



Commodity Markets: Signals You Can't Ignore

April 2026

Disclaimer

The slides presented herein may occasionally mention financial instruments that are not tradable for all retail clients, depending on the relevant appropriateness test. Financial instruments mentioned can range from low to high risk, and our thoughts on the market should not be viewed as investment recommendations, but inspiration and information to gain a better understanding of current market dynamics.

Commodity performance overview

Commodities Total Return	YTD %	1 Year %	2 Year %
Energy			
Brent Crude Oil	65.4	67.9	44.9
WTI Crude Oil	66.7	71.1	48.0
US NatGas	-12.1	-34.4	-32.2
Gas Oil (Diesel)	90.7	112.8	80.8
NY ULSD	82.9	102.4	77.5
RBOB Gasoline	61.6	65.8	40.5
Industrial Metals			
HG Copper	6.3	25.1	33.1
LME Aluminum	19.8	54.1	35.7
LME Nickel	8.5	14.8	-8.2
LME Zinc	10.5	39.6	26.1
LME Lead	-3.2	-0.4	-16.0
Precious Metals			
Gold	10.2	39.0	95.1
Silver	12.2	140.0	167.8
Platinum **	1.7	114.9	119.6
Palladium **	-5.1	67.2	52.2
Grains			
Corn	1.1	-12.4	-10.2
Soybeans	11.7	15.1	5.1
Soybeans Meal	7.4	2.5	-10.2
Soybeans Oil	44.5	45.2	58.1
Wheat (CBOT)	17.7	1.1	-11.2
Wheat (Kansas)	21.3	4.1	-5.7

Commodities Total Return	YTD %	1 Year %	2 Year %
Softs			
Sugar	-7.1	-24.1	-22.2
Arabica Coffee	-14.1	-7.5	59.9
Cocoa	-46.0	-57.9	-54.6
Cotton	18.1	10.2	-10.1
Orange Juice **	-9.1	-32.4	-39.7
Livestock			
Live Cattle	8.0	30.1	59.5
Lean Hogs	-2.5	4.1	10.4
Feeder Cattle **	8.1	39.0	69.4
Sectors			
BCOM TR Index	22.3	35.1	40.5
Energy incl Natgas	48.6	40.8	28.0
Industrial Metals	10.1	30.9	22.3
Precious Metals	12.3	62.0	116.0
Agriculture Sector	7.2	1.3	4.9
- Grains & Soy complex	10.2	1.8	-3.7
- Softs	-10.1	-14.2	9.4
- Livestock	4.0	20.2	37.9

Source: Bloomberg, Saxo

Key Market ETFs *	YTD %	1 Year %
S&P 500 (SPY)	3.9	37.9
S&P 500 Equal Weighted	6.3	27.8
Nasdaq (QQQ)	5.3	49.3
Tech Software (IGV)	-18.3	2.8
Semiconductor (SOXX)	38.7	155.2
Magnificent 7 (MAGS)	-0.3	60.2
Euro Stoxx 50 (EUR)	3.9	21.8
MSCI All World (ACWI)	6.3	37.2
MSCI Core EM Mkts (IEMG)	15.4	49.3
Dollar Index	-0.2	-0.1
iShares 20+ Bonds (TLT)	-0.1	1.2
iShares Bitcoin (IBIT)	-12.9	-13.0
BCOM TR ETF (CMOD)	21.5	33.8
S&P GSCI TR (GSG)	34.2	44.5
MSCI World Energy (XDW0)	24.4	43.5
Gold Miners (GDX)	15.6	91.9
Silver Miners (SIL)	17.3	148.7
Copper Miners (COPX)	19.1	143.2
Uranium Miners (URA)	31.2	149.7
WT SM & RE Miners (RARE)	28.2	163.5
Rare Earth Miners (REMX)	39.5	180.8

Commodity prices evolve in “super-cycles”

Moving from a just-in-time to a just-in-case world economy will drive higher demand and prices for raw materials IF supply fails to keep up

Recent super-cycles:

1960s to 1990s:
End of Bretton Woods and Oil Shocks

1990s to 2020:
Industrialisation of China and India

Started in 2020:
The energy (green) transition



Bloomberg Commodity Spot Index (Log Scale) Source: Bloomberg

The “power” of backwardation on returns



Source: Bloomberg

Multiple developments support demand

Deglobalisation

Defence priorities

De-dollarisation

Decarbonisation

Rising power
consumption



Currency debasement

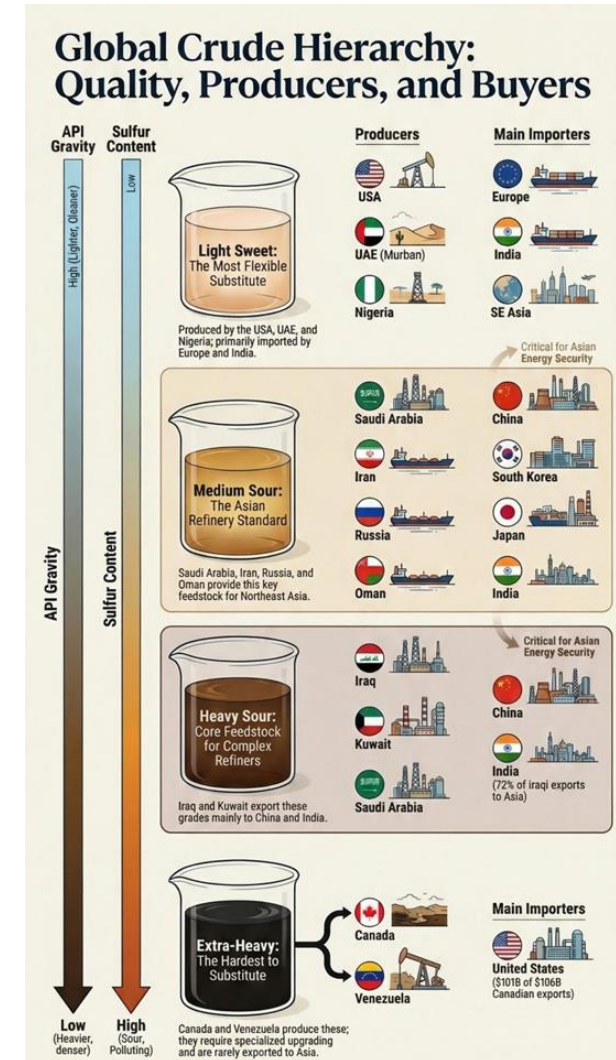
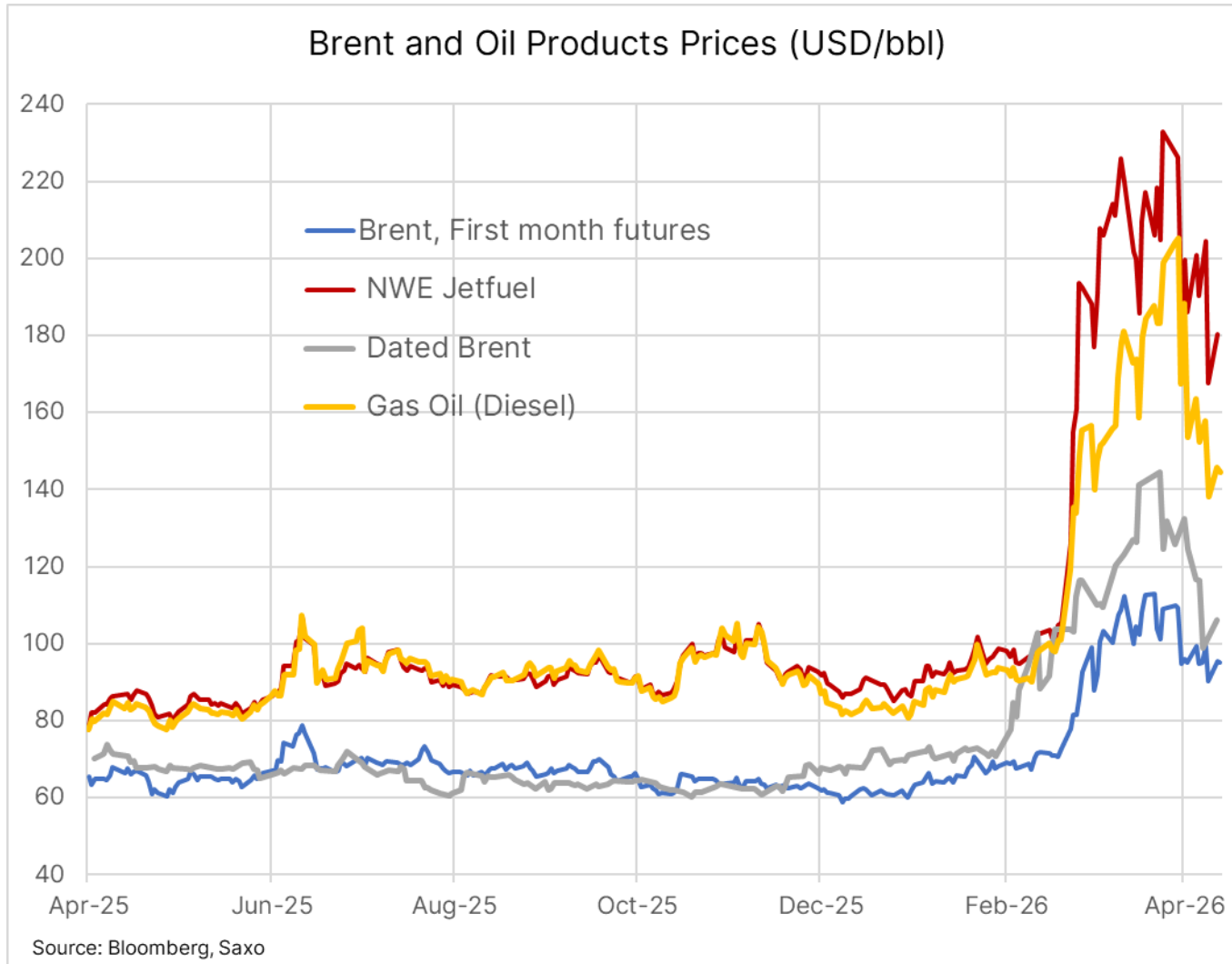
Demographic Shifts /
Urbanisation

