Desautels Capital Management

Industry Overview: Palladium's 'Danger Zone'

Diversified Industrials
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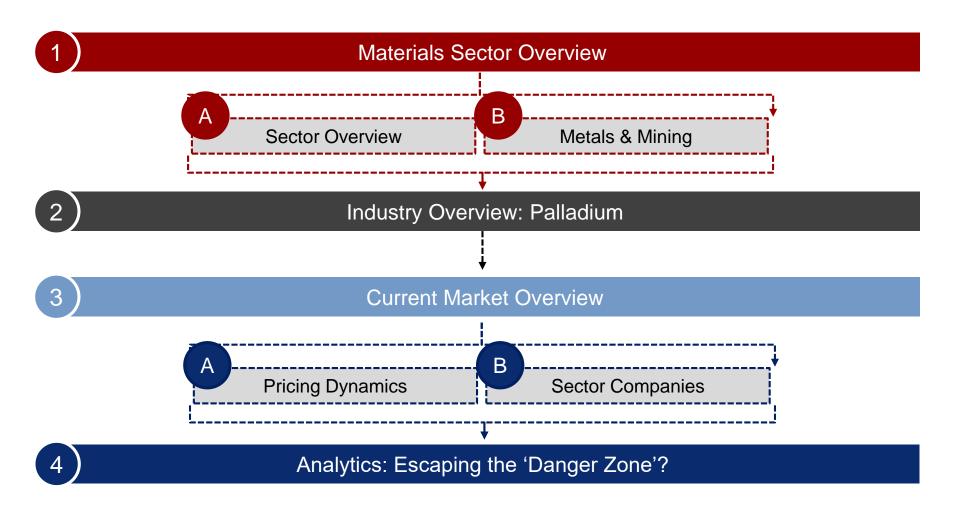
February 6, 2019





Executive Summary

Sit Tight And Enjoy The Ride



Materials Sector Overview

SECTION I





Materials Sector Holdings

Current Portfolio Composition

Corporate Single Securities

ETFs

Hold







Sold





Materials Sector Holdings

Sector Updates





Poor Weather Plaguing Earnings

- Weather impacted earnings in Houston
 - Heavily rainfall throughout the last quarter have delayed expected cash flow from Hurricane Harvey reconstruction products
- Slow growth in the U.S. housing market
 - A slowdown in housing starts and building permits issued for single and multi-occupancy residential units
- Optimism going into 2019
 - Significant backlog of products and projects with signed contracts and obtained purchase orders
 - New push for infrastructure funding by the Trump administration

Lack of Investment Theses Materialization

- Closed out our position early December
 - Sold at an average share price of \$2.17, realizing a total loss of -9.58%
- Thesis I: Risk within global operations
 - Alacer maintains a 80% in Çöpler gold mine in Turkey, where political tensions have not normalized both domestically and internationally, leading to a lack of anticipated price correction
- Thesis II: Potential acquisition target
 - Alacer has not yet been acquired by another mining company

