

# The Economic Impacts of Restrictions on the Transportation of Petroleum Coke

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## Abstract

Petroleum coke is the third leading refined petroleum product export from the US behind distillate fuel oil. Legal challenges and proposals could either increase the cost or restrict the transportation of petroleum coke. This paper develops an econometric model of world markets for refined petroleum markets to estimate the effects of such restrictions. The model is used to estimate how supply, demand, trade flows, and prices would adjust under a shutdown of US petroleum coke production. The market impacts are significant, with substantially higher prices for jet fuel and petroleum coke, significantly higher prices for gasoline and other products, and sharply lower prices for residual fuel oil. Over a four-year simulation of the model, the US petroleum trade balance deteriorates by \$85 billion and consumers pay over \$187 and \$376 billion more for refined petroleum products in the US and the rest of the world respectively.

## Keywords

Petroleum Coke, Transportation, Petroleum Product Prices

## 1. Introduction

The United States is the world's largest producer of petroleum coke, producing almost half of world production from processing units, known as "cokers" that also produce significant amounts of feedstocks for other refined petroleum products as noted by Leffler [1]. The economic driver to build coking units is to increase the yield of transportation fuels from a refinery. Coker capacity has been rising in the US since 1990 in part by taking advantage of low cost, heavy, high sulfur bitumen from Canada. This petroleum coke is shipped to nearby port facilities where it is temporarily stored for subsequent transportation to domestic and international markets.

Local neighborhood organizations in Detroit and Chicago have complained about the dust created from piles of coke stored along public waterways, see Muller [2]. Senator Durbin [3] from Illinois proposed an amendment to the Keystone XL Pipeline bill in the US Senate that would have regulated petroleum coke as a hazardous waste. National environmental groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council [4] and Oil Change International [5], have also raised the issue of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of petroleum coke. As a result, Jordon [6] proposed a ban on petroleum coke in Chicago and Upton [7] reported that San Francisco also considered a ban on the export of petroleum coke. If enacted, these policies would restrict transportation of petroleum coke and could affect markets for refined petroleum products. The objective of this study is to determine the economic impacts of restrictions on the transportation of petroleum coke.

To estimate this value, this study specifies and estimates an annual econometric model of world markets for refined petroleum products. The model has two regions—the United States and the rest of the world—and seven product categories including gasoline, distillate fuel oil, jet fuel and kerosene, residual fuel oil, liquid petroleum gases, petroleum coke, and other petroleum products, such as waxes, naphtha, and asphalt. Econometric models for the demand and supply for each of these products in the two regions are estimated. Combined with market clearing identities, the supply and demand relations for each of the seven product markets in the two regions are used to solve for equilibrium prices so that excess demand in one region is balanced by excess supply in the other. This approach allows a simple framework for modeling how supply and demand shocks affect prices for refined petroleum products and net trade flows.

The next section of this paper explains the nature of petroleum coke and its role in modern refineries. Section two discusses the specification of the demand and supply models. The paper then provides an overview of trends in world production and consumption of petroleum coke and other refined products. The econometric estimates of the supply and demand elasticities are presented in the fourth part of the paper. In section five, a dynamic simulation of this model is used to develop a base case to compare with a scenario that phases out petroleum coke production in the US. Changes in equilibrium prices between these two scenarios provide a basis for estimating the value of petroleum coke capacity. The paper concludes with a summary of the main findings.

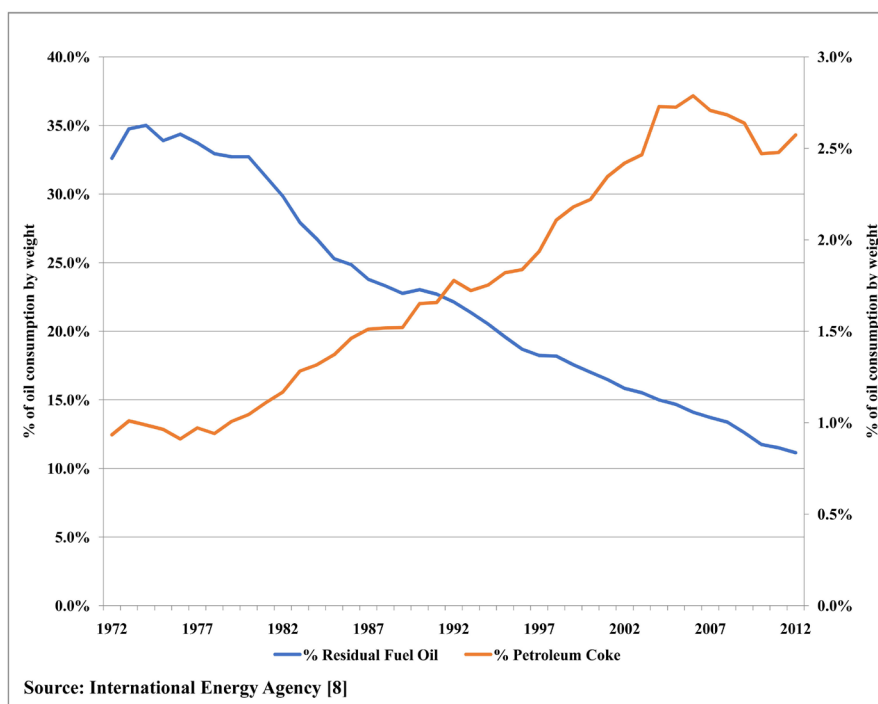
## **2. Petroleum Coke Production and Use**

Petroleum refineries convert crude oil and natural gas liquids into refined petroleum products. Like crude oil, these products fall into two broad categories: light and heavy. Over time, refiners adjust and optimize their technology based upon the availability and price of various types of crude oil, changing consumer preferences, and environmental regulations. One challenge for refiners is meeting increasing demand for light petroleum products while adjusting to declining