Population growth

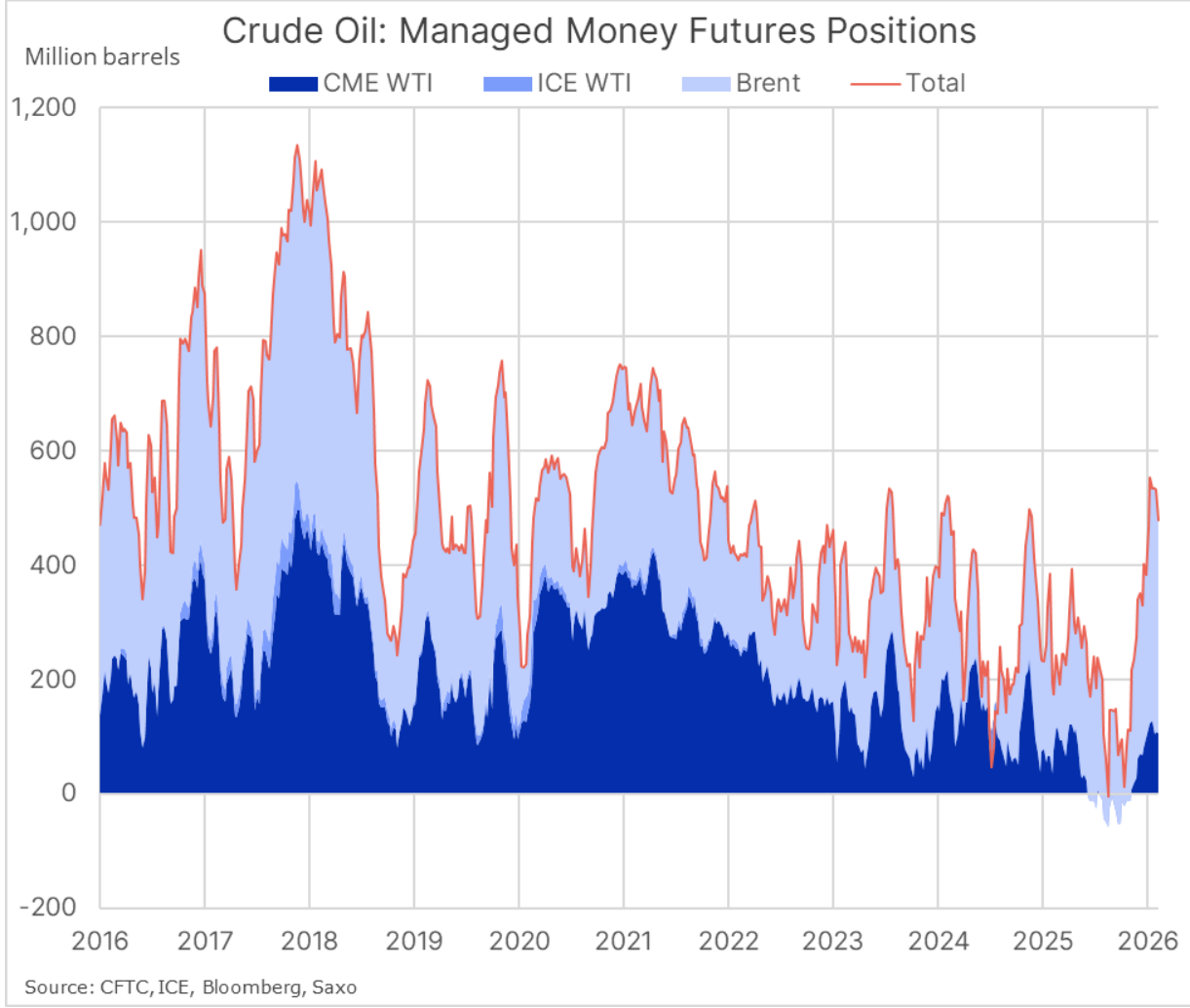