Sector Outlook

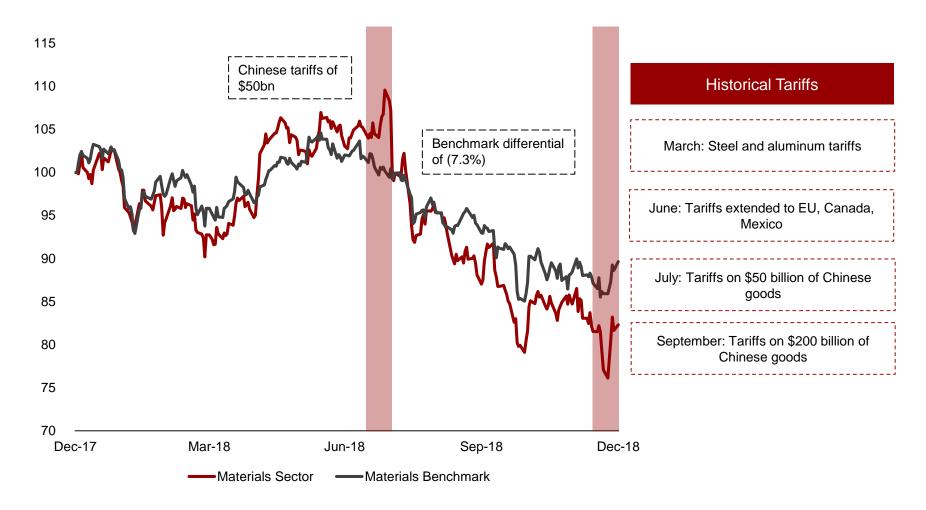
SECTION II





Global Economic Headwinds Posing Major Challenges

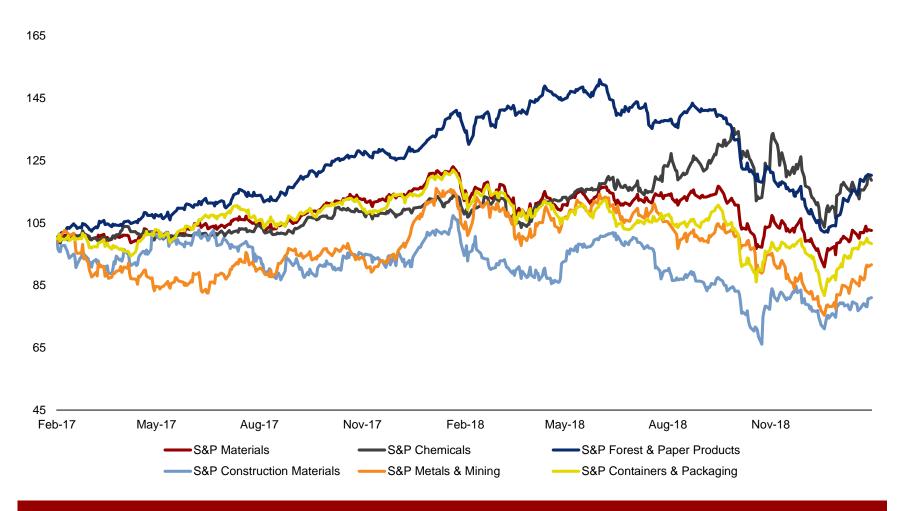
Sector Performance vs. Benchmark



U.S.-China trade dispute driving poor performance of the Materials sector

Performance Differentiation Across Subindustries

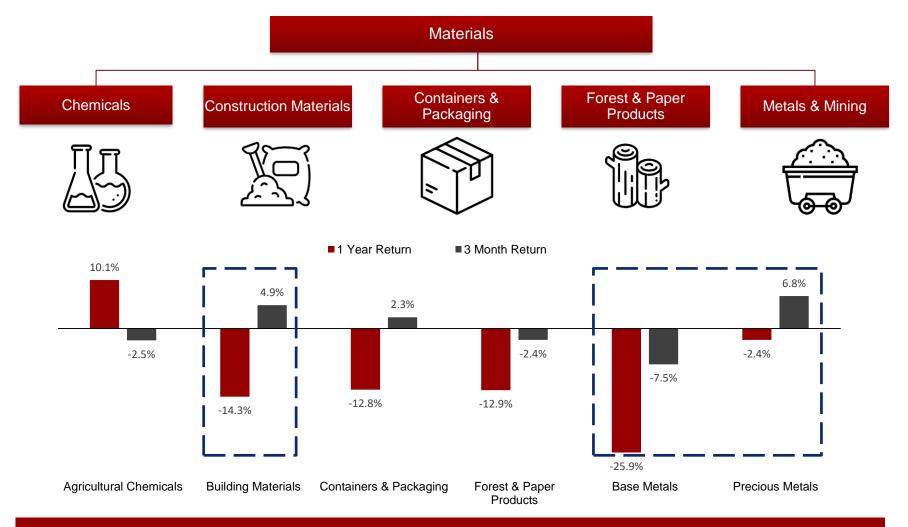
Subsectors vs. Benchmark Performance



Domestically focused subsectors are hurt less than internationally oriented ones

2019 Outlook: Starting Off On The Right Foot

One Year Subsector Returns



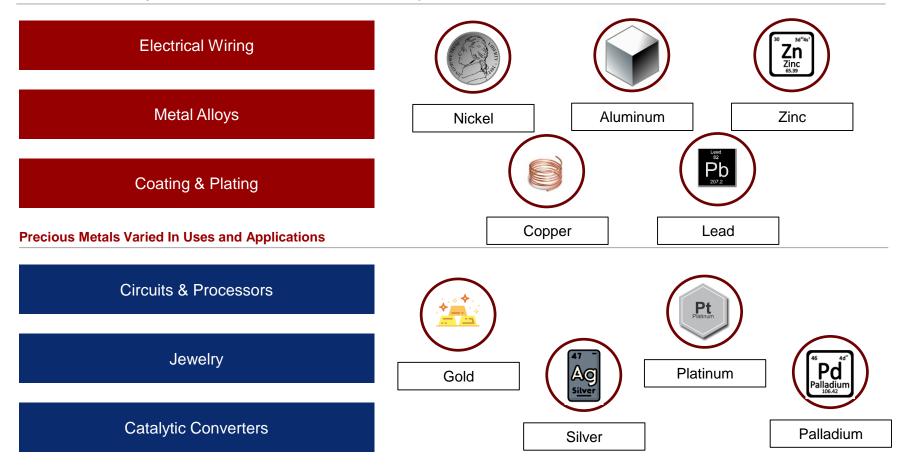
Quick movement in relative performance across different Materials subindustries

Source: Bloomberg.

Breaking Down Metals & Mining

Varied Industrial and Commercial Uses of Base and Precious Metals

Base Metals Primarily Used For Industrial and Construction Purposes

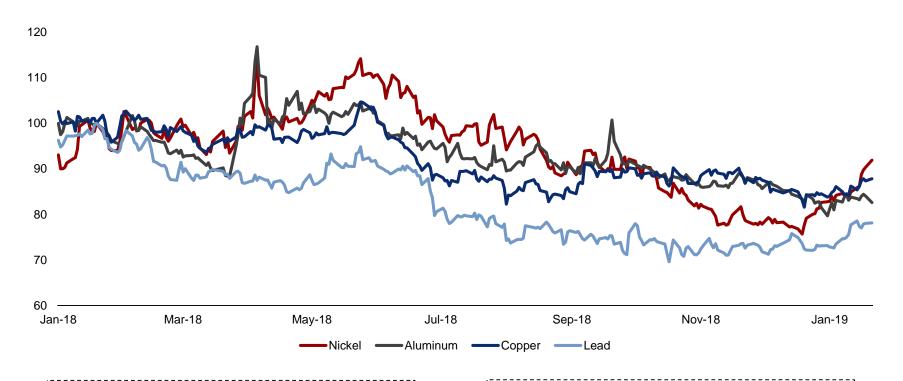


Metals have a wide variety of end markets that drive global demand and usage

Source: Bloomberg, Forbes, Company filings.

Base Metals Outlook

Base Metal Spot Price Movement



Micro-fundamentals across the spectrum are uninspiring. Zinc will probably remain tight, the copper market is largely balanced, and nickel will contend with weaker demand out of China.

-Andrew Cosgrove, Bloomberg

We maintain an outlook for rising industrial metals prices, however trade concerns have pushed anticipated price increases out by at least a year.

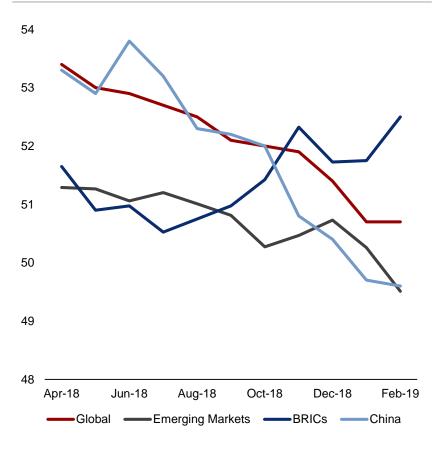
-Jean-Francois Perrault, Chief Economist RBC

A Potential Global Economic Slowdown?

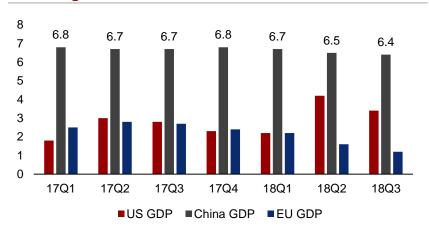
Weakening Downstream Indicators May Reflect Poor Conditions

(in \$ millions, unless noted)

Continued Manufacturing PMI Declines



Declining Global GDP



"The Great Stall of China"

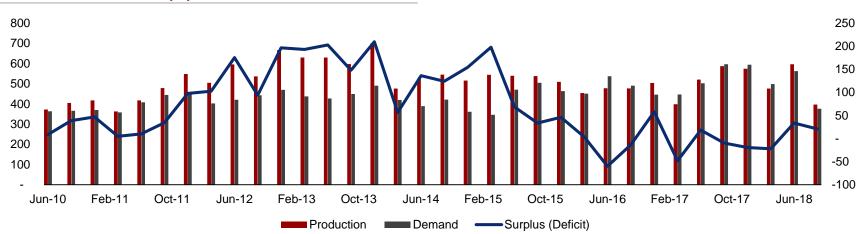
- External observers estimate China GDP may in reality be as low as 4%
 - Credit growth currently running at double the rate of GDP growth, expected to slow in the coming year
 - Given that metal prices track industrial production, there is an expectation of hard landing for base metals

A slower increase in base metal prices may result from poor global demand

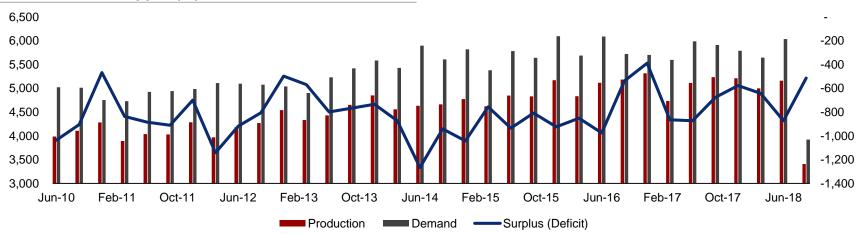
Key Drivers: Supply and Demand

Producers Weary to Meet Demand With Low Selling Prices

Global Refined Nickel (kt)



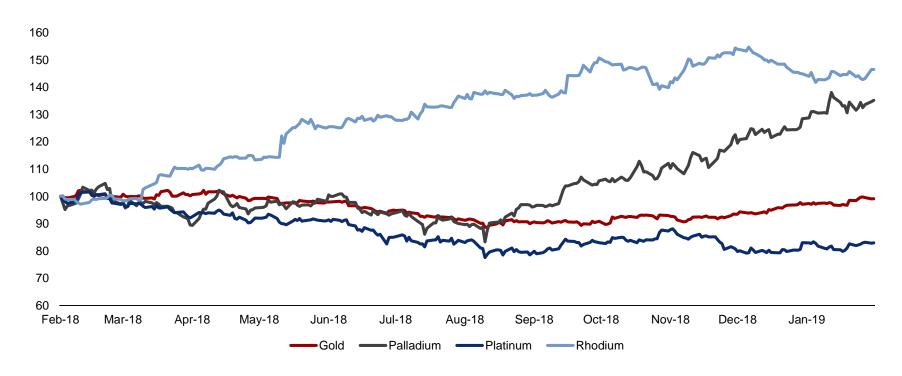
Global Refined Copper (kt)



Source: Bloomberg.

