trucks, nearly 20% of global sales are electric
  - For heavy-duty trucks, 17% of global sales are for alternative vehicles (e.g., electric, LNG, fuel cell)
- For marine fuels by 2030, more than 40% are alternatives to oil (e.g., LNG, biofuels, other), with half of them based on biofuels.
- For petrochemical feedstock by 2030:
  - Two-thirds increase in global recycling (from 12% to 20%)
  - Alternative feedstock becomes 13% of the mix (e.g., mostly bioplastics)
  - Ban on single use plastics increases to 3% of global plastic supply

# Delayed Climate Action: Description

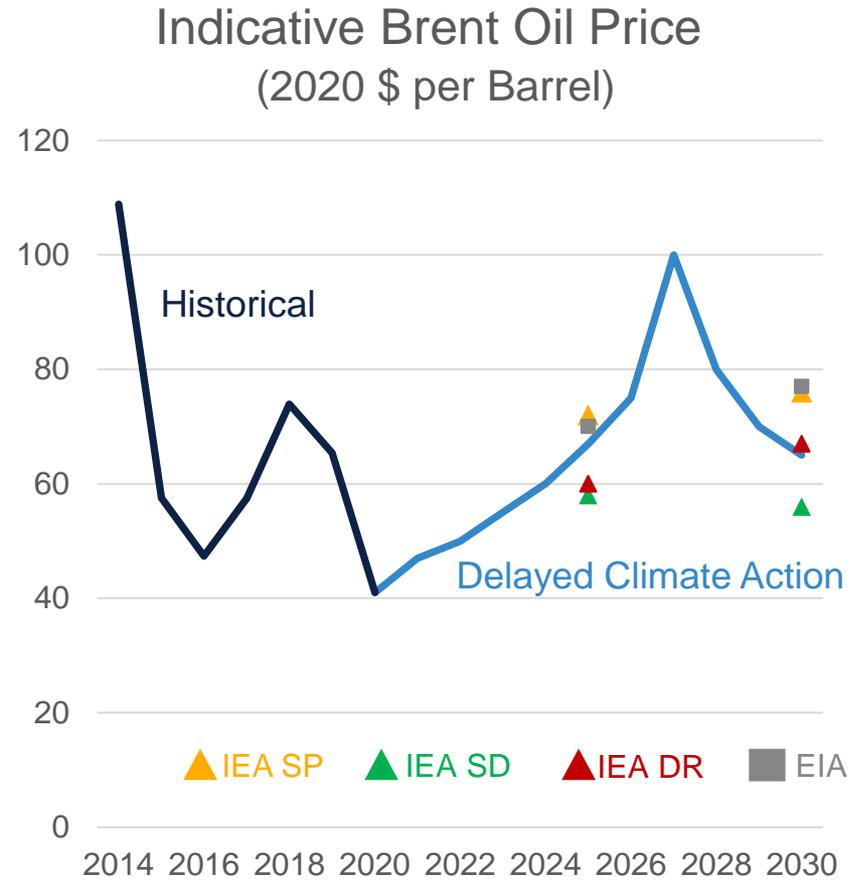
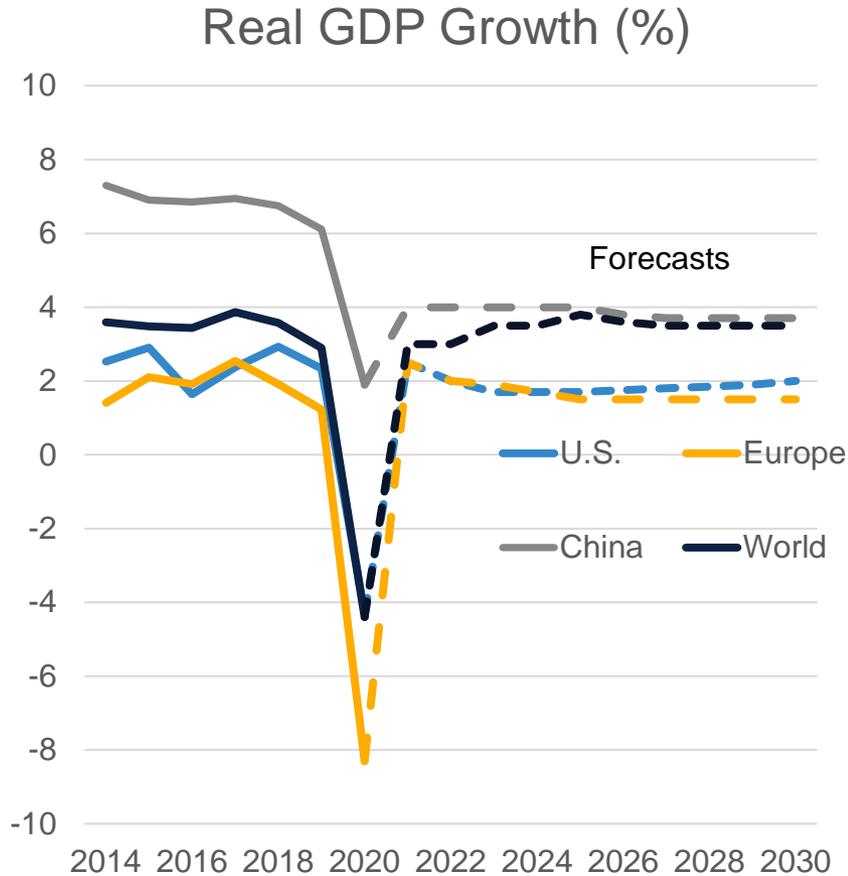
## Low Pandemic, Low Policy Intervention



