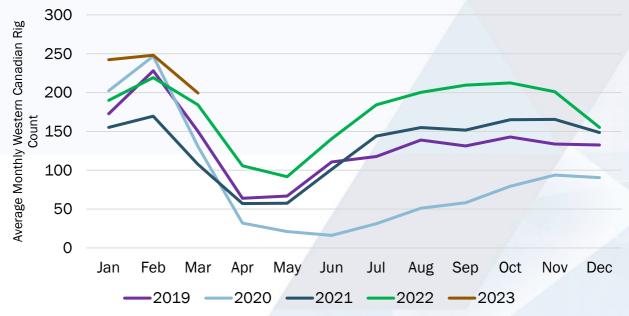


# **Energy Market Sentiment**

After a tumultuous year in 2022, the energy sector experienced a mixed start to 2023. A relatively mild winter in terms of temperatures and U.S. LNG outages exerted downward pressure on natural gas prices, while oil prices traded in a band before abruptly trending down under pressure from fears of a global recession and concerns regarding the health of the banking sector. Despite the uncertainty, Canadian activity levels remained robust in Q1, with rig counts at a 5-year high, as contract drillers tried to meet demand despite a challenging labour market. This contrasts with the U.S. market, where Q1 saw the first quarter-over-quarter decline in rig activity since 2020.

While analysts generally expressed optimism for both oil and natural gas at the close of Q4 2022, interest rates and the expected economic impact have caused some to reassess pricing expectations. Post-quarter efforts from OPEC+ to voluntarily withdraw supply saw prices recover and exceed where they began the year, though many in the industry question whether this is a bullish trend for pricing or a canary in the coal mine for global demand. The natural gas outlook is also mixed, as global storage was replenished throughout the first quarter with supply surpassing demand, though concerns remain about capacity to supply international markets.

Despite fluctuating levels of optimism, we believe the Canadian oilfield services sector is poised for a strong 2023. Anticipated budgets and market access channels provide additional momentum for the sector. While labour challenges from 2022 linger, we are optimistic that markets will increasingly acknowledge the structural undersupply of commodities globally, and capital flows to the sector will increase.





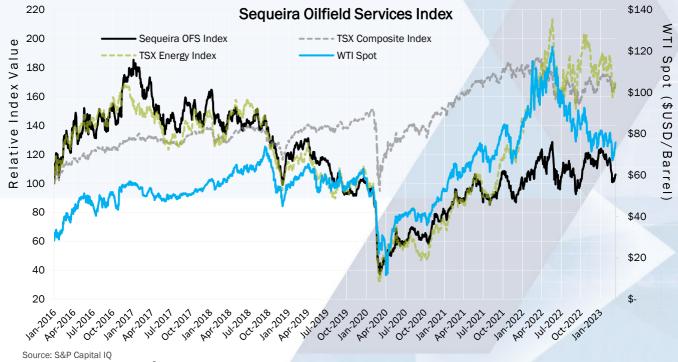
Source: Baker Hughes

## Market Overview

Sequeira's OFS Index monitors the stock price performance of publicly listed Canadian Oilfield Service (OFS) companies. Alongside the TSX Energy Index, which represents Canadian E&P companies, the Sequeira OFS Index experienced an 8% year-over-year decline, while the TSX Energy Index increased by 3.1%. Operators continue to benefit from improved commodity pricing to a greater extent than service companies, as producers focus on cash flow over capital re-investment.

Q1 YTD saw a decline in both the OFS Index and the broader TSX Energy Index, with decreases of 8.1% and 5.4%, respectively. The downturn was influenced by a notable drop in commodity pricing, though partially offset by a late recovery in oil prices at the end of the quarter. As federal banks maintain or elevate interest