Precious Metals Outlook

Precious Metal Spot Price Movement



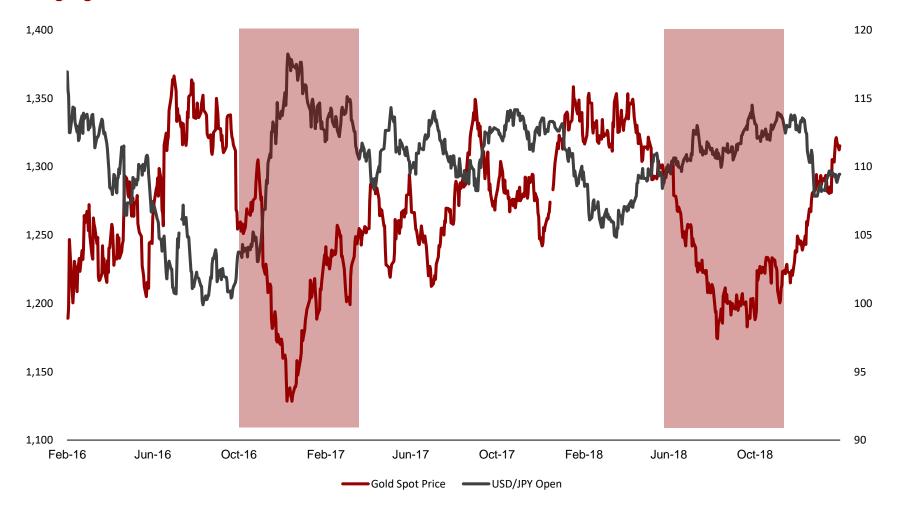
We are bullish on gold due to potential for a weaker U.S. dollar and its appeal as a safe haven.
-Dominic O'Kane, J.P. Morgan

The absence of language suggesting the Fed will continue to raise rates has the market thinking the tightening cycle is over.

-George Topping, Industrial Alliance

What Do Precious Metals Tell Us About Investor Speculation?

Hedging with Gold and Silver

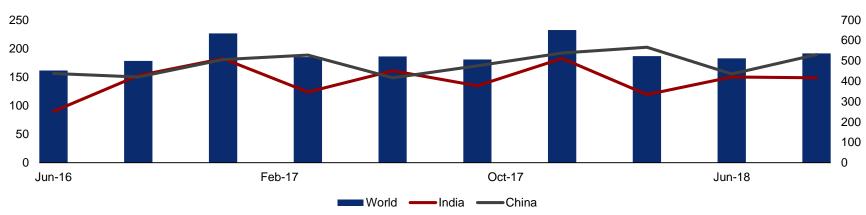


Investors have traditionally hedged against inflation and recessions by investing in gold

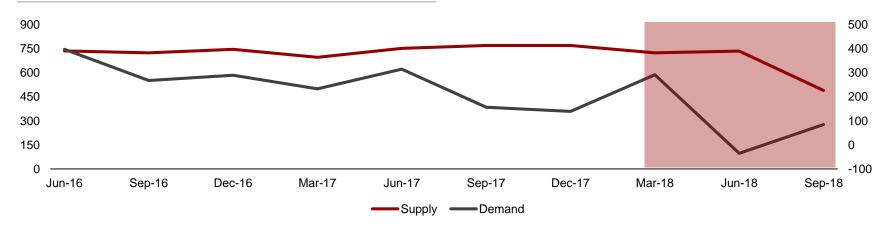
Key Drivers: Supply and Demand

Gold Prices Reflect Seasonality and Market Trends

Gold Jewelry Consumption (t)



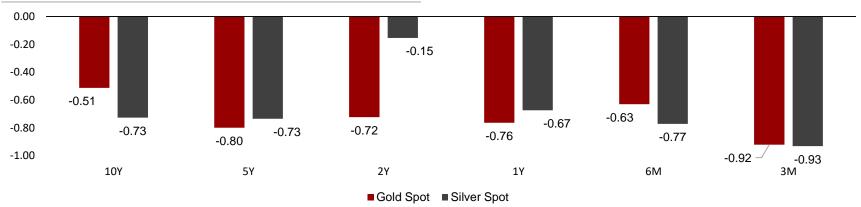
Global Gold Supply and Demand (t)



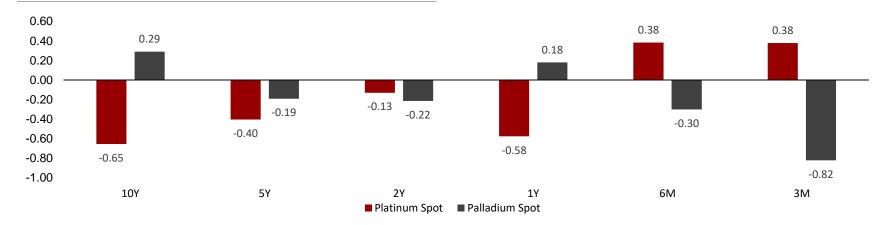
Not All Precious Metals Are The Same

Palladium and Platinum Move According to Other Industries

Gold and Silver Spot Rates Negatively Correlated With USD



Mixed USD Correlations with Platinum and Palladium



Currency Correlation Is Different Across Different Rare Metal Types

Looking Into Differences Between Precious Metal Groups

Differing Key Price Indicators

Characteristics

Gold & Silver

Palladium & Platinum

Market Correlation

 Negatively correlated to USD strength and Fed rate increases Weak correlation to USD strength but linked to the automotive industry

Price Movement

Moderate price movement

 Significant spot price appreciation

Seasonality

 Peak demand during wedding/festival season

Fall in demand in Q2

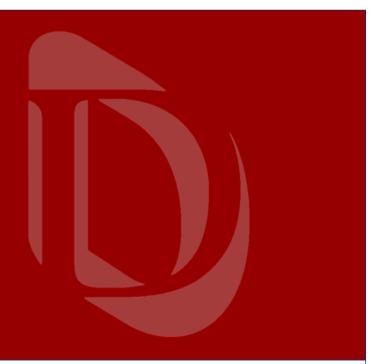
 Generally posts the strongest gains during the first quarter of the year

Global Stockpiles

 Central banks slowly amassing gold bullion Oversupply of platinum, significant reserve drawdown for palladium during deficit

Palladium Deep-Dive

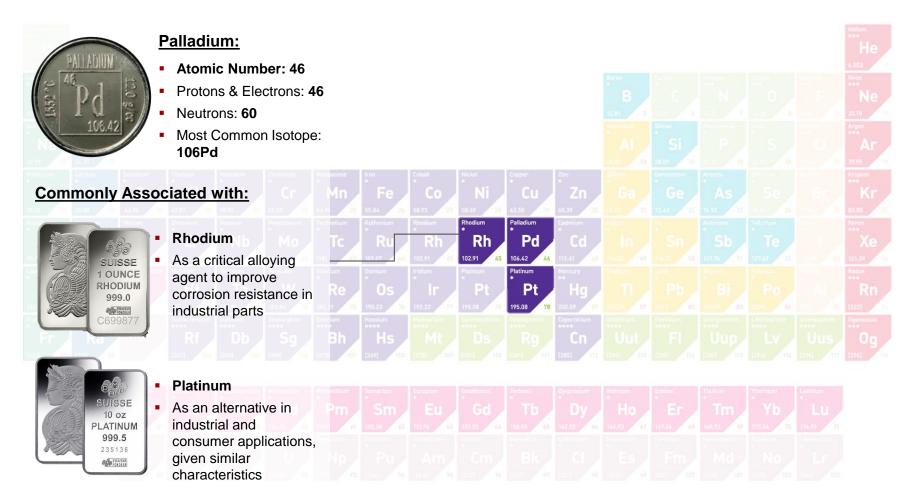
SECTION III





Palladium Overview

The One Precious Metal that you Probably Never Think About



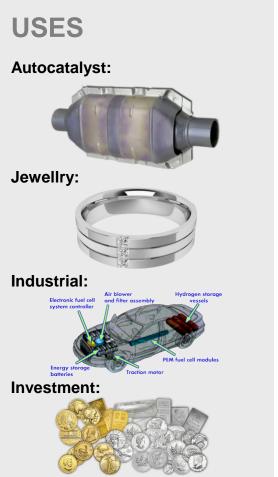
(Named after Pallas, a Gigante slain by Greek Goddess Athena in Combat)