- There is a successful vaccine for COVID-19 in 2021, and the world regains confidence of avoiding the disease by the end of the year.
- The economic recovery is slow, and most governments focus on stimulating the brown economy and jobs.
- Protectionism and trade tariffs reduce global trade.
- Lack of prioritization of climate change delays action in the U.S., Europe and China until the mid 2020s.
- Robust oil demand growth in the face of weak supply growth causes oil prices to spike temporarily past 2025.

# Delayed Climate Action: Macro Drivers

Low Pandemic, Low Policy Intervention



Source: Historical data – IMF for GDP and EIA for Brent spot price; IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Delayed Recovery (DR) scenarios; EIA 2020 Annual Energy Outlook

# Delayed Carbon Action: Impact on Transportation and Petrochemicals

## Low Pandemic, Low Policy Intervention



- Passenger travel strengthens
  - Telecommuting is greatly reduced and telecommuters travel more miles on average daily than non-telecommuters as they have historically.
  - Ride-hailing comes back strongly, boosting passenger vehicle miles traveled
  - Air travel returns to 2019 levels in 2025
- Some national governments become more lenient on fuel efficiency standards and electrification for a few years while the global economy recovers.
- In terms of alternative vehicles and fuels, by 2030:
  - Electric vehicle passenger car sales rise to about 11% of new global car sales.
  - For light- and medium-duty trucks, 8-to-9% of global sales are electric.
  - For all trucks, about 6% of fueled used are alternatives to diesel (e.g., electric, LNG, biofuel, fuel cell)
- For marine fuels by 2030, more than 20% are alternatives to oil (e.g., LNG, biofuels, other), with 60% of those using LNG.
- For petrochemical feedstock, no single use plastics bans or increases in recycling by 2030.