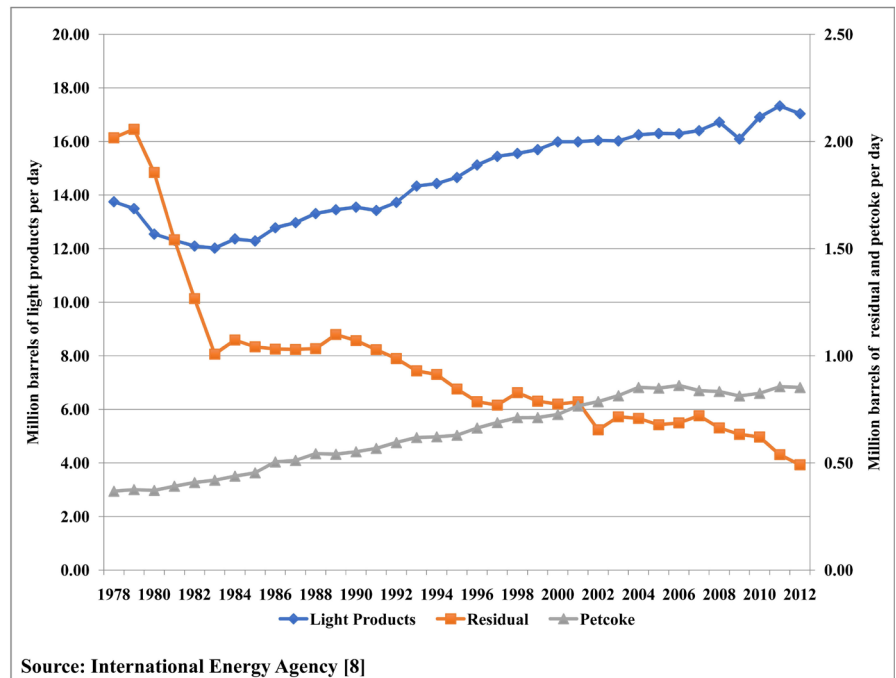
demand for residual fuel oil. As refiners increase their crude distillation runs to meet rising demand for gasoline and other light petroleum products, they produce large volumes of residues that when blended or “cut” with lighter products can be sold as residual fuel oil. The market for these residual fuels, however, has been shrinking over time and other heavy petroleum products, like asphalt, have limited markets. Hence, the logical decision is to convert these residues into light products using petroleum cokers. As a result, residual fuel oil consumption as a percentage of the total weight of world oil consumption has been steadily declining over the past 40 years while the corresponding percentage for petroleum coke has been increasing (see **Figure 1**). Residual fuel oil comprised 35% of world oil consumption in 1974 and decreased to 11% in 2012. In contrast, the percentage by weight of petroleum coke in world oil consumption more than doubled over the period from less than 1% in 1974 to 2.6% in 2012.

The relationship between petroleum coke, residual fuel oil, and light product production for the United States is illustrated in **Figure 2**. Light petroleum production, which includes gasoline, distillate fuel, aviation fuels, liquid petroleum gases, and blending components including oxygenates, such as ethanol, increased from 12 million barrels per day (mmbd) in 1983 to over 17 mmbd in 2012. Over the same time period, residual fuel production fell 50% to just below 500 thousand barrels per day. In contrast, US petroleum coke production more than doubled to over 850 thousand barrels per day.

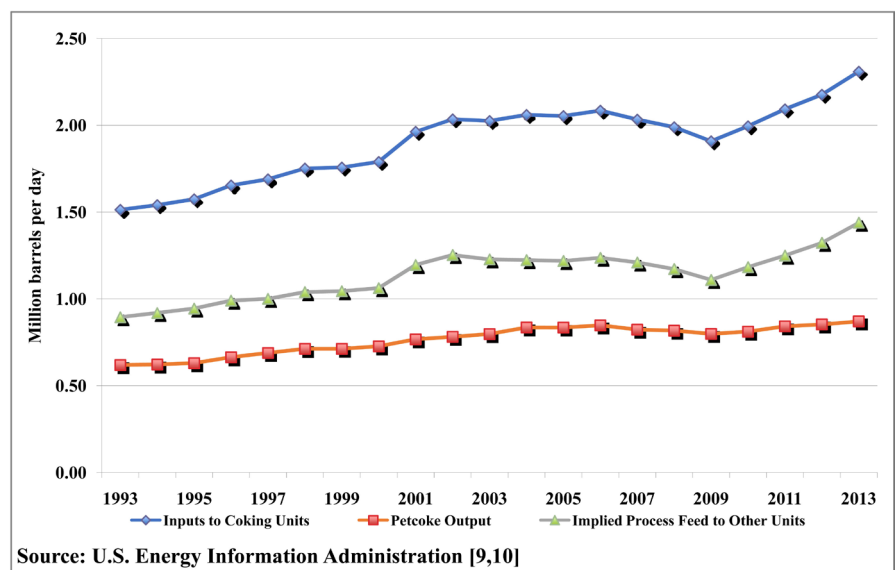
Coker throughput and the contribution of cokers to light product production is illustrated in **Figure 3**. From 1993 to 2013, inputs to cokers increased from 1.5 to 2.3 mmbd (see **Figure 3**). Meanwhile, petroleum coke output increased 250



**Figure 1.** Percentage of residual fuel oil and petroleum coke by weight.



**Figure 2.** US Production of light products, residual fuel oil, and petroleum coke.



**Figure 3.** US Coker throughput and production of other products.

thousand barrels per day. The difference between these gross inputs and coke output is the implied process feed to other refinery units, which increased from 0.9 to 1.4 mmbd between 1993 and 2013.

### 3. The Market Model

As the previous discussion demonstrates, the operation of petroleum cokers plays an important role in the production of refined petroleum products. Local bans on the shipment of petroleum coke would likely raise the cost of shipping

and could disrupt refinery operations by backing up petroleum coke at refineries. If refiners cannot ship petroleum coke, supplies would quickly exceed on-site storage capacity, forcing either a shutdown or curtailment of cokers or even the entire refinery. Curtailment of petroleum coker operations would cut supplies of feedstocks to other processing units, which would reduce production of many refined petroleum products (see **Figure 2**). As a result, prices for petroleum products would increase and imports and exports would adjust to restore market balance. Hence, limitations on coker operations in the US would likely affect world markets for refined petroleum products.

The magnitude of these market impacts depends upon the amount of coker capacity shutdown and the elasticities of demand and supply for refined petroleum products both in the US and the rest of the world. To estimate these elasticities, this study specifies and estimates a simplified model of world refined petroleum markets.

The model is built around the following market clearing identity in region  $j$  for product  $i$  in period  $t$ :

$$Y_{it}^j + M_{it}^j + S_{it-1}^j = Q_{it}^j + X_{it}^j + S_{it}^j \quad (1)$$

where  $Y_{it}^j$  is production,  $M_{it}^j$  is imports,  $X_{it}^j$  is exports,  $S_{it}^j$  are period ending inventories, and  $Q_{it}^j$  is consumption of refined petroleum product  $i$  in region  $j$  during period  $t$ . The left side of the equality in (1) represents availability or supply from current production, imports, and inventories carried over from the previous period. The right side of Equation (1) is the demand for the refined petroleum product  $i$  from current consumption, exports, and period ending inventories.