Sources and Uses

Not Your Average Metal

SOURCES **Primary Extraction: WHERE IS PALLADIUM MINED?** 13% North America South Africa *Data as of 2017 Source: North American Palladium, U.S. Global Investor **Secondary Extraction (Scrap):** Feed aqueous phase + fresh organic phase EXTRACTION

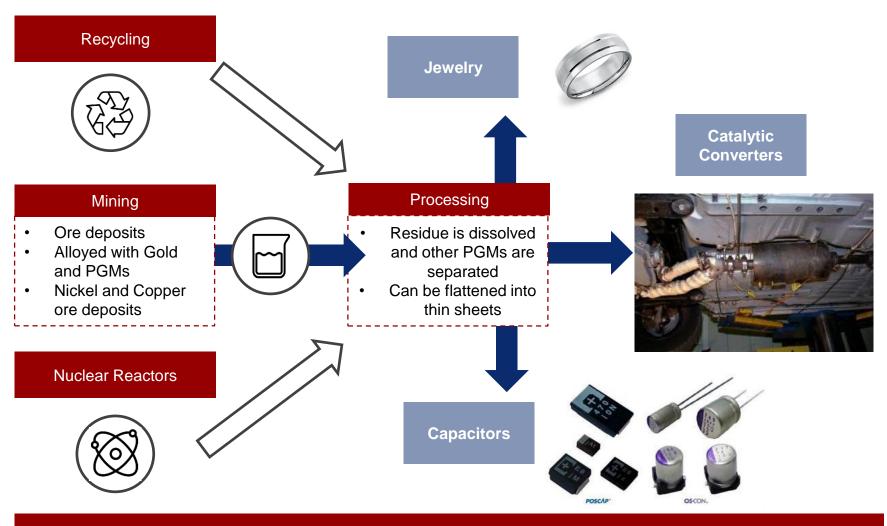




Primary Extraction And Autocatalysts By Far The Most Dominant

Palladium Value Chain

Value Creation Through Processing and Application



Standard Metal Production Value Chain

To Be More Specific...

The Global Palladium Economy at a Glance

(in \$ millions, unless noted)

The World Palladium "Balance Sheet"

Global Palladium Supply and Demand, in '000 oz

Supply	2016	2017	2018
South Africa	2,570	2,554	2,651
Russia	2,773	2,407	2,787
Others	1,417	1,410	1,442
Total Supply	6,760	6,371	6,880
Gross Demand			
Autocatalyst	7,941	8,391	8,565
Jewellery	191	173	167
Industrial	1,866	1,901	1,859
Investment	-646	-386	-373
Total Gross Demand	9,352	10,079	10,218
Recycling	-2,503	-2,907	-3,099
Total Net demand	6,849	7,172	7,119
Impact on Reserves	-89	-801	-239

Key Developments of 2018 (More on these later!)

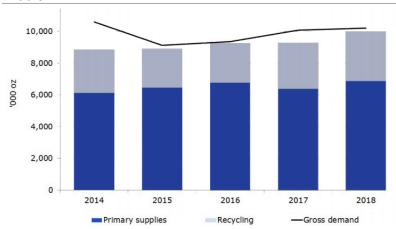


Palladium soared past platinum to take the seat as the biggest gainer in the rare metals market in the past year



The prevalence of Palladium in industrial use cases is set to benefit from a number of factors, alongside mining operations

Supply vs. Demand Time Series

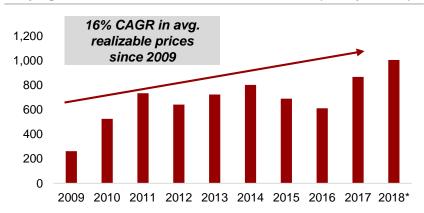


Pronounced Supply Deficit in the Past 3 Years

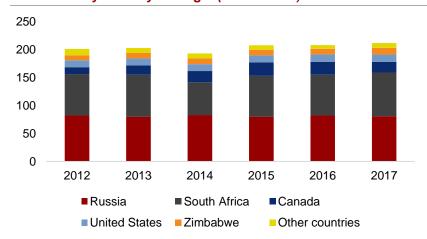
Supply Deep Dive

Global Supply Stable and Growing

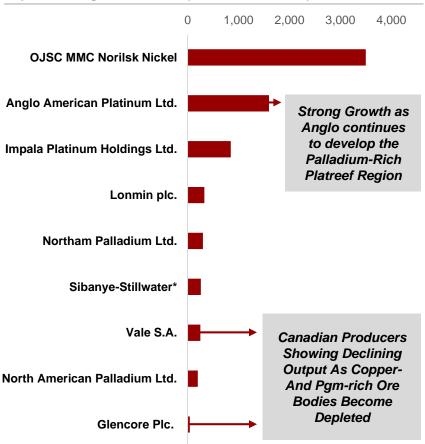
Rallying Palladium Prices Continue to Incentivize (\$/Troy Ounce)



Production by Country of Origin (Metric Tons)



Top Producing firms in 2018 (Thousand Ounces)



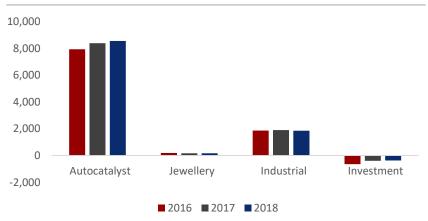
Supply Healthy and Trending Up with Increased Incentivization

Source: Capital IQ, Company filings.

Demand Deep Dive:

Winning Some, Losing Some

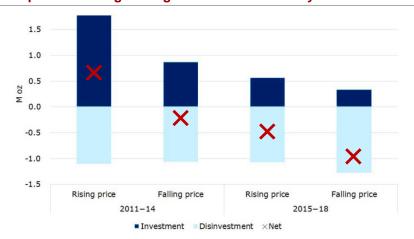
Demand Cross Section



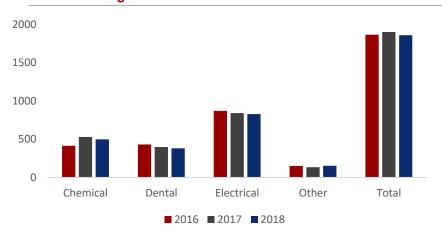
Qualitative Developments (More on these later!)



Steep Profit-Taking Among Palladium Commodity Investors



Industrial Usage Breakdown



Mixed Demand Outlook on the Surface Level

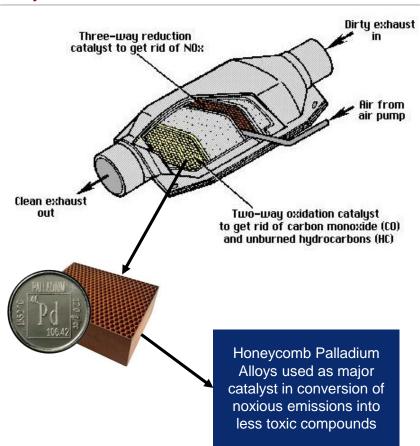
Source: Bloomberg, Johnson Matthey

A Look at Automobiles

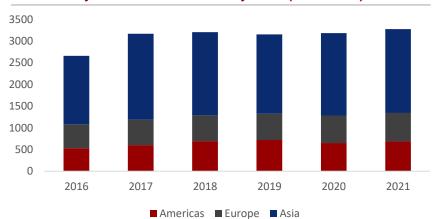
Catalytic Converters a Major Conversion Catalyst

(in \$ millions, unless noted)

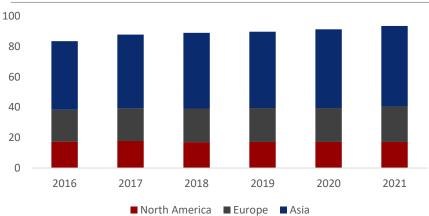
Catalytic Converters Overview



World Heavy Vehicle Production Projection (thousands)