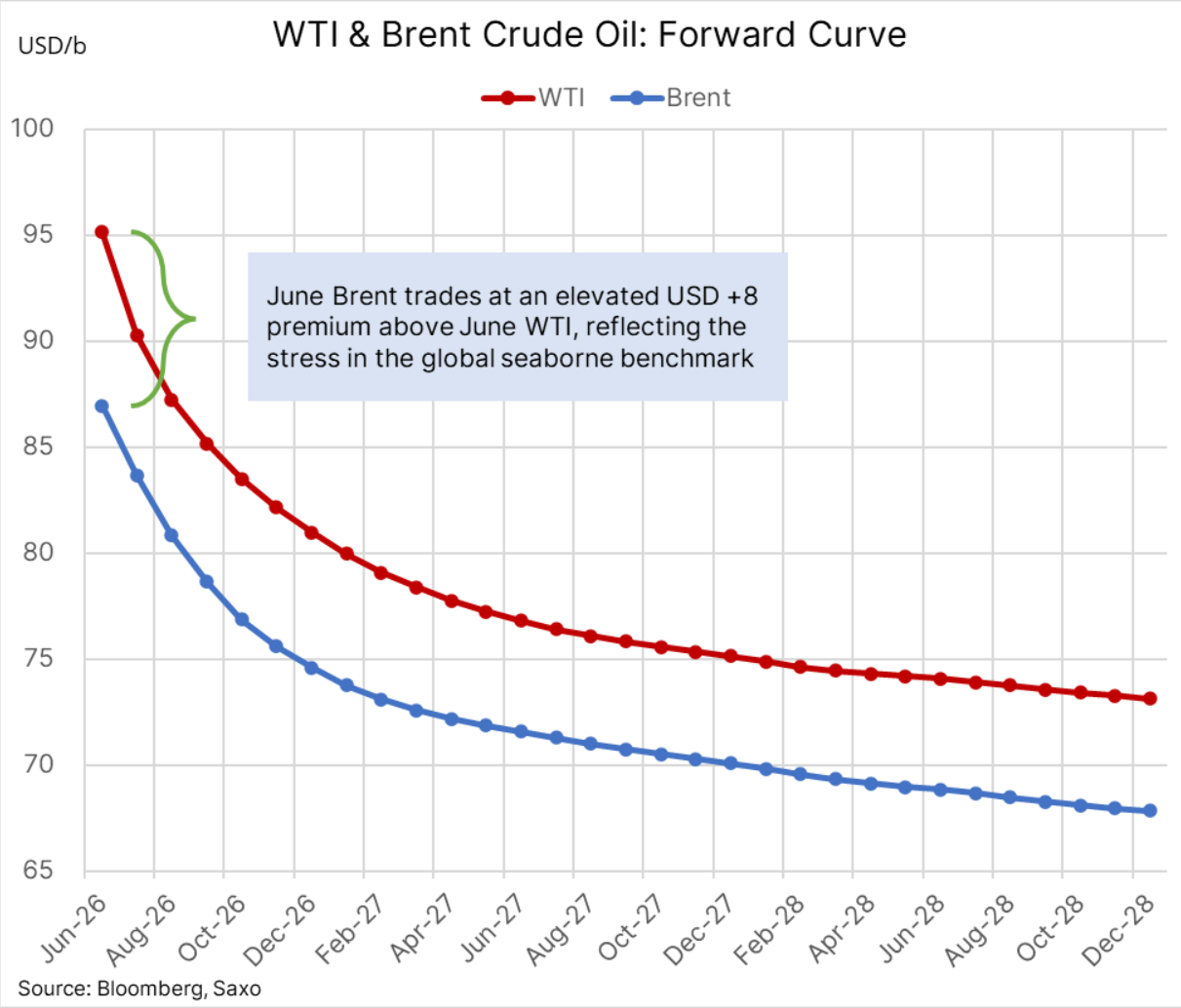
Climate change