# Survival: Description

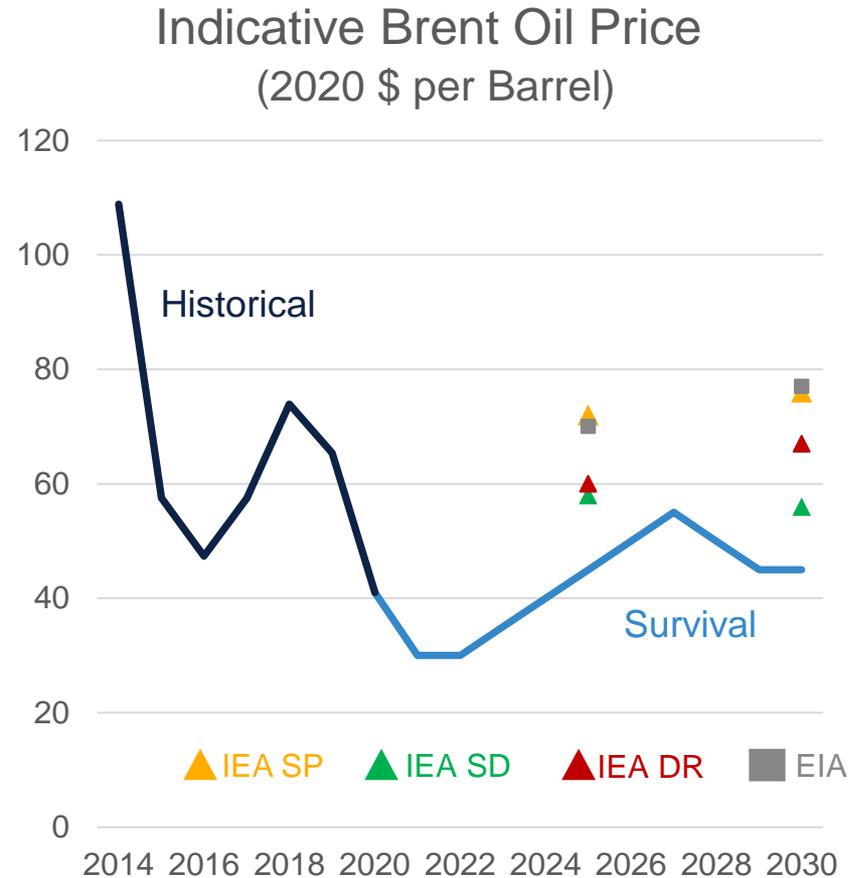
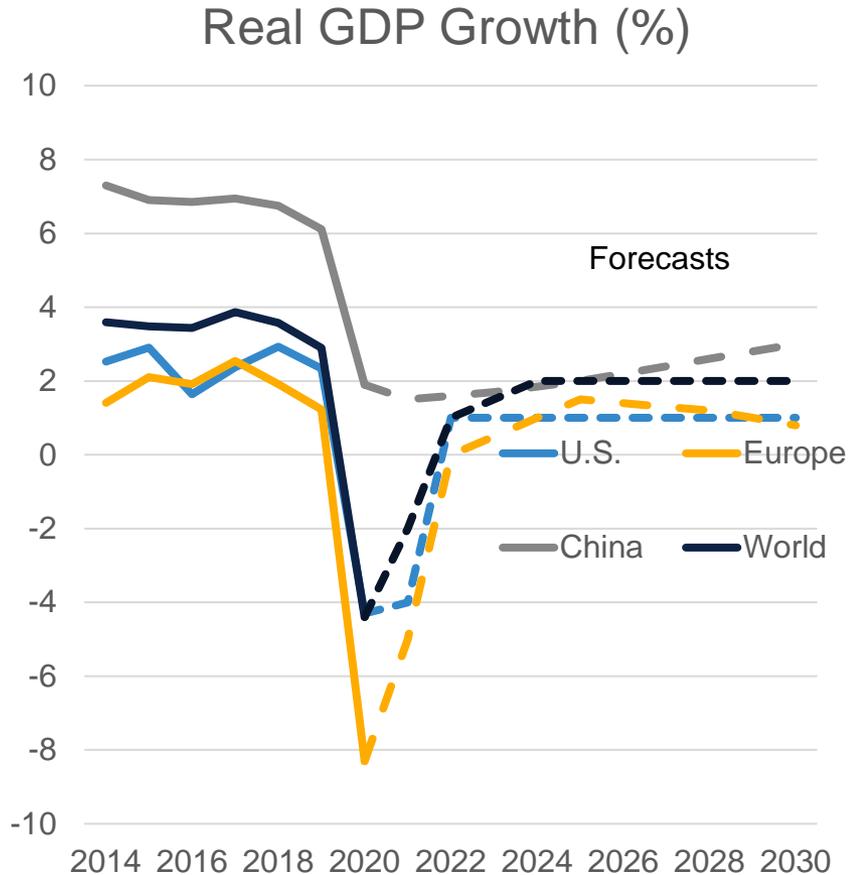
## High Pandemic, Low Policy Intervention