World Light Vehicle Production Projection (millions)



Vehicle Production Worldwide Looking Largely Flat

Heavy Vehicle Regulation Outlook:

Per Unit Demand to at Least Partially Offset Slowing Production

China V

Selective catalytic reduction + ammonia slip catalyst





China VI

diesel oxidation catalyst + catalysed soot filter + selective catalytic reduction + ammonia slip catalyst

From January 2021 (expected)

~3x China V Pd Usage

India BS IV

Diesel oxidation catalyst or selective catalytic reduction





10

8

6

2

2014

India BS VI

Diesel oxidation catalyst + catalysed soot filter + selective catalytic reduction + ammonia slip catalyst **From April 2020**

~3x India BS IV Usage

China VI

two-thirds of all new heavy-duty vehicles globally will be soot-free in 2021, compared with 50% if otherwise

India BS VI

Union government to leapfrog directly from BS-IV norms for petrol and diesel vehicles to BS-VI emission standards

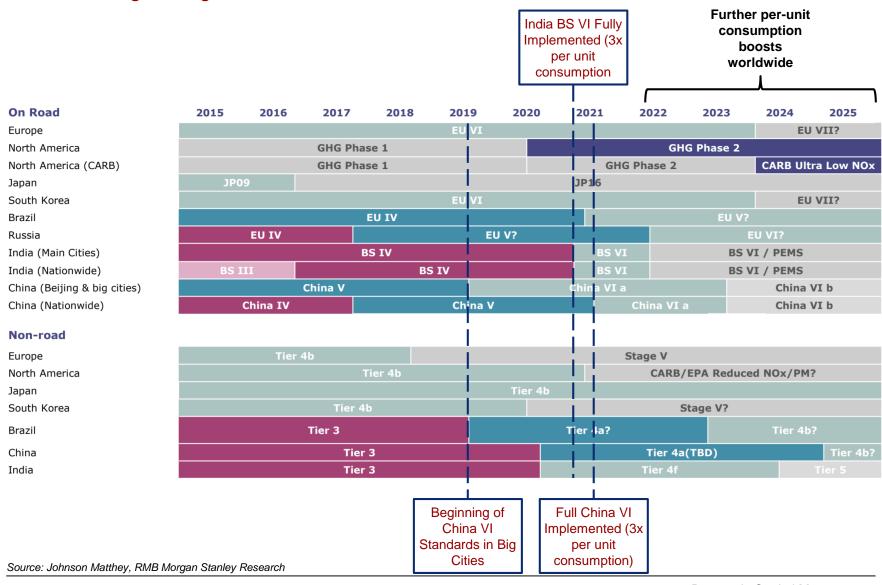
US PPM Regulation Levels vs. Compliance:
Gradual Compliance Should Smooth Demand
Increases over next few years

100%
20% 20% 40% 70% 100% 100% 100%
25% 50% 75% 100%
2016 2018 2020 2022 2024 2026 2028

Source: Johnson Matthey, RMB Morgan Stanley Research

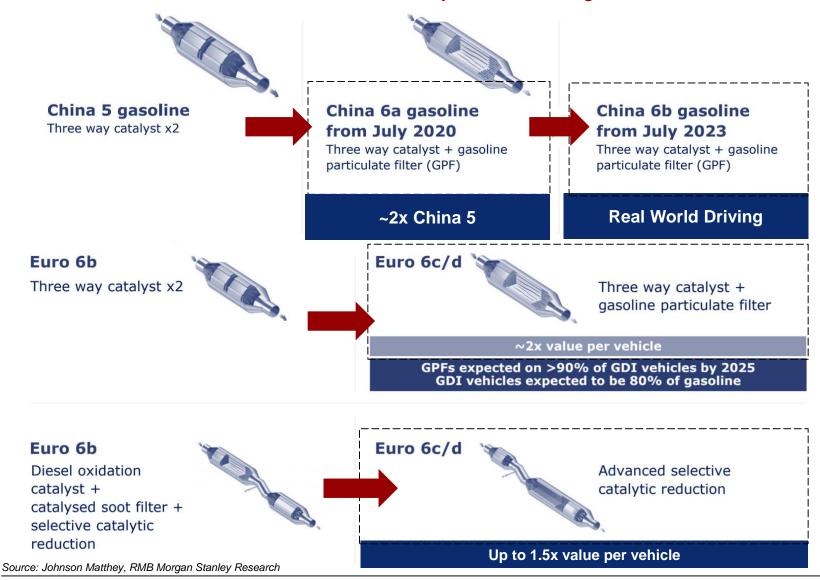
Heavy Vehicle Emissions Regulation Roadmap:

Consistent Tightening Worldwide

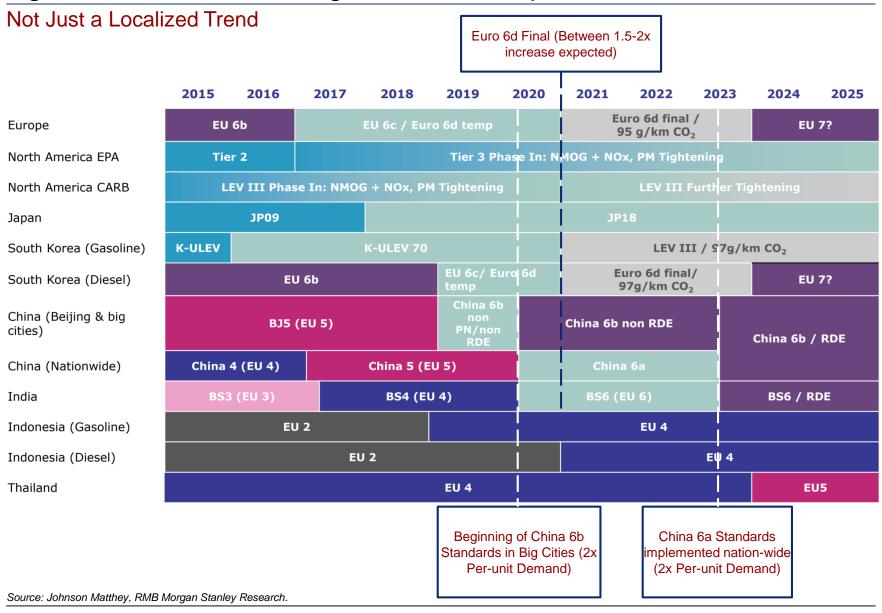


Light Vehicle Regulation Outlook:

Per Unit Palladium Demand to at Least Partially Offset Slowing Unit Production



Light Vehicle Emissions Regulation Roadmap:

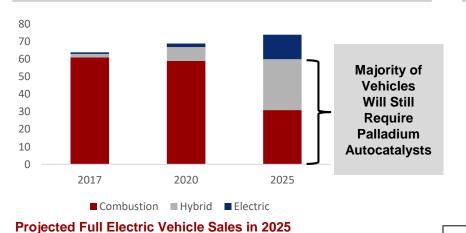


Electric Vehicle Adoption:

Is it a cause for concern?