Persistent
underinvestment

Stress found in the middle part of the barrel



Extreme backwardation supports elevated spec position



Second-round effects lift soybean oil and cotton



Gold rebuilds as macro tailwinds return



Precious metals are:

- Universally recognized and political neutral, unlike sovereign bonds or foreign currencies
- Not linked to any country's creditworthiness (FIAT debasement worries)
- A core part of central bank reserves
- Increasingly viewed as a long-term strategic asset and a core part of asset allocation
- Uncorrelated or negatively-correlated with key financial assets

Developments supporting gold

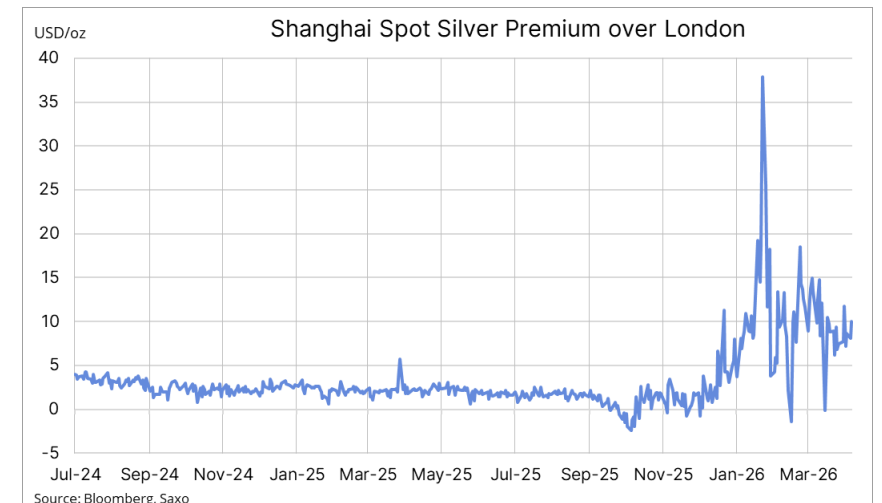
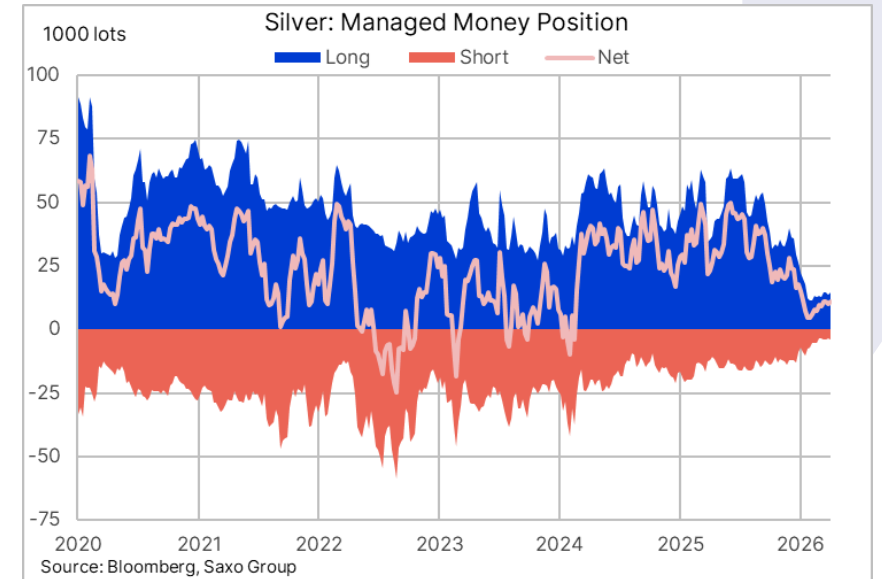
- Geopolitical tensions and sanctions risks
 - Central bank demand (de-dollarization)
 - Reduced sensitivity to real yields and USD
- Hedge against US fiscal and monetary policies (Fed independence & debt sustainability)
- Asian demand, especially from China
- Gold remains under-owned relative to other assets

Silver: When a record rally turns into a record rout



Silver's parabolic surge:
 42 days from \$50 to \$60
 22 days from \$60 to \$80
 23 days from \$80 to \$120