- Continued fear about infection and continued weak economic growth cause governments to de-prioritize environmental concerns in favor of jobs and health and safety concerns.
- Virus concerns as well as the rise in income inequality and social unrest cause those who can afford it move out of the city.
- While the weak economy & telecommuting hurts oil demand, this is partially offset by:
  - The rise of the personal vehicle as a substitute for mass transit and ride-hailing,
  - Rising purchases of used cars with lower fuel efficiency vs. higher cost EVs, and
  - People who move to the suburbs or rural areas drive significantly more.
- City governments adopt policies to improve air quality and make cities more attractive
- Relatively weak oil demand and a period of sustained low oil prices lead to periodic supply disruptions in oil-producing countries and temporary price spikes.

# Survival: Macro Drivers

## High Pandemic, Low Policy Intervention



Source: Historical data – IMF for GDP and EIA for Brent spot price; IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Delayed Recovery (DR) scenarios; EIA 2020 Annual Energy Outlook

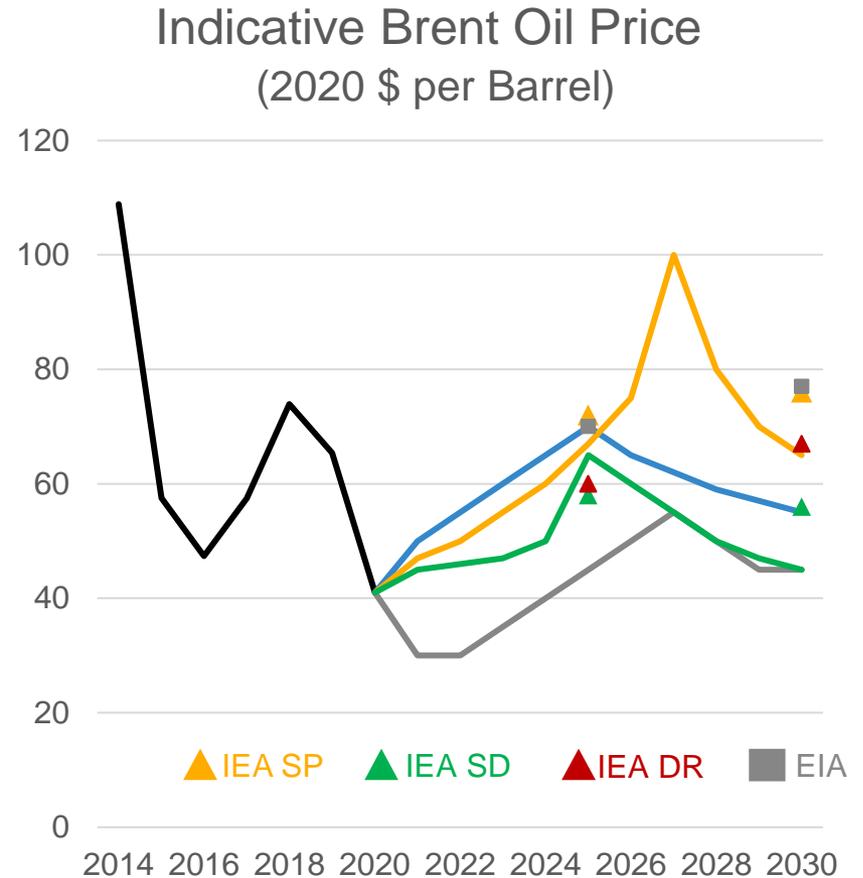
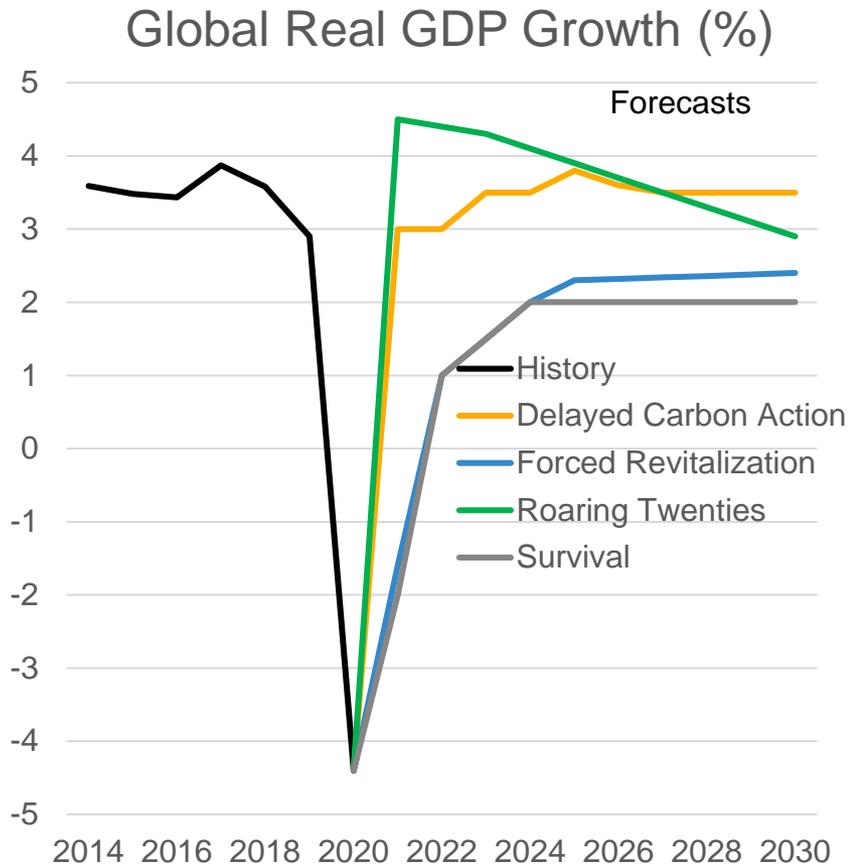
# Survival: Impact on Transportation and Petrochemicals