For a two region model, net exports (imports) from one region are equal to net imports (exports) from the other. Also, on an annual basis net changes in product inventories are a small fraction of total consumption and production. These arguments imply the following simplified market clearing identity that balances regional excess supply and demand:

$$(Y_{it}^r - Q_{it}^r) - (Y_{it}^u - Q_{it}^u) = B_{it} \quad (2)$$

where “u” denotes United States, “r” denotes the rest of the world, and where

$$B_{it} = (M_{it}^u - X_{it}^u) - (M_{it}^r - X_{it}^r) + (S_{it}^u - S_{it-1}^u) - (S_{it}^r - S_{it-1}^r) \quad (3)$$

is a balancing term reflecting regional differences in net trade flows and inventories. This study does not explicitly model imports and exports between regions and net inventory changes because they are roughly equal apart from accounting differences. Changes in net trade and inventory flows, however, can be calculated from differences in excess demand and supply between the two regions. Hence, Equation (2) is the market clearing identity for each refined petroleum product market. With models for production and consumption that depend upon price among other factors, Equation (2) can be solved for the equilibrium price that balances excess supply in one region with excess demand in the other. The response of prices and net trade flows to supply and demand shocks, there-

fore, can be modeled in a straightforward manner.

Given the absence of fuel switching capability, apart from the sectors, such as electric power generation that face competition from other fuels, the demand for refined petroleum products is very price inelastic in the short-run, determined by the utilization of fixed stocks of energy consuming durable equipment, such as automobiles, trucks, ships, and aircraft. As these stocks of vehicles adjust over time in response to prices and income, the price and income elasticities should be larger.

Given these considerations, the classic partial adjustment model is often used to model the demand for refined petroleum products in which consumption responds to market shocks with a lag. For this study, demand is postulated to depend upon real product price, real gross domestic product, and a time trend to reflect efficiency improvements in the energy-using capital stock. The partial adjustment demand models take the following form:

$$Q_{it}^j = \alpha_i + \beta_i^j P_{it}^j + \gamma_i^j I_t^j + \tau_i^j T + \lambda_i^j Q_{it-1}^j \quad (4)$$

where  $Q_{it}^j$  and  $P_{it}^j$  are consumption and price respectively for product  $i$  in period  $t$  in region  $j$ ,  $I_t^j$  is real gross domestic product in region  $j$  in period  $t$ ,  $T$  is a time trend, and  $\alpha_i^j, \beta_i^j, \gamma_i^j, \tau_i^j, \lambda_i^j$  are unknown parameters to be estimated. For residual fuel oil and petroleum coke, prices for natural gas and coal are included because these products are potential substitutes. A linear form rather than log-linear functional form is adopted to facilitate solution for equilibrium prices and to allow the price and income elasticities to vary over the data sample.

A distributed lagged demand model, suggested by Cuddington and Dagher [11], is also estimated and takes the following form:

$$Q_{it}^j = \alpha_i + \beta_i^j P_{it}^j + \beta_{i1}^j P_{it-1}^j + \gamma_i^j I_t^j + \gamma_{i1}^j I_{t-1}^j + \tau_i^j T + \lambda_i^j Q_{it-1}^j + \lambda_{i1}^j Q_{it-2}^j \quad (5)$$

The results for this distributed lag model and the partial adjustment model are discussed below.

On the supply side, the seven product categories are classified into two groups: primary products and secondary products. The four primary products include gasoline, distillate fuel oil, aviation fuels, and liquid petroleum gases. For the first three products, production is hypothesized to depend upon crack spreads, which are defined as the difference between the product price and the price of crude oil inputs:

$$Y_{it}^j = \eta_i^j + \delta_i^j (P_{it}^j - C_t^j) + \psi_i^j T, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \quad (6)$$

where  $Y_{it}^j$  and  $P_{it}^j$  are defined as above,  $C_t^j$  is the price of crude oil in region  $j$ , and  $\eta_i^j, \delta_i^j$  and  $\psi_i^j$  are unknown parameters to be estimated while the product index  $i$  here includes the first three fuels, gasoline, distillate fuel oil, and aviation fuels. The time trend reflects technological change in refined petroleum production. Liquid petroleum gases are produced at petroleum refineries and from natural gas processing plants that produce ethane, butane, iso-butane, natural gasoline, and pentanes, which are the main constituents of liquid petroleum gases, also known as natural gas liquids. Accordingly, for this product class, the

spread between LPG prices and natural gas prices or the so-called fractionation spread or “frac spread” for short replaces the crack-spread in (6).

The production levels of the remaining three products—residual fuel oil, petroleum coke, and other petroleum products—are determined on the basis of production of the primary production:

$$Y_{it}^j = \eta_i^j + \delta_i^j \sum_{i=1}^3 Y_{it}^j + \psi_i^j T, \quad \forall i = 5, 6, 7 \quad (7)$$

where the summation in (7) includes gasoline, distillate fuel oil, and aviation fuels.

The entire model includes 28 behavioral equations—the seven demand and seven supply functions for both the United States and the rest of the world. A discussion of the data sample used to estimate these supply and demand models and trends in production and consumption, prices, and trade balances now follows.

#### 4. Data Sample

Observations for production and consumption of refined petroleum products are available from the International Energy Agency [8]. The definitions of the product aggregates are summarized in **Table 1**. Given the availability of price data, our sample is from 1978 to 2012. Prices used in this study are from the Energy Information Administration [12] for the US and from International Energy Agency [13] for the rest of the world. Real gross domestic product (GDP) and the corresponding price deflators for the two regions are from the World Bank [14]. Real prices for gasoline, distillate, and residual fuel oil for the rest of the world are calculated from the IEA [13] and US EIA [12]. Prices for jet fuel, other petroleum products, liquid petroleum gases, and petroleum coke for the rest of the world are equal to the corresponding US retail prices deflated by the

**Table 1.** Definitions of product aggregates.

<i><b>Gasoline</b></i>	<i><b>Residual Fuel Oil</b></i>
Motor Gasoline	Residual fuel oil
Bio-gasoline (ethanol)	Bunker fuel oil
Gasoline additives	<i><b>Liquid petroleum gases</b></i>
Other liquid biofuels	Liquid petroleum gases
<i><b>Distillate</b></i>	Ethane
Distillate fuel oil	Natural gas liquids
Biodiesel	<i><b>Other petroleum products</b></i>
International marine diesel	White spirits
<i><b>Aviation fuel</b></i>	Naphtha
Aviation Gasoline	Lubricants
Kerosene type jet fuel	Bitumen or asphalt
Gasoline type jet fuel	Paraffin waxes
Other kerosene	Miscellaneous products

implicit price deflator used to compute the real gasoline price index from IEA [13] for the rest of the world.