(in millions of vehicles)

Projected Auto Sales by Propulsion Method, 2020 and 2025



2025 Electric Vehicle Snapshots



United States

Projected 2025 Penetration: 3% Key Developments:

- · Low gasoline prices
- Poor BEV infrastructure
- Preference for Large SUV's/pick-ups



Europe

Projected 2025 Penetration: 9%

Key Developments:

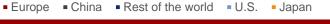
- Total costs of ownership not yet known
- Uncertain Infrastructure Development
- Unstandardized Implementation



China

Projected 2025 Penetration: 13% Key Developments:

- Strong government incentives for BEV
- Tightening fuel use legislation continues to support BEV uptake



Electrical Vehicles not Yet a Very Serious Threat

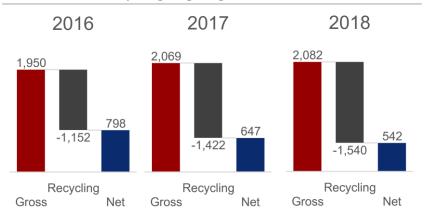
Source: UBS Research

The Other Catch:

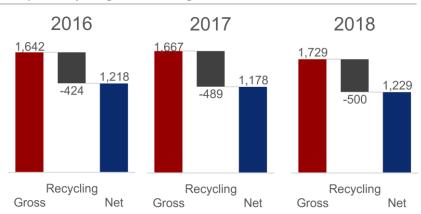
Demand Might Not Translate Into Producer Tailwinds

(Palladium Demand: Autocatalyst '000 oz)

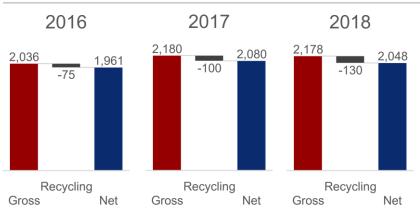
North America: Recycling Negating Net Demand Effects



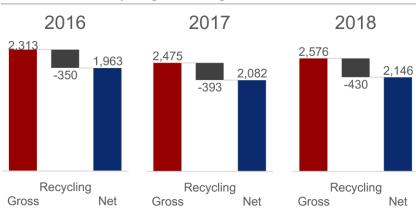
Europe: Recycling Neutralizing Net Demand Effects



China: Recycling Neutralizing Net Demand Effects



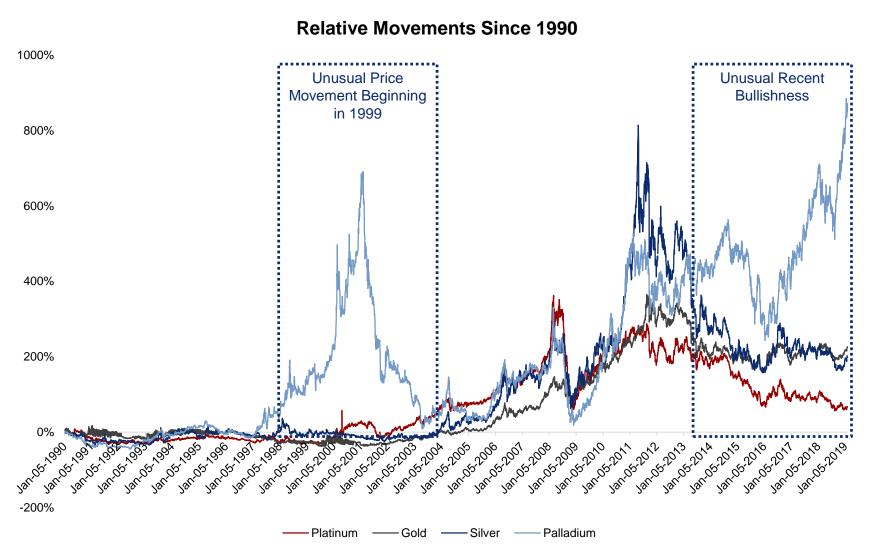
Rest of World: Recycling Dimishing Net Demand Effects



Recycling Perhaps the Biggest Long-term Dampener to Palladium Production

Trading Prices:

Palladium vs. Platinum vs. Gold vs. Silver

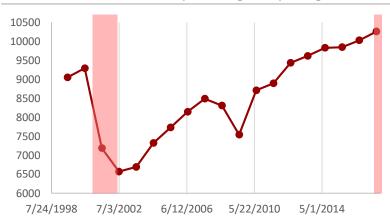


The New 'Danger Zone':

Bigger and Worser?

(in thousand ounces, unless noted)

Total Palladium Demand Drops During Overpricing:



What happens when...

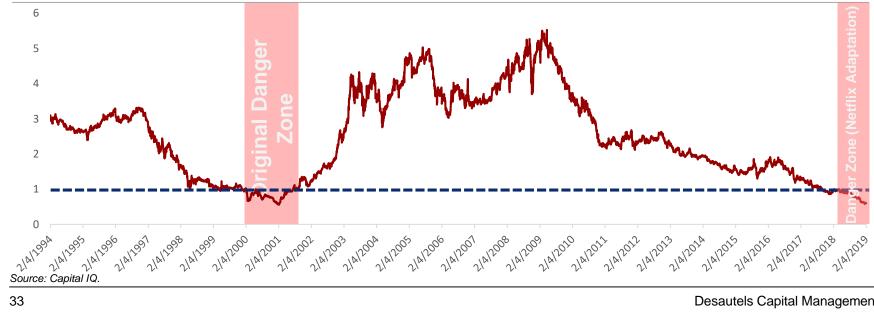
Pt > Pd

Palladium demand growth prospects look healthy, little unsystematic risk of demand falling y-o-y

\$Pt < \$Pd

Questionable Palladium demand growth prospects, high unsystematic risk of demand falling y-o-y





What Happened in 1999?

What Analysts Say

1999

"Palladium demand dropped rapidly (-48% to c.3.1m oz from the 1999 peak to 2002 trough). A number of points have been cited as contributing factors:

As prices rose, US automakers drew down on large—accumulated stock piles rather than purchasing the metal.

A number of auto companies actively thrifted palladium loadings from 2000 in response to both the palladium price and future uncertainty around Russian supply. This was particularly pronounced for US automakers who had moved quite heavily towards palladium. 2001 also saw a sharp contraction in the North American auto market and this contributed to the need for US auto makers to reduce costs.

Substitution of platinum for palladium in gasoline engines from 2001, following technical programs that were initiated in 2000/2001. Once again this was driven by both cost and future uncertainty around Russian supply. The growth in diesel market share in Europe at the expense of gasoline engines (a tighter spread between diesel and gasoline prices rendered diesel's fuel-efficiency more important)."

RMB Morgan Stanley, 2019

Today:

Worse than in 1999:

Auto manufacturers have been facing tougher carbon emission standards and rising Palladium prices for the past 3 years, stockpiles are much less significant

Worse than in 1999:

New Standards worldwide may end up costing manufacturers **2x and 3x as much rare metals** in future catalytic converters for light and heavy vehicles, respectively

The Most Plausible Solution:

Catalytic converter engineering has progressed significantly since 1999, and studies have shown that **Pt is slightly more effective than Pd** in catalytic and industrial use

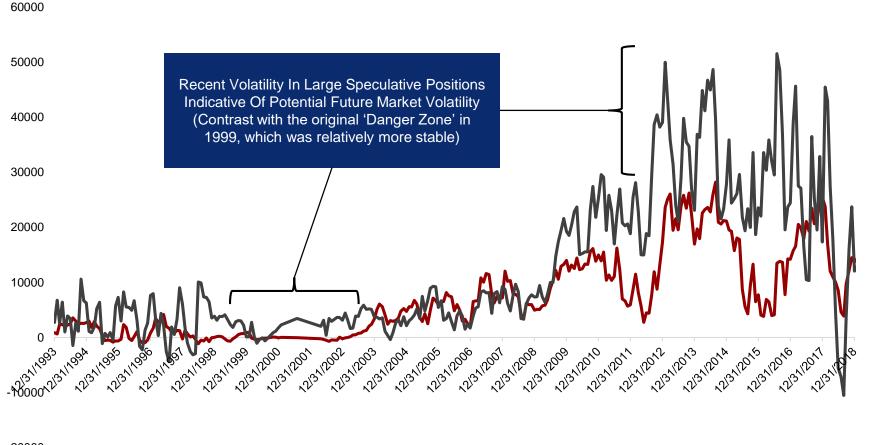
Replacement looking increasingly likely, given the price differential holds

Source: Morgan Stanley

Speculators:

What do the Traders Think?