## High Pandemic, Low Policy Intervention



- Passenger travel is weaker than in other scenarios
  - Passenger travel is weakened by weak economic growth and telecommuting (40% in U.S. and Europe and 21% in developing countries).
  - The weakening is partly offset by personal vehicles replacing mass transit and ride-hailing services, and people who have moved to the suburbs driving more daily miles.
  - Air travel returns to 2019 levels in 2029
- Generally little national government support for improved fuel efficiency standards and electrification but city governments adopt some policies that encourage EVs and reduced driving.
- In terms of alternative vehicles, by 2030:
  - Electric vehicle passenger car sales rise to about 10% of new global car sales.
  - For light- and medium-duty trucks, only 5% of global sales are electric.
  - For all trucks, about 3% of fuels used are alternatives to diesel (e.g., electric, LNG, biofuel, fuel cell)
- For marine fuels by 2030, more than 15% are alternatives to oil (e.g., LNG, biofuels, other), with two-thirds of those using LNG.
- For petrochemical feedstock, no single use plastics bans or increases in recycling by 2030.

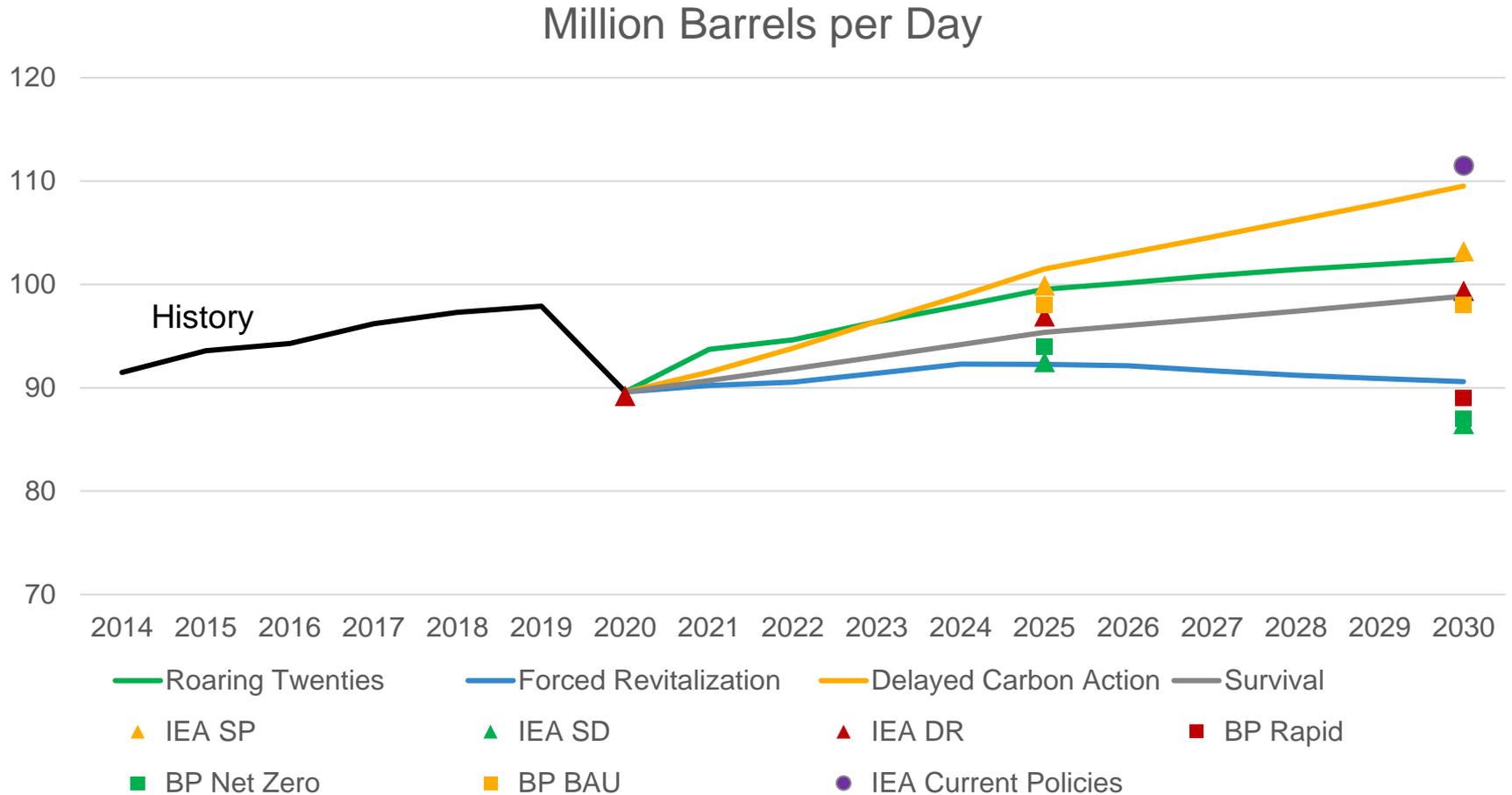
# Macro Drivers Across All Scenarios



Source: Historical data – IMF for GDP and EIA for Brent spot price; IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Delayed Recovery (DR) scenarios; EIA 2020 Annual Energy Outlook