Trends in the consumption of petroleum products for the US and the rest of the world are displayed in Figure 4 and Figure 5. Gasoline is the largest product

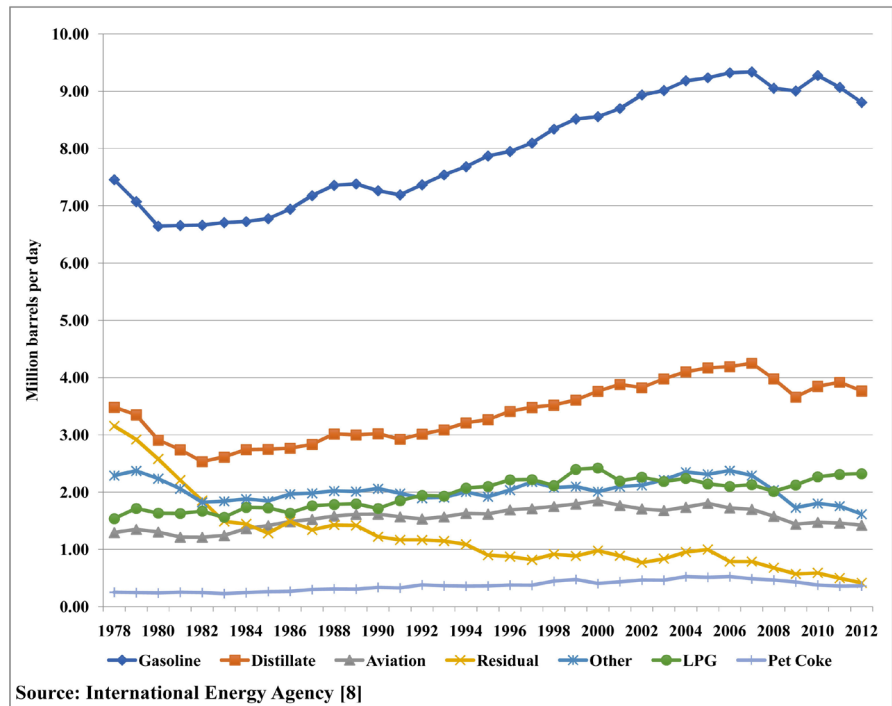


Figure 4. US consumption of refined petroleum products.

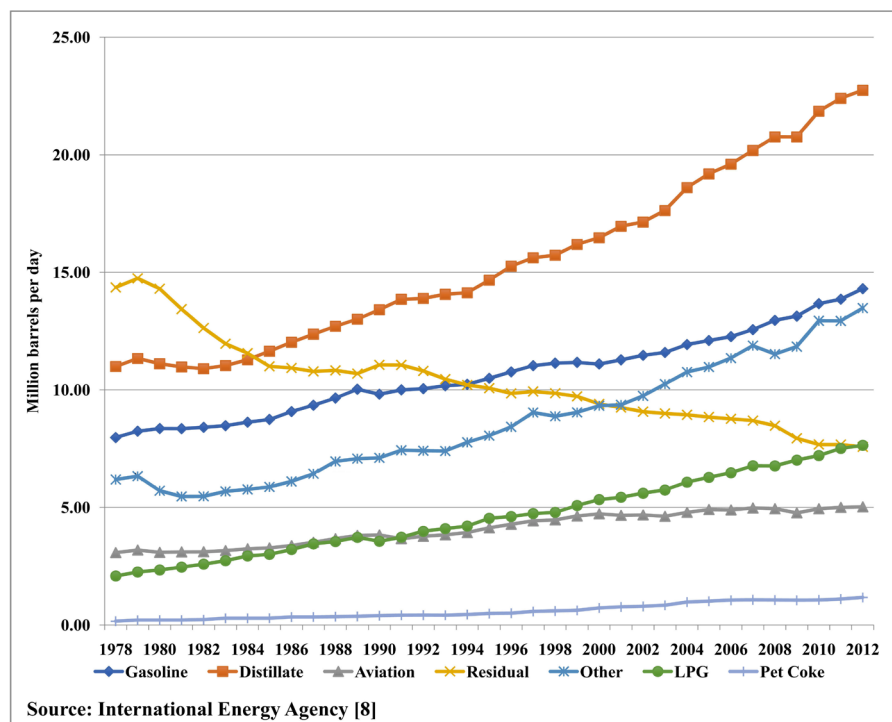


Figure 5. Rest of the world consumption of refined petroleum products.



in the US, increasing from roughly 7.5 to 8.8 mmbd from 1978 to 2012 while distillate fuel oil reigns supreme in the rest of the world, rising from 11.0 to 22.7 mmbd over the same period. Consumption of LPG, aviation fuels, and other petroleum products are the next largest categories. World petroleum coke consumption is about 1.5 mmbd in 2012 with the US consuming about 24 percent of this amount.

## 5. Econometric Findings

Several econometric estimation methods and specifications were pursued to determine the robustness of the results. The first issue concerns the time series properties of the data. Accordingly, all data are checked for unit roots using the augmented Dickey-Fuller test. Real prices, production, and consumption were found to have unit roots. Therefore, all models were initially estimated in first differences. For these models, there were several elasticity estimates that were extremely small, which would have exaggerated the price impacts of reductions in petroleum coke production. The distributed lag models (5) were also estimated. Several of the own price elasticities of demand from the DL models were positive and some of the supply elasticities were unreasonable. The partial adjustment models of demand, therefore, were adopted.

Another important econometric issue involves the possibility of endogenous explanatory variables in the demand and supply models, specifically product and crude oil prices. Two supply side instrumental variables were used to estimate the models with two-stage least squares. The first is the sum of North Sea and Mexican crude oil production. Both of these areas have large conventional offshore fields with production determined largely by geological conditions. The second instrumental variable is the sum of crude oil production in Libya, Nigeria, and Iraq. This instrument represents supply shocks due to political events unrelated to oil market conditions, such as the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91, the Iraq war of 2003-2005, recurring conflicts in Nigeria, and the Libyan revolution during 2010 and 2011. All models were estimated with these two variables serving as instruments for real prices and crack spreads. The price and income elasticities are very similar to the ordinary least squares estimates presented below.

