## StoneX Connects.

PGM Trading – Challenges & Trends in a Global Market

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# StoneX Precious Metals Trading

## **Major Player in Global Precious Metals Market**

- > One of the largest OTC Physical & Hedging counterparties. Average Gold & Silver Flows = \$20bn/Quarter
- > Physical trading We buy or sell in multiple locations: London, Zurich, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong, New York
- > Products traded: Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Ruthenium & Iridium
- > Full Member of London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) & London Platinum Palladium Market (LPPM)
- > 'Follow The Sun' Dealing Rooms: London, Dubai, Singapore, Shanghai, New York, Los Angeles
- > Small bars & coins offering via our company CoinInvest in Frankfurt (<u>www.coininvest.com</u>)

### **StoneX Group Inc.**

- Fortune 100 Company. NASDAQ: SNEX. 80+ offices across six Continents. 3600+ employees. Total assets = \$20bn
- > 54,000+ commercial & 400,000+ retail clients. 2022 trading volume = \$4.4 trillion

## **Only Non-Bank Auction Member**

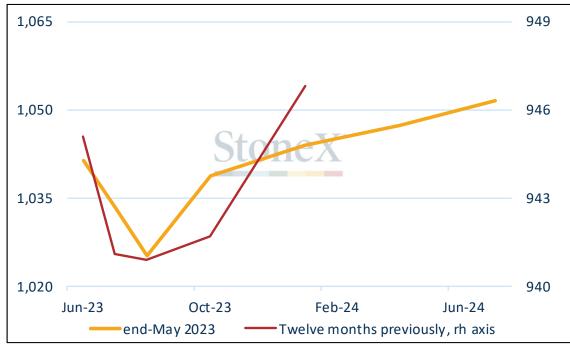
- > StoneX is a member of the daily LBMA Gold & Silver Auctions
- > StoneX is a member of the daily LPPM Platinum & Palladium Auctions (cf. 25% of daily PGM Auction flows)



# PGM Price Action is Dictated by Mine Supply

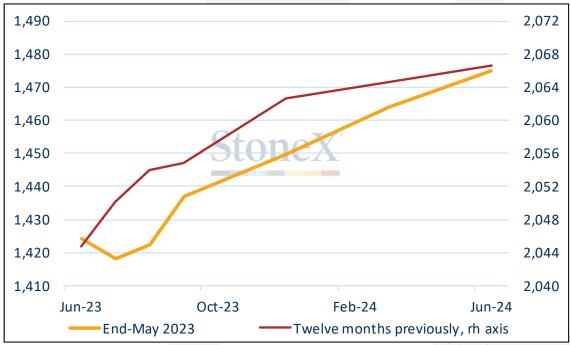
## Platinum & Palladium Forward Curves - Now and a year ago

#### Platinum forward curves



Source: Bloomberg, StoneX

#### Palladium forward curves

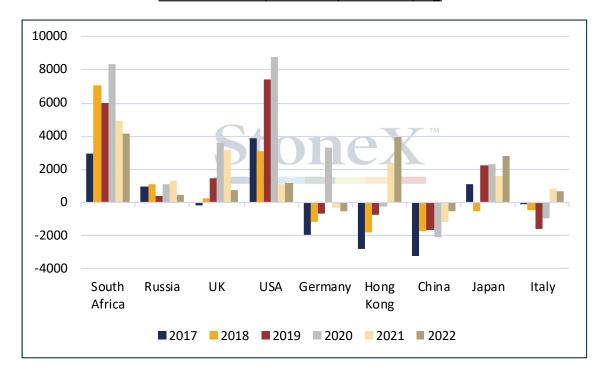


Source: Bloomberg, StoneX

# International trade has changed since February 2022

## Swiss trade statistics reflect economic activity

#### Swiss net imports of platinum, kg



#### Swiss net imports of palladium, kg



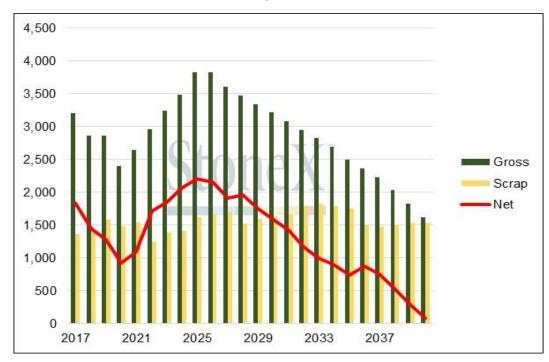
Source for charts: Swiss Federal Customs Administration, StoneX



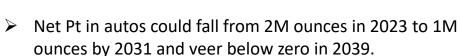
# Declining PGM Usage in Combustion Engines