Net Speculative Platinum and Palladium Position Indices, 1993 to Now



-20000

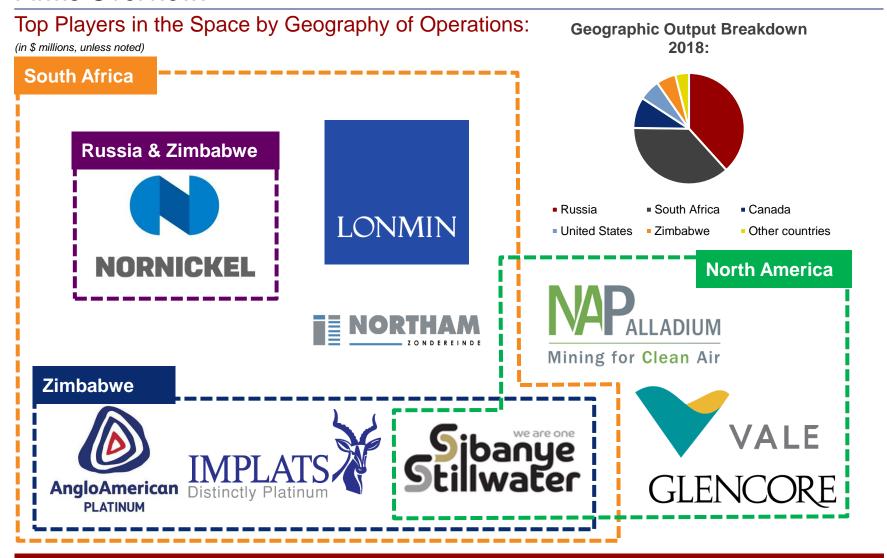
—Pd —P

Palladium Mining Companies Overview

SECTION IV



Firms Overview:



Most Producers are Globally Integrated in Operations

Source: Bloomberg

Firms Operating Matrix:

Revenues (B) vs. Palladium Exposure (%Revenue)



Very Few Pure-Play Palladium Companies

Comparable Trading Valuation:

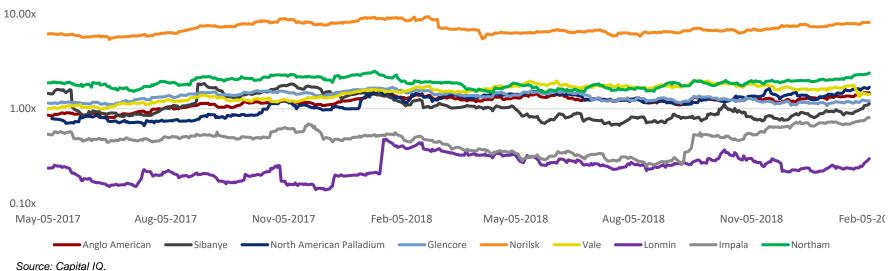
Similar Large Players Trading Very Differently

(in \$ millions, unless noted)

Quick Comps Table

	LTM Net Income Margin %	LTM EPS	LTM Sales Growth%	TEV/EBITDA	LTM P/E	LTM P/TangBV
Anglo	10.9%	2.36	18%	5	11	1.7
Glencore	2.9%	0.42	16%	5.9	9.5	1.4
Impala	-29.8%	-1.11	-3%	7.6	NM	0.8
Lonmin	3.1%	0.15	15%	NM	5.4	0.3
Vale	10.8%	0.82	16%	5.1	14.8	1.7
Northam	-9.3%	-0.15	10%	24.2	NM	2.4
Norilsk	26.9%	1.82	24%	7.3	11.4	8.5
Sibanye	0.9%	0.01	42%	5.8	66.9	1.6
North American	13.9%	0.65	56%	6.6	16	1.7

Recent P/B Ratios Movement



Mini-Spotlight: North American Palladium

Truly One-of-a-kind

(in \$ millions, unless noted)

Company Overview

- North American Palladium Ltd. produces precious metals in Canada.
- It explores for palladium, platinum, gold, nickel, copper, and other metals.
- It primarily holds interest in the Lac des Iles mine that is located to the northwest of Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- The company was founded in 1968 and is headquartered in Toronto, Canada

Market Capitalization

Capitalization Breakdown	
Share Price as of	13.14
Shares Out.	58.84
Market Capitalization	773.17
- Cash & Short Term	20.30
+ Total Debt	74.30
+ Pref. Equity	-
+ Total Minority Interest	-
= Total Enterprise Value	827.17

Mining for Clean Air

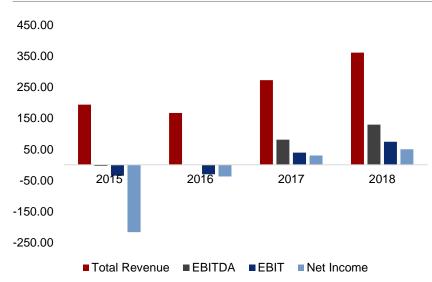
Vibrant & Flexible

What we See:

Rapidly Improving Top and Bottom Lines, Leading the Pack in North America Palladium Recycling

Very \$Pd Sensitive Perhaps the only Palladium Pure-play company on the markets, which given uncertainty may not be good

Rapidly Improving Fundamentals in Past Years



Source: Capital IQ, Company Filings

Sector Outlook:

What we see in Palladium

TAILWINDS

Recent Demand Outpacing Supply

Rapid Appreciation of Prices Driving Producer Top Lines

Worldwide
Implementation of Strict
Emission Standards a
Continued Driver of PerUnit Consumption

Kola and Platreef Expansions



PRICING UNCERTAINTIES

The 'Danger Zone'?

HEADWINDS

Flat Unit Consumption Dampening Demand

Strong Push for Utilization of Electric Vehicles Regionally

The Rise of Advanced
Palladium Recycling
Techniques Vastly
Reducing Need for New
Palladium

Easily Replaced With Cheaper Metals

We are Perhaps Looking at the Most Dangerous Time for Palladium in Almost 20 Years

Quantitative Analysis: Stochastic Differential Equations in Forecasting Likelihood of Switching

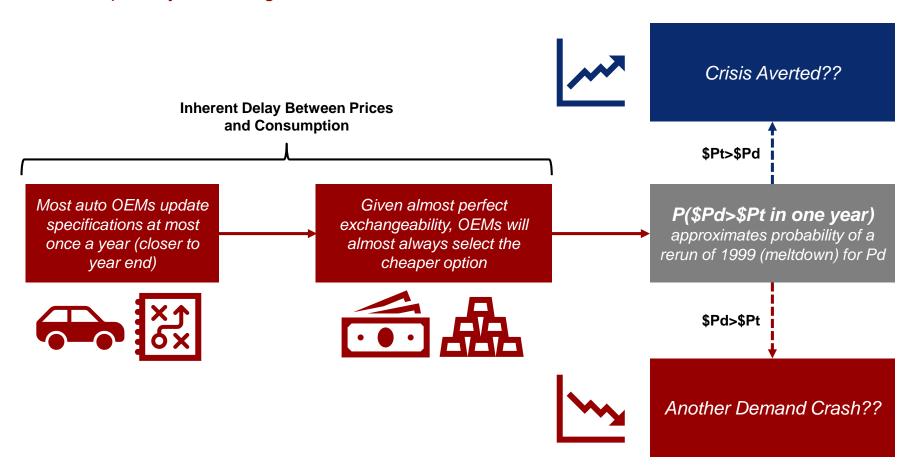
SECTION V





The Problem Statement:

Can we quantify the 'Danger Zone'?



We Can Compute this Probability!

Source: Brandão and Miranda, 2013

Formal Definition

This Is Great... But What Does It Mean?

Geometric Brownian Motion SDE:

Instantaneous Rate of

$$dX_t = \overset{ ext{Return}}{\mu} * X_t * dt + \overset{ ext{σ}}{\sigma} * X_t * dW_t$$

Hull-White/Vasicek SDE:

Mean Level
$$dX_t = lpha * (\mu - X_t) * dt + \sigma * dW_t$$
 Rate of Mean Reversion Volatility

What Are Stochastic Differential Equations?