The parameter estimates for light refined petroleum product demand appear in **Table 2**. The estimated coefficients on prices and gross domestic product all have the correct signs in each of the two regions. The estimated probability values are generally lower for the United States, indicating a relatively greater degree of precision associated with the US estimates compared with those for the rest of the world. With the exception of liquid petroleum gases and aviation fuel demand for the rest of the world, all fuels have estimated trend coefficients that are negative and statistically significant. These significant trend effects reflect the combined effects of higher fuel efficiency standards, energy conservation by consumers (more efficient transport decisions) and more efficient engines and vehicle designs. The estimated trend coefficients for liquid petroleum gases

**Table 2.** Parameter estimates for light petroleum product demand.

Variable	Rest-of-World			United States		
	Gasoline					
	Estimate	T-Stat.	P-Values	Estimate	T-Stat.	P-Values
Constant	0.518	0.56	0.58	1.715	5.21	0.00
Price	−0.007	−2.67	0.01	−0.005	−4.81	0.00
GDP	0.147	4.04	0.00	0.310	4.00	0.00
Trend	−0.065	−2.33	0.02	−0.039	−2.29	0.02
Lag Q	0.775	5.31	0.00	0.544	6.13	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.992			0.985		
Durbin H	−0.129		0.90	1.009		0.31
Unit Root	−3.111		0.06	−3.398		0.03
Distillate Fuel or Gas Oil						
Constant	0.310	0.46	0.65	−0.179	−0.81	0.42
Price	−0.005	−1.46	0.14	−0.003	−4.07	0.00
GDP	0.371	3.81	0.00	0.370	4.12	0.00
Trend	−0.072	−1.46	0.14	−0.071	−3.30	0.00
Lag Q	0.471	3.93	0.00	0.419	3.35	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.998			0.943		
Durbin H	1.186		0.24	−0.023		0.98
Unit Root	−2.421		0.34	−2.734		0.17
Jet Fuel & Kerosene						
Constant	0.700	2.14	0.03	0.270	1.86	0.06
Price	−0.002	−1.92	0.05	−0.002	−5.08	0.00
GDP	0.016	0.61	0.54	0.081	3.06	0.00
Trend	0.007	0.39	0.70	−0.018	−2.48	0.01
Lag Q	0.735	9.13	0.00	0.612	6.70	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.972			0.824		
Durbin H	0.52		0.60	0.869		0.39
Unit Root	−2.975		0.09	−3.491		0.02
Liquid Petroleum Gases						
Constant	−0.853	−1.79	0.07	0.682	2.84	0.00
Price	−0.001	−0.41	0.69	−0.005	−1.70	0.09
GDP	0.119	2.21	0.03	0.053	2.21	0.03
D2012				−0.083	−2.70	0.01
Lag Q	0.621	3.39	0.00	0.561	3.48	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.996			0.869		
Durbin H	0.404		0.69	−0.587		0.56
Unit Root	−3.387		0.03	−2.285		0.44

t and p-values are computed based upon heteroscedastic standard errors.

demand are insignificant and, therefore, omitted. Unlike the other light petroleum products, a significant portion of LPG demand is derived from the production of petrochemicals. The Durbin h statistics and the corresponding p-values indicate the absence of autocorrelation in the residuals. Likewise, the unit root tests on the residuals and their corresponding p-values indicate low probabilities for unit roots in the residuals.

The parameter estimates for heavy petroleum products appear below in **Table 3**. The own price elasticities of demand are all statistically significant. The GDP elasticities are all positive and also significant. During the model simulation to evaluate the fit of the model, several outliers were discovered for the petroleum coke data. As a result, dummy variables for 2000 and 2004 were included in the petroleum coke demand models. The estimates for the other explanatory variables, however, did not change substantially from the model without these dummy variables.

The findings of fuel switching for residual fuel oil and petroleum coke are mixed. For the US, coal is found to be a substitute with residual fuel oil but the probability value is 0.11 (see **Table 3**). For the rest of the world, distillate fuel oil is found to be a substitute for residual fuel oil but the probability value is also 0.11. The trend terms in the demand for residual fuel oil are significant in both regions. Natural gas prices are somewhat significant in the petroleum coke demand model for the rest of the world with a probability value of 0.06, but were not found to be significant for the US market.

The short and long run price elasticities of demand in **Table 4** are evaluated at the sample means. As expected, the demands for these fuels are very price inelastic. For example, the short-run gasoline price elasticity of demand is  $-0.06$  and  $-0.05$  in the rest of the world and the US respectively. In the long run, these elasticities are  $-0.26$  and  $-0.11$  respectively. While the price elasticities of demand for diesel in the US are very close to those for gasoline, the demand for diesel fuel in the rest of the world is considerably less responsive to price with short and long price elasticities of  $-0.02$  and  $-0.05$  respectively. The demand for aviation fuels shows slightly greater sensitivity to price, particularly for the long run in the US, with an elasticity of  $-0.22$  (see **Table 4**). The GDP elasticities are positive as expected and are considerably larger in magnitude compared with the price elasticities of demand. The GDP elasticities for gasoline and diesel are highly significant, indicating a close linkage between fuel demand and economic growth.

The US demand for residual fuel oil is considerably more responsive to price with short-run own price elasticity of  $-0.19$  and a long-run estimate of  $-0.79$  (**Table 4**). The demand for residual fuel oil in the rest of the world shows somewhat less price responsiveness compared to the US with short and long run price elasticities of  $-0.13$  and  $-0.23$  respectively. The price elasticities of US demand for other petroleum products is also very price inelastic with estimates of  $-0.09$  in the short-run and  $-0.17$  in the long run.

**Table 3.** Parameter estimates for heavy petroleum product demand.

Variable	Rest-of-World			United States		
	Residual Fuel Oil					
	Estimate	T-Stat.	P-Values	Estimate	T-Stat.	P-Values
Constant	5.252	2.47	0.01	−0.813	−1.72	0.09
Price	−0.021	−2.79	0.01	−0.006	−2.12	0.03
Dist. Price	0.017	1.62	0.11			
Coal Price				0.219	1.60	0.11
GDP	0.112	2.13	0.03	0.150	2.50	0.01
Trend	−0.142	−3.83	0.00	−0.037	−2.13	0.03
Lagged Q	0.437	2.60	0.01	0.759	10.62	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.985			0.916		
Durbin H	1.318		0.19	1.143		0.25
Unit Root	−4.123		0.00	−2.840		0.13
Petroleum Coke						
Constant	−0.295	−2.50	0.01	−0.076	−1.44	0.15
Price	−0.003	−2.53	0.01	−0.006	−3.74	0.00
NG Price	0.001	1.89	0.06			
GDP	0.022	3.07	0.00	0.070	5.19	0.00
Trend				−0.017	−4.96	0.00
Lagged Q	0.452	2.41	0.02	0.388	2.92	0.00
D2004	0.083	7.34	0.00			
D2000				−0.082	−12.34	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.990			0.850		
Durbin H	2.159		0.03	−0.878	0.38	
Unit Root	−2.351		0.39	−2.678	0.20	
Other Petroleum Products						
Constant	−1.710	−2.00	0.05	0.015	0.08	0.93
Price	−0.007	−2.65	0.01	−0.003	−4.97	0.00
GDP	0.384	4.23	0.00	0.267	3.73	0.00
Trend	−0.128	−2.15	0.03	−0.073	−3.66	0.00
Lag Q	0.382	3.03	0.00	0.441	4.08	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.991			0.773		
Durbin H	2.989		0.00	0.076	0.94	
Unit Root	−2.353		0.39	−2.805	0.14	

t and p-values are computed based upon heteroscedastic standard errors.