6 days to almost halve



Copper at the heart of the global energy transition

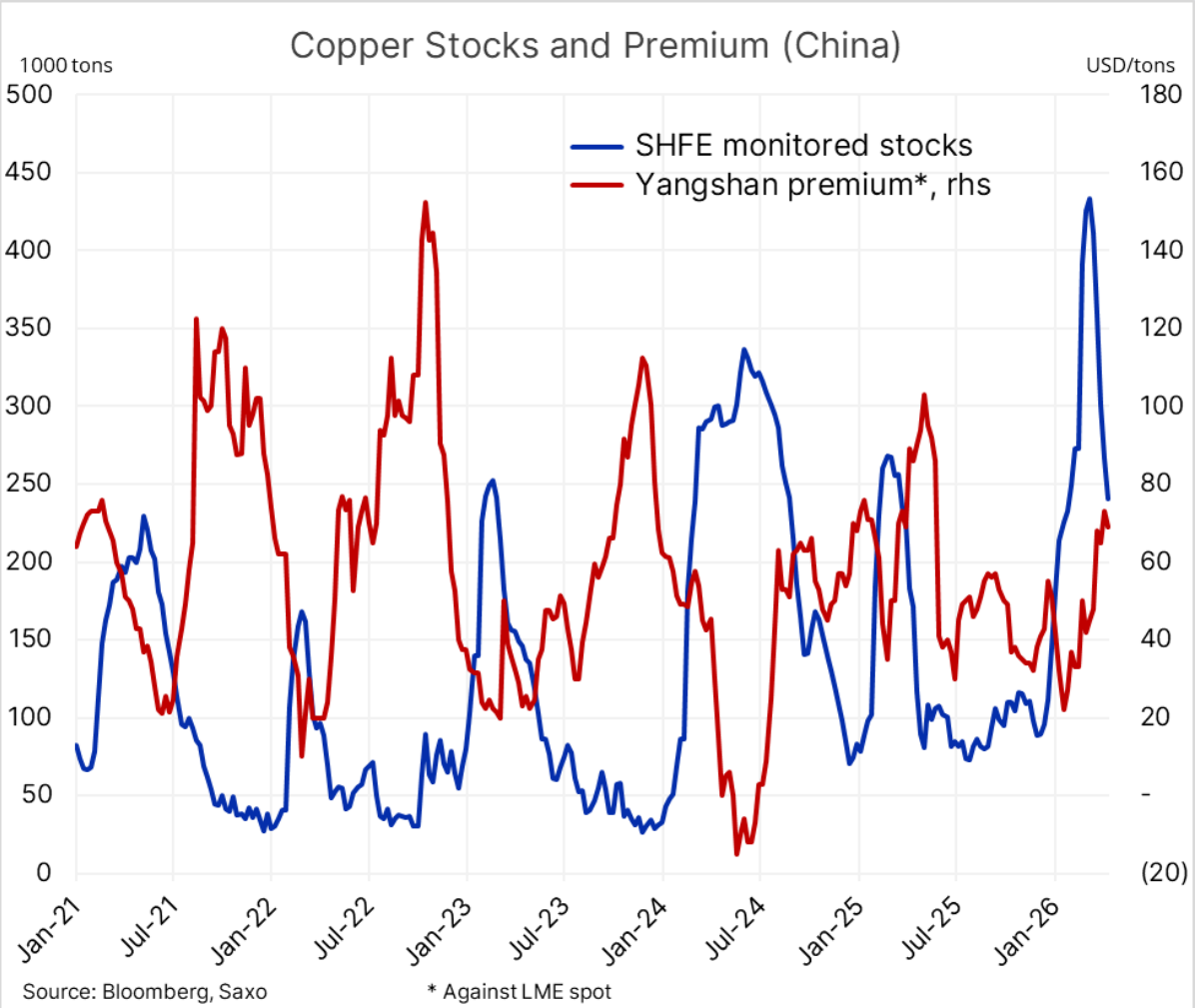
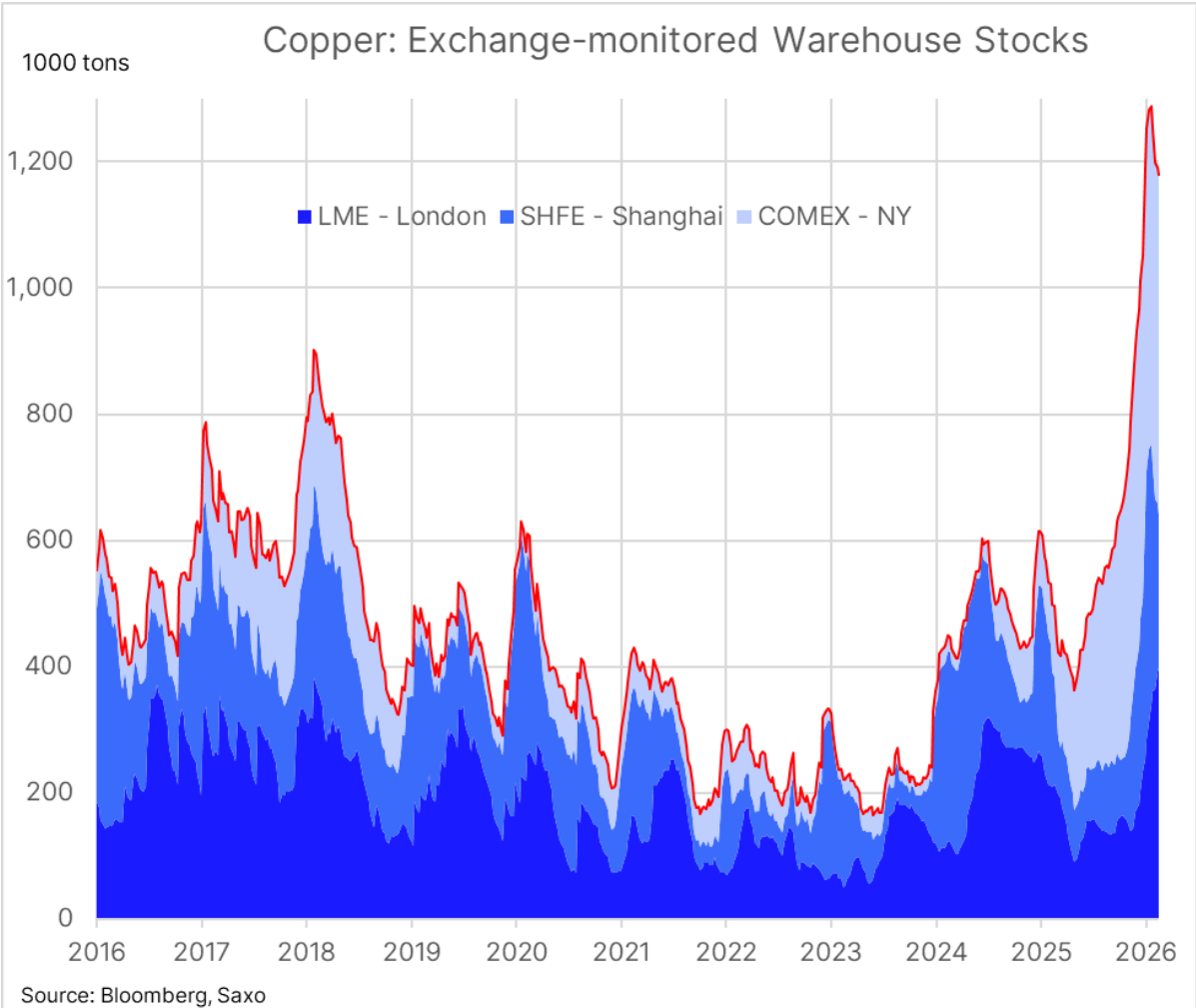
Tightening supply and support from copper intensive technologies like EV's, wind/solar, grid upgrades to cope with digital data boom and cooling in hot climates