# Global Oil Demand\* Across All Scenarios

## Preliminary Results

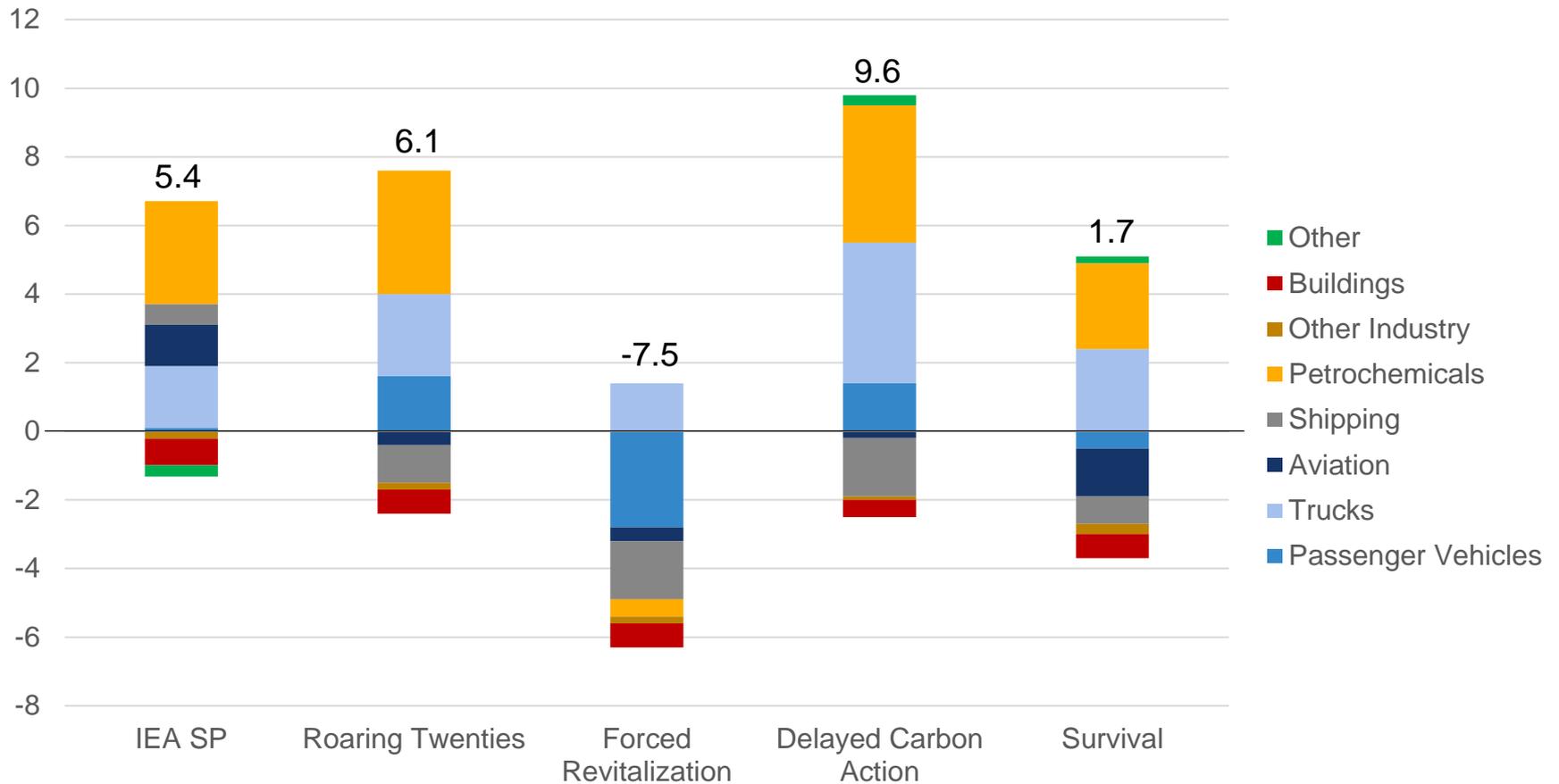


Source: Historical data – International Energy Agency Annual Statistical Supplement (2020); IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Delayed Recovery (DR) scenarios; IEA 2019 World Energy Outlook Current Policies scenario; BP Energy Outlook, 2020

# Global Oil Demand\* Growth by Sector

## Preliminary Results

Growth from 2019 – 2030 in Million Barrels per Day



Source: IEA 2020 World Energy Outlook forecast, Stated Policies (SP)

\*Excludes biofuels

# Observations on the Timing of the Peak in Global Oil Demand

- Global oil demand does not appear to have peaked already.
- Global oil demand doesn't peak before 2025 in any of the scenarios.
  - This is despite aggressive government policies that increase fuel efficiency and incentivize penetration of alternative vehicles / fuels in two of the scenarios.
  - It takes time before rising EV sales has a significant impact on fuel use for the entire global fleet.
  - There is strong growth in other demand sectors (e.g., petrochemicals, trucks)
- Global passenger vehicle oil demand peaks by 2025 in three of the four scenarios but that is generally offset by growth in two-three wheelers in the passenger sector and petrochemical feedstock and truck fuel use.
- In only one of the scenarios, does global oil demand peak before 2030. The peak is due to:
  - Aggressive government policy on fuel efficiency and alternative fuels across many modes of transportation, and
  - Very weak economic growth due to the continued disruptive impacts of the pandemic