**Table 4.** Petroleum product demand elasticities evaluated at sample means.

Gasoline	Own Price Elasticities				GDP Elasticities			
	Rest-of-World		United States		Rest-of-World		United States	
	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR
Estimate	−0.06	−0.26	−0.05	−0.11	0.36	1.61	0.39	0.84
T-Stat.	−2.67	−1.32	−4.81	−2.82	4.04	1.68	4.00	5.85
P-Values	0.01	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00
Distillate								
Estimate	−0.02	−0.05	−0.06	−0.10	0.63	1.19	1.08	1.87
T-Stat.	−1.46	−1.37	−4.07	−2.88	3.81	5.31	4.12	7.13
P-Values	0.14	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aviation Fuels								
Estimate	−0.03	−0.10	−0.08	−0.22	0.10	0.38	0.51	1.31
T-Stat.	−1.92	−1.83	−5.08	−7.09	0.61	0.62	3.06	2.99
P-Values	0.05	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.54	0.00	0.00
Residual								
Estimate	−0.13	−0.23	−0.19	−0.79	0.05	0.09	1.29	5.33
T-Stat.	−2.79	−4.43	−2.12	−1.70	1.62	2.34	2.50	2.66
P-Values	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.09	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.01
Other Products								
Estimate	−0.07	−0.12	−0.09	−0.17	1.17	1.90	1.31	2.34
T-Stat.	−2.65	−2.11	−4.97	−4.05	4.23	4.25	3.73	6.72
P-Values	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LPG								
Estimate	−0.01	−0.03	−0.08	−0.18	0.55	1.45	0.24	0.55
T-Stat.	−0.41	−0.38	−1.70	−2.25	2.21	16.90	2.21	4.41
P-Values	0.69	0.70	0.09	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00
PetCoke								
Estimate	−0.05	−0.09	−0.17	−0.28	0.90	1.64	1.89	3.09
T-Stat.	−2.53	−2.33	−3.74	−6.79	3.07	21.35	5.19	5.64
P-Values	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

t and p-values are computed based upon heteroscedastic standard errors.

The results from estimating the production models for the primary products appear in **Table 5**. The models are estimated with a correction for autocorrelation using maximum likelihood estimation. For the rest of the world, the crack spread is measured by the difference in the respective wholesale prices for products in Europe less the price for Brent crude oil. The spread between product prices and the price for West Texas Intermediate crude oil is used for the crack spread in the US models. All three coefficients on the crack spreads are positive

**Table 5.** Parameter estimates for primary petroleum product supply.

	<i>Rest-of-World</i>			<i>United States</i>		
	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>T-Stats</i>	<i>P-Values</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>T-Stats</i>	<i>P-Values</i>
<i>Gasoline</i>						
Constant	7.474	46.26	0.00	6.431	41.03	0.00
Crack Spread	0.032	2.71	0.01	0.048	4.02	0.00
Trend	0.170	27.06	0.00	0.039	2.97	0.01
RVP1				0.165	1.19	0.25
RVP2				0.305	1.92	0.07
RVP3				0.840	4.06	0.00
Rho	0.533	3.10	0.00			
R <sup>2</sup>	0.990			0.909		
Durbin Watson	1.635			2.031		
<i>Distillate Fuel</i>						
Constant	8.697	30.56	0.00	2.125	55.90	0.00
Crack Spread	0.026	3.65	0.00	0.006	2.28	0.02
Trend	0.362	29.89	0.00	0.063	25.81	0.00
Rho	0.720	5.51	0.00	−0.178	−0.90	0.37
R <sup>2</sup>	0.996			0.978		
Durbin Watson	1.445			2.010		
<i>Aviation Fuels</i>						
	Estimate	T-Statistics	P-Values	Estimate	T-Statistics	P-Values
Constant	2.982	16.08	0.00	1.517	12.31	0.00
Crack Spread	0.006	1.87	0.06	0.005	3.08	0.00
Trend	0.072	9.35	0.00	−0.002	−0.42	0.67
Rho	0.793	7.04	0.00	0.897	11.40	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.974			0.646		
Durbin Watson	1.491			1.709		
<i>Liquid Petroleum Gases</i>						
	Estimate	T-Statistics	P-Values	Estimate	T-Statistics	P-Values
Constant	1.375	8.30	0.00	1.777	11.99	0.00
Price/Frac. Spread	0.015	3.45	0.00	0.011	1.04	0.30
Trend	0.276	30.01	0.00	0.018	2.67	0.01
D2008	−0.203	−1.68	0.09			
D2012	0.277	1.95	0.05			
D1991				−0.146	−2.88	0.00
Rho	0.644	4.30	0.00	0.812	7.22	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.997			0.997		
Durbin Watson	1.661			1.661		

t and p-values are computed based upon heteroscedastic standard errors.

for the rest of the world, as expected. The crack spreads for gasoline and distillate are highly significant while the aviation fuel crack spread p-value is 6.1 percent. The coefficients for trend in these three primary fuel production models are positive and highly significant, consistent with the trend toward expanded light petroleum production observed by Leffler [1].

The same models are estimated for the US and the results are also presented in **Table 5**. The crack spreads for gasoline, distillate, and jet fuel are positive and highly significant. The gasoline production model is estimated for conventional gasoline production excluding ethanol because ethanol is produced in separate plants and blended with conventional gasoline to meet environmental regulations. For the purposes of this analysis, ethanol production, therefore, is exogenous. Three dummy variables for the phased implementation of environmental standards for Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) are also included as explanatory variables based upon the study by Lidderdale [15].

The production models for liquid petroleum gases also appear in **Table 5**. The fractionation spread was not possible to compute for the rest of the world so the price for liquid petroleum gases was used and found to be positive and significant. The coefficient on the fractionation spread for the US is positive but the low t-statistic and relatively high probability value indicates that it may not be a significant determinant of US LPG production. The production models for LPG in both regions show a positive and significant trend coefficient. Like the demand models for petroleum coke, dummy variables are included to control for outliers.

The parameter estimates for the production of secondary products appear in **Table 6**. For the rest of the world, the coefficients for primary production are positive for all secondary petroleum products, but the estimate for petroleum coke is rather imprecise. The trend terms for other products and petroleum coke are positive but negative for residual fuel oil. For the US, primary production is positively related to production of other petroleum products and petroleum coke. The trend coefficients for residual fuel oil and other petroleum product are negative and significant while the petroleum coke trend effect is positive and significant.