Miners are facing rising cash costs driven among others by:

- Higher input prices (labor & energy) and lower ore grades
- Rising regulatory costs and government intervention
- First discovery to first metal has risen from 8 to 12 years
- Recent disruptions/accidents in Chile, Peru and Indonesia highlight supply challenges
- **Near-term overhang of supply weighing on prices**

Copper: focus on China stocks and supply disruptions



Cocoa: The best cure for a high price, is a high price



Toffee Crisp and Blue Riband no longer called 'chocolate' after recipe change

Nestlé confectionery treats now described as being 'encased in a smooth milk chocolate flavour coating'

Cocoa Hits Two-Year Low as Europe Grinds Fewest Beans Since 2013





Daily podcast, hosted by
@JohnJHardy



Ole S Hansen

Head of Commodity Strategy, Saxo Bank



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Bio: Ole Sloth Hansen

Ole joined Saxo Bank in Copenhagen in 2008 after a 20-year career in London. Ole focuses on delivering strategies and analyses of the global commodity markets defined by fundamentals, market sentiment, and technical developments.

Ole is the author of the widely distributed Saxo Weekly Commodity Update, which covers news and outlook for major commodities, from oil and gas to industrial metals and agricultural products.

Furthermore, Ole is a frequent guest on major global business TV networks and a regular contributor of commentary on the commodity markets to the financial press.

Ole traded his first futures contract more than 35 years ago. In the 1990s, he spent several years at a leading futures brokerage in London before moving to the trading desk of a major hedge fund, where he remained until returning to Denmark

