# PLATINUM PERSPECTIVES

#### Steady industrial demand growth underpins platinum

Annual growth in platinum demand from industrial uses has averaged over 3% for the past 20 years and over 7% for the past 5 years. Interestingly industrial demand in 2018 was 35% of net *demand* (total demand net of recycling) of 5.45 moz. Industrial demand in 2018 of 1.91 moz was 26% of total demand of 7.38 moz.

Industrial demand is seldom the focus of market analysis or commentary relative to automotive, jewellery and investment demand. This may be because industrial demand is more diverse and its steady growth typically saw it excluded from discussions linking declines in automotive and jewellery demand to the weak and declining platinum price.

Industrial demand comprises platinum used in the production of chemicals, petroleum, electrical equipment, glass, medicine and medical equipment and many other products. The 'other' category includes stationary and mobile fuel cells; the latter not yet included in automotive demand. Industrial use of platinum is diverse from an application and geographic perspective (see charts below right).

Industrial demand growth is driven by global economic growth and advances in technology but can exhibit short term changes unrelated to macro trends. This is because annual demand arises from two categories: small top-up requirements, as industrial catalysts wear out and is net of closed loop recycling, and much larger amounts of metal when new process plant capacity is built. Industrial demand is usually shown net of recycling. When considering the annual need for platinum ounces from mine supply and above ground stock, industrial demand is particularly significant.

In 2018, industrial demand contributed the largest share of *net demand* for platinum and is forecast to do so again this year (2019 *net demand* (*moz*): industrial, 2.0; jewellery 1.82; autocatalyst 1.52). The size and nature of this demand is why industrial platinum demand is increasingly more important to the investment case for platinum.

Steady growth in industrial demand has seen it become the largest element of net demand for platinum in 2018



## Industrial demand is diverse, in use and geographical spread



Source: SFA (Oxford), Johnson Matthey, WPIC Research

Platinum industrial demand has grown steadily over the last five years (chart above left), partially offsetting easing Chinese jewellery and European autocatalyst demand. The diversity of industrial platinum demand makes it far less vulnerable to any particular change within a type of use or region. We expect platinum industrial demand to continue growing at or above the rate of global growth. Arguably it is, and will remain, the "bedrock" of net demand in an innovative and growing world.



Trevor Raymond Director of Research +44 203 696 8772 traymond@platinuminvestment.com

#### **Brendan Clifford**

Manager, Investor Development +44 203 696 8778 bclifford@platinuminvestment.com

World Platinum Investment Council www.platinuminvestment.com 64 St James's Street London SW1A 1NF

June 2019

#### Platinum in six charts – June 2019



Platinum's attraction as an investment asset arises from:

- Supply is relatively constrained with limited investment in new platinum group metal (PGM) mines
- Platinum price is at all-time lows relative to platinum itself, gold and palladium
- Total PGM automotive demand growth should continue due to increasingly restrictive emissions limits
- Market balance mismatches between palladium and platinum argues for substitution
- Investment demand has surged as institutions begin to factor low price and demand growth signals

## Figure 1: Platinum's ETF holdings increased by 690 koz in Q1, 2019



# Figure 2: Sustained backwardation in the palladium market highlights the availability challenge, supporting switching



Source: Bloomberg, WPIC Research

### Figure 3: Palladium's price premium to platinum reflects a tight market and highlights the potential for substitution



Source: Bloomberg, WPIC Research

## Figure 5: As with platinum's deep discount to palladium, the discount to gold has widened to a record \$594/oz



#### Figure 4: The forecast platinum surplus in 2019 has

Source: Johnson Matthey, WPIC Research

#### narrowed due to a surge in investment demand (ETFs)



Source: Johnson Matthey, SFA (Oxford), WPIC Research

### Figure 6: NYMEX positioning shows rebuilt short- and easing long positioning in 2019 (net 1Moz short)



Source: Bloomberg, WPIC Research

Source: Bloomberg, WPIC Research

IMPORTANT NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: This publication is general and solely for educational purposes. The publisher, The World Platinum Investment Council, has been formed by the world's leading platinum producers to develop the market for platinum investment demand. Its mission is to stimulate investor demand for physical platinum through both actionable insights and targeted development: providing investors with the information to support informed decisions regarding platinum; working with financial institutions and market participants to develop products and channels that investors need.

This publication is not, and should not be construed to be, an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any security. With this publication, the publisher does not intend to transmit any order for, arrange for, advise on, act as agent in relation to, or otherwise facilitate any transaction involving securities or commodities regardless of whether such are otherwise referenced in it. This publication is not intended to provide tax, legal, or investment advice and nothing in it should be construed as a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any investment or security or to engage in any investment strategy or transaction. The publisher is not, and does not purport to be, a broker-dealer, a registered investment advisor, or otherwise registered under the laws of the United States or the United Kingdom, including under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or Senior Managers and Certifications Regime or by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This publication is not, and should not be construed to be, personalized investment advice directed to or appropriate for any particular investor. Any investment should be made only after consulting a professional investment advisor. You are solely responsible for determining whether any investment, investment strategy, security or related transaction is appropriate for you based on your investment objectives, financial circumstances and risk tolerance. You should consult your business, legal, tax or accounting advisors regarding your specific business, legal or tax situation or circumstances.

The information on which this publication is based is believed to be reliable. Nevertheless, the publisher cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information. This publication contains forward-looking statements, including statements regarding expected continual growth of the industry. The publisher notes that statements contained in the publication that look forward in time, which include everything other than historical information, involve risks and uncertainties that may affect actual results. The logos, services marks and trademarks of the World Platinum Investment Council are owned exclusively by it. All other trademarks used in this publication are the property of their respective trademark holders. The publisher is not affiliated, connected, or associated with, and is not sponsored, approved, or originated by, the trademark holders unless otherwise stated. No claim is made by the publisher to any rights in any third-party trademarks

#### WPIC Research MiFID II Status

The World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC) has undertaken an internal and external review of its content and services for MiFID II. As a result, WPIC highlights the following to the recipients of its research services, and their Compliance/Legal departments:

WPIC research content falls clearly within the Minor Non-Monetary Benefit Category and can continue to be consumed by all asset managers free of charge. WPIC research can be freely shared across investment organisations.

1. WPIC does not conduct any financial instrument execution business. WPIC does not have any market making, sales trading, trading or share dealing activity. (No possible inducement).

2. WPIC content is disseminated widely and made available to all interested parties through a range of different channels, therefore qualifying as a "Minor Non-Monetary Benefit" under MiFID II (ESMA/FCA/AMF). WPIC research is made freely available through the WPIC website. WPIC does not have any permissioning requirements on research aggregation platforms.

3. WPIC does not, and will not seek, any payment from consumers of our research services. WPIC makes it clear to institutional investors that it does not seek payment from them for our freely available content.

More detailed information is available on the WPIC website: http://www.platinuminvestment.com/investment-research/mifid-ii