The supply elasticities are computed from these estimates and evaluated at the mean of the data (see **Table 7**). Like demand, primary production is very price inelastic.

For example, for a 10 percent change in price, production of gasoline outside the US increases 1.22 percent. Five out of six elasticities of secondary production with respect to primary production are positive and four of these are statistically significant.

A within sample static model simulation is conducted to determine the accuracy of the model. The mean squared errors for demand and supply for the three largest product categories—gasoline, distillate, and aviation fuels—are within one and three percent. The mean squared errors for prices for these three prod-

uct aggregates are higher because small errors in demand or supply occasionally compound. The mean squared errors for the remaining four product aggregates are larger but also display a lack of any systematic bias, see **Appendix A**.

## 6. Market Impacts of Shutting Down US Production of Petroleum Coke

If petroleum coke production is shutdown in the US, residual fuel oil is the only outlet for the refinery residue. Using an engineering-economic linear programming model of the US refining sector described by Jacobs [16], Jenkins [17] estimates how the composition of refined petroleum production would be affected if petroleum coke production capacity in the US is shutdown.

The econometric model developed above is used to estimate the market

**Table 6.** Parameter estimates for secondary petroleum product supply.

	<i>Rest-of-World</i>			<i>United States</i>		
	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>T-Stats</i>	<i>P-Values</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>T-Stats</i>	<i>P-Values</i>
<i>Residual Fuel Oil</i>						
Constant	7.082	4.04	0.00	1.425	4.42	0.00
Primary Output	0.340	3.74	0.00	−0.017	−0.52	0.60
Trend	−0.360	−6.05	0.00	−0.018	−3.48	0.00
Rho	0.595	3.39	0.00	0.523	2.93	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	0.977			0.939		
Durbin Watson	1.969			1.785		
<i>Other Petroleum Products</i>						
Constant	−2.155	−1.01	0.31	0.625	1.34	0.18
Primary Output	0.212	1.91	0.06	0.139	2.92	0.00
Trend	0.048	0.66	0.51	−0.023	−3.08	0.00
Rho	0.293	1.39	0.17	0.283	1.35	0.18
R <sup>2</sup>	0.975			0.394		
Durbin Watson	1.757			1.904		
<i>Petroleum Coke</i>						
Constant	−0.548	−1.87	0.06	0.069	0.63	0.53
Primary Output	0.020	1.37	0.17	0.033	3.07	0.00
Trend	0.016	1.58	0.12	0.009	4.98	0.00
D2006	0.059	3.06	0.00			
D2004	0.879	8.67	0.00	0.022	2.16	0.03
Rho	0.984			0.824	7.72	0.00
R <sup>2</sup>	1.726			0.987		
Durbin Watson				1.424		

t and p-values are computed based upon heteroscedastic standard errors.



**Table 7.** Petroleum product supply elasticities evaluated at sample means.

<i>Price</i>			<i>Primary Production</i>		
<i>Gasoline</i>	<i>ROW</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>Residual</i>	<i>ROW</i>	<i>US</i>
Estimate	0.122	0.007	Estimate	1.076	−0.275
T-Stats	2.705	4.024	T-Stats	3.740	−0.520
P-Values	0.007	0.000	P-Values	0.000	0.603
<i>Distillate</i>			<i>Other Products</i>		
Estimate	0.073	0.002	Estimate	1.186	0.938
T-Stats	3.648	2.279	T-Stats	1.910	2.918
P-Values	0.000	0.023	P-Values	0.056	0.004
<i>Aviation Fuels</i>			<i>Petcoke</i>		
Estimate	0.067	0.004	Estimate	1.523	0.604
T-Stats	1.874	3.080	T-Stats	1.367	3.072
P-Values	0.061	0.002	P-Values	0.172	0.002
<i>LPG</i>					
Estimate	0.060	0.034			
T-Stats	3.447	1.040			
P-Values	0.000	0.299			

t and p-values are computed based upon heteroscedastic standard errors.

impacts of these changes, assuming that they are phased in over a two-year period. The model is solved over the last four years of the sample, 2009-2012, with and without these changes. Production, consumption, and price by region and product are compared below in the **Table 8**. The fifth column in **Table 8** reports the changes in refined petroleum production estimated by Jenkins [17]. Given our assumption of a two-year phase out of petroleum coke production, residual fuel oil production increases by 1.59 mmbd in year one and by 3.18 mmbd in year two. Production of all other petroleum products declines with the largest reductions for aviation fuels, petroleum coke, and other petroleum products.

Even though lower demand both here and abroad and additional production overseas offsets some of these US output losses, equilibrium prices for petroleum products other than residual fuel oil increase substantially, with the second largest increases occurring for aviation fuels. Under a shutdown of petroleum coke production in the US, the market for residual fuel oil is flooded so that prices collapse. Greater primary production overseas due to higher prices for primary products exacerbates the situation. Most of the additional residual fuel oil production is sold to the rest of the world. Finally, the shutdown of petroleum coke production has a pronounced impact on petroleum coke markets as illustrated in **Table 8**. Since the US is the dominant producer, petroleum coke prices more than triple under the shutdown of US production. While substitution to coal and other fuels would take place, consumers of petroleum coke would face much

**Table 8.** Simulated market impacts of phasing out US petroleum coke production.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Demand Changes million barrels per day</i>		<i>Supply Changes million barrels per day</i>		<i>% Change in Price</i>
	<i>ROW</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>ROW</i>	<i>USA-Jenkins (2015)</i>	<i>USA</i>
<i>Gasoline</i>					
1	−0.03	−0.02	0.11	−0.17	4.38
2	−0.08	−0.05	0.21	−0.34	8.16
3	−0.10	−0.06	0.18	−0.34	5.07
4	−0.12	−0.06	0.16	−0.34	4.29
<i>Distillate Fuel or Gas Oil</i>					
1	0.00	0.00	0.02	−0.02	0.62
2	−0.01	0.00	0.03	−0.04	1.41
3	−0.01	−0.01	0.03	−0.04	0.94
4	−0.01	−0.01	0.03	−0.04	0.86
<i>Aviation Fuels</i>					
1	−0.12	−0.14	0.43	−0.69	63.46
2	−0.29	−0.34	0.74	−1.37	117.95
3	−0.38	−0.41	0.59	−1.37	75.81
4	−0.42	−0.43	0.53	−1.37	67.24
<i>Residual Fuel Oil</i>					
1	1.51	0.27	0.19	1.59	−76.14
2	2.89	0.62	0.33	3.18	−87.91
3	2.67	0.77	0.27	3.18	−59.72
4	2.54	0.88	0.24	3.18	−56.43
<i>Other Petroleum Products</i>					
1	−0.08	−0.03	0.12	−0.23	12.48
2	−0.19	−0.06	0.21	−0.46	14.75
3	−0.21	−0.07	0.17	−0.46	11.74
4	−0.23	−0.08	0.15	−0.46	10.78
<i>Liquid Petroleum Gases</i>					
1	−0.01	−0.03	0.06	−0.10	11.36
2	−0.02	−0.06	0.12	−0.20	16.67
3	−0.02	−0.07	0.10	−0.20	15.41
4	−0.03	−0.08	0.09	−0.20	15.04
<i>Petroleum Coke</i>					
1	−0.10	−0.21	0.01	−0.32	305.79
2	−0.20	−0.41	0.02	−0.64	275.50
3	−0.21	−0.41	0.02	−0.64	165.11
4	−0.21	−0.41	0.01	−0.64	184.73