- A stochastic differential equation (SDE) is a differential equation in which one or more of the terms is a stochastic (controlled random) process, resulting in a solution which is also a stochastic process.
- Are always Gauss-Markov processes
- Geometric Brownian Motion is continuous-time stochastic process in which a randomly varying quantity's logarithm follows a Brownian motion (also called a Wiener process) with drift. (no mean reversion)
- The Hull-White/Vasicek model is an augmented version of GBM with friction (mean-reversion) over the long term

Monte Carlo Iteration to Reapply Model

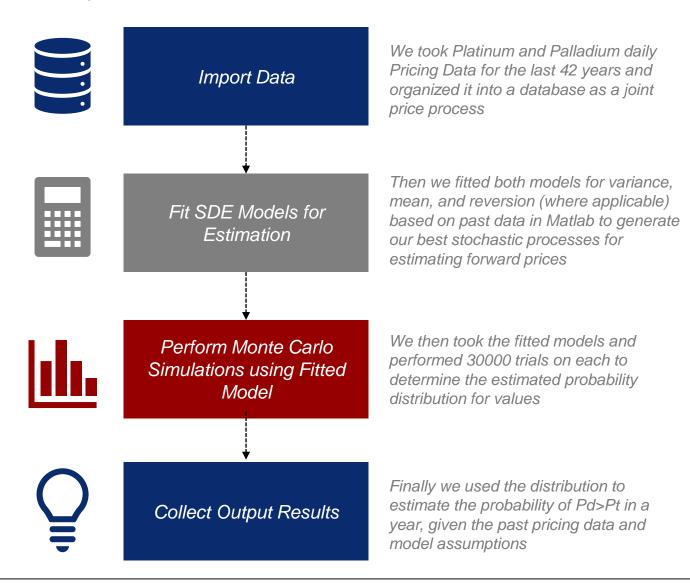
- Monte Carlo Methods are useful when there are uncountably many possibilities in a model
- Run thousands (or millions) of iterations and compute the probability distributions
- Allows for a simple way to compute mean, variance, skewness and kurtosis for complex processes
- In this case, we simply apply each of the SDEs 30000 times to come up with the general expected outcomes

Source: David Willingham, 2012

Pedesis (Brownian Motion) terms ensure

Methodology

How do we estimate the likelihood of price reversion?

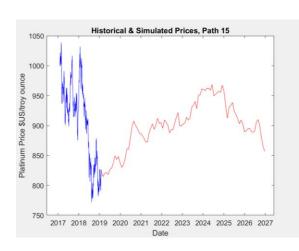


Source: DCM.

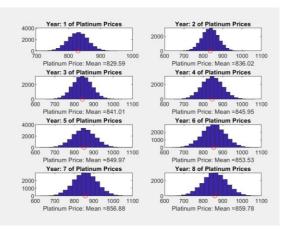
Results Pt.1: Estimates of Palladium and Platinum Prices

Simulated Distributions of Future Prices (GBM)

Platinum Price Forecasts



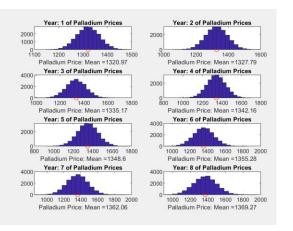




Palladium Price Forecasts



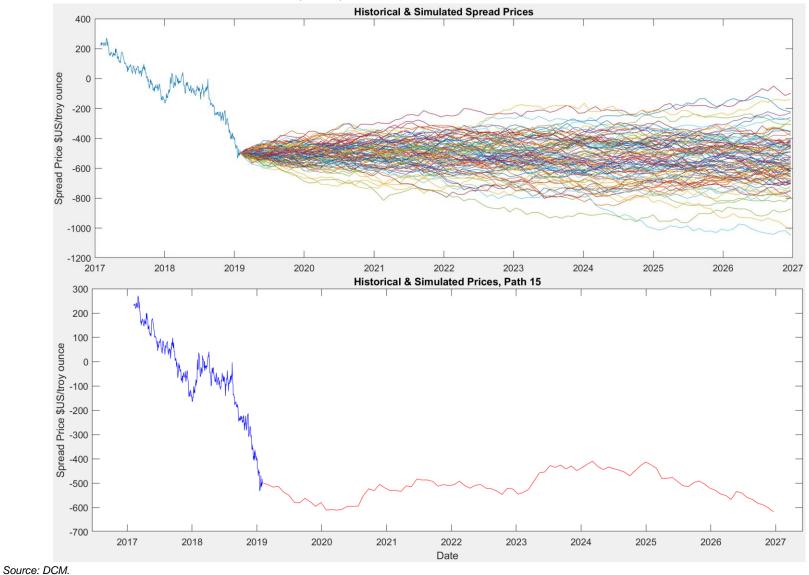




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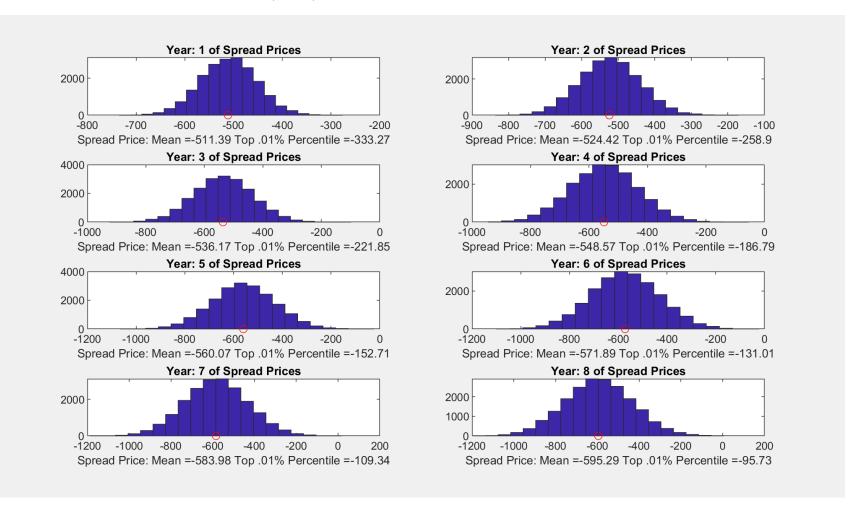
Results Pt. 2: Estimates of Future Spreads

Simulated Likelihoods of Price Reversion (HWV)



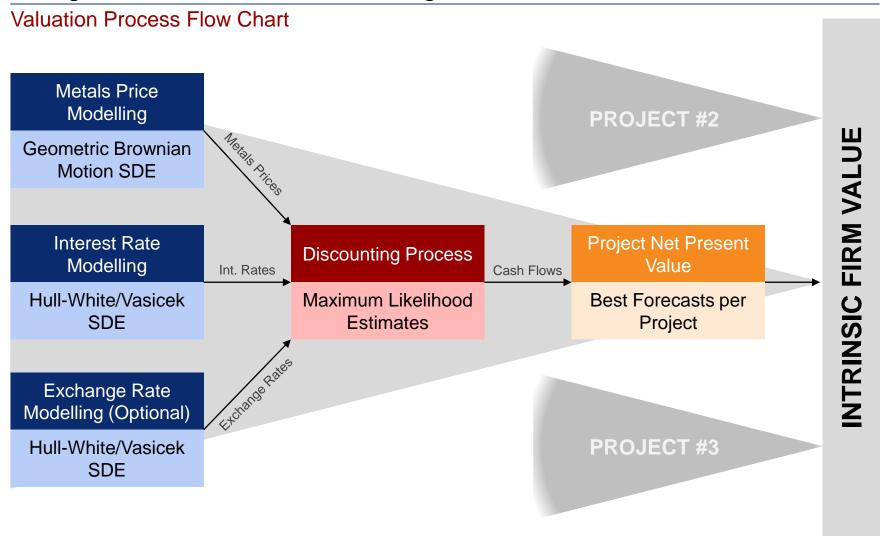
Results Pt. 2: Estimates of Future Spreads

Simulated Likelihoods of Price Reversion (HWV)



Spread Reversion Looks Very Unlikely Without Fundamental Changes

Going Further: SDEs in Determining Valuation



Flexible Quantitative Methods for Determining Uncertainties in Firm Operations

Source: Brandão and Miranda, 2013

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