## Both metals look to be in peril, but dependent on Net Zero Targets

Estimated Platinum in Light ICE vehicles, 000 ounces



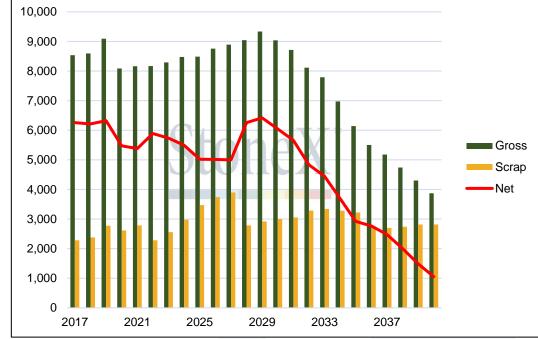




- BUT there are several caveats that soften this blow.
- Trend could be interrupted by higher demand for Diesel & Fuel Cell vehicles (+600k ozs p.a.)

## StoneX<sup>\*</sup>

Estimated Palladium in Light ICE vehicles, 000 ounces



- Net Pd in autos could fall from <=6M ounces in 2023 to 3.5M ounces by 2031, and even below zero in 2040+</p>
- Trend could be interrupted by higher demand for Gasoline vehicles & Pd Fuel Cell Technology breakthrough
- Cost of living crisis likely to see less EV subsidies & increased demand for Gasoline consumer vehicles in coming years, as Net Zero targets are unrealistic

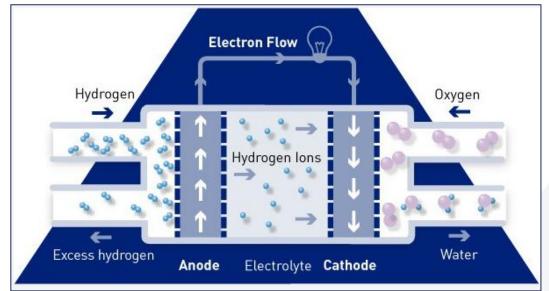
## Fuel Cells: PGMs Saviour?

## Promising outlook for Platinum & Iridium (potential supply constraints here, too)

#### Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM) Electrolysis

- This involves the use of a Proton Exchange membrane and electrolyses water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- There are two reactions; firstly on the anode side the catalyst oxidises water to oxygen, and splits the hydrogen into protons and electrons (this needs **Iridium**);
- Then the electrons and the protons are combined to create hydrogen. This needs **Platinum** on both electrodes.
- A source of electricity is needed at the outset to generate the electrochemical reaction that causes electron transfer from a molecule; in this case, water.

The PEM Fuel Cell; usually a lower weight and volume than other fuel cells and the most suitable for transport applications.



## What's In Store For 2024?

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Source: Getty Images

StoneX<sup>\*</sup>

#### **ESG Net Zero Targets To Drive Government Policy**

- Asia can strive to make itself a focal point of catalyst recycling, Fuel Cell technology & market liquidity for trading Green metals
- Singapore's unique location & ability to serve both East & West markets will enable it to continue to be a major international trading centre
- Multiple opportunities for Metals, Energy, Agriculture, FX trading & expanding into a highly technical regional Asian marketplace to match rising demand
- Utilisation of technology is key to compete in the evolving global marketplace (AI will be a major feature)

#### BRICS vs USA = Cold War 2.0?

- The next decade will see the largest shift in global commodity demand & supply-chain restructuring in modern history. China & USA increasingly competing for global resources
- China's BRI "multipolar order" will become a major threat to the post-1945 Bretton Woods Western-led economic "rules based" international order
- ➤ BRICS + 19 additional countries seeking to join Shanghai Cooperation Agreement following USA/EU weaponisation of economic sanctions
- Increased substitution of USD-based commodity trade for a basket of alternative non-USD currencies (CNY, INR, RUB, ZAR, Real) = Arbitrage trading opportunities

# Opportunity For An Asian PGM Marketplace

## **Create an Asian Catalyst Recycling Hub**

- > Spent catalysts from major ICE markets in China, India, Japan & SE Asia can be sent to local recycling plants in Singapore as more Green vehicles gradually replace ICE vehicles
- > China is pushing to expand market share of EVs & Hydrogen Fuel Cell vehicles ahead of 2035 target
- Fuel Cells will require Platinum, Iridium & Palladium for Hydrogen production, purification & storage
- > Separation & recycling of these metals locally can reduce costs & drive efficiency for Asian auto producers

## **Increased Bilateral PGM Trading With Japan**

- > Japan has one of the most advanced manufacturing economies in Asia producing majority of catalysts
- > Japan is being seen as a major foreign investment destination by the US, UK & EU to substitute China
- > Singapore/Japan partnership in PGM trading, recycling & fuel cell production could be a game changer

## **Global Supply-Chain Restructuring**

- > Singapore is ideally placed to become a major supply-chain hub serving East & West during "deglobalisation"
- > Asian safe-haven for investment, manufacturing & financial services will be key in a fragmented marketplace



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THANK YOU

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