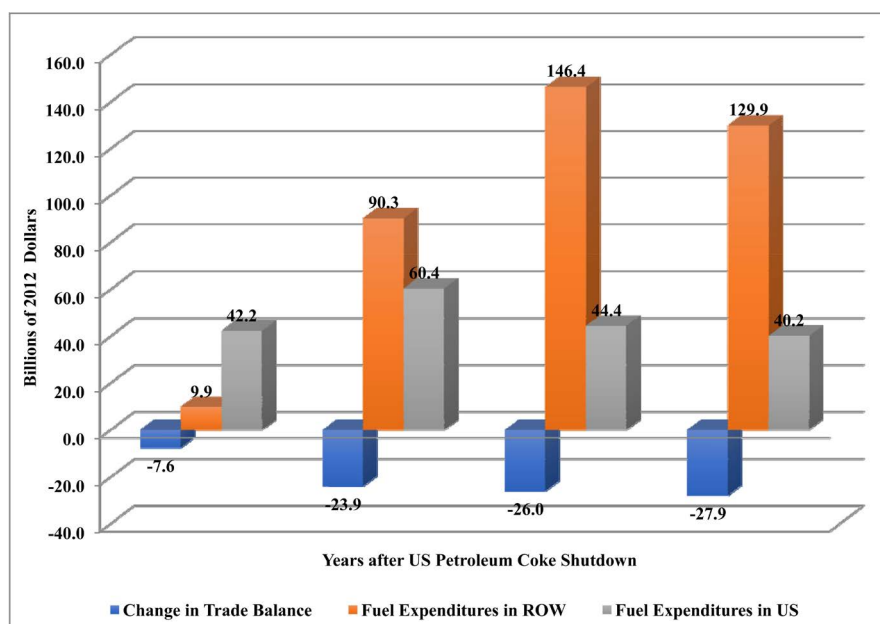
higher costs. While petroleum coke producers overseas increase production, the gain is very small, so that only sharply lower consumption here and abroad can balance the market.

Overall, shutting down petroleum coke capacity would change the composition of US output of refined petroleum production. Output of residual fuel oil would increase while production of petroleum coke and, most importantly, production of light products, such as aviation fuels, would decrease. While higher production overseas and price-induced conservation limits some of the resulting upward pressure on prices, the net effect is a sharp increase in prices for aviation fuels and double-digit percentage price increases for other petroleum products and liquid petroleum gases. Gasoline prices would increase from 4 to 8 percent while distillate fuel oil prices would increase around 1 percent. Petroleum coke prices more than triple and world prices for residual fuel oil would plummet.

Changes in the trade balances and consumer expenditures are displayed in **Figure 6**. After the four-year adjustment period, the US trade balance in petroleum products declines \$27.9 billion from a \$17.8 billion surplus under the baseline scenario to a \$10.1 deficit billion annual deficit after a shutdown of petroleum coke production. Expenditures on petroleum products in the US increase by over \$60 billion during the second year and remain more than \$40 billion higher after shutting down US petroleum coke production. The increases in expenditures for the rest of the world are considerably larger, ranging from \$9.9 to over \$146 billion.

## 7. Conclusion

Environmental concerns have led to proposals to restrict the transportation of



**Figure 6.** Changes in trade balance and consumer expenditures.

petroleum coke. This paper estimates the market impacts of these proposed bans and, in effect, determines the value of petroleum coke to refined petroleum product markets. Shutting down US petroleum coke capacity would disrupt refined petroleum products markets, lowering prices for residual fuel oil and increasing prices for aviation fuels, petroleum coke, other petroleum products, liquid petroleum gases, and gasoline. Shutting down petroleum coke production in the US would hurt the trade balance, over a four-year period the losses could mount to over \$85 billion. Without petroleum coke, consumers would pay \$187.2 and \$376.5 billion more in the US and the rest of the world respectively for refined petroleum products.

## Claim

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## Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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## Appendix A: Mean Squared Error Decomposition

	<i>MSE Decomposition</i>				<i>MSE Decomposition</i>			
	<i>MSE</i>	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Reg.</i>	<i>Resid.</i>	<i>MSE</i>	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Reg.</i>	<i>Resid.</i>
<i>Gasoline</i>					<i>Liquid Petroleum Gases</i>			
US Demand	0.01	0.20	0.02	0.78	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.99
ROW Demand	0.02	0.41	0.08	0.51	0.02	0.20	0.03	0.77
US Supply	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.92	0.03	0.09	0.01	0.91
ROW Supply	0.04	0.52	0.26	0.22	0.10	0.25	0.62	0.14
Price	0.18	0.54	0.22	0.24	0.31	0.45	0.15	0.41
<i>Distillate</i>					<i>Other Products</i>			
US Demand	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.98	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.91
ROW Demand	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.91
US Supply	0.02	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.04	0.10	0.05	0.85
ROW Supply	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.93	0.03	0.20	0.07	0.74
Price	0.13	0.04	0.17	0.79	0.26	0.20	0.65	0.16
<i>Aviation Fuels</i>					<i>Petroleum Coke</i>			
US Demand	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.99	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.95
ROW Demand	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.95	0.07	0.08	0.16	0.76
US Supply	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.94	0.05	0.00	0.20	0.79
ROW Supply	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.95	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.96
Price	0.14	0.08	0.09	0.83	0.26	0.00	0.66	0.34
<i>Residual Fuel Oil</i>								
US Demand	0.02	0.26	0.21	0.53				
ROW Demand	0.02	0.24	0.00	0.76				
US Supply	0.09	0.01	0.17	0.83				
ROW Supply	0.05	0.00	0.00	1.00				
Price	0.25	0.40	0.26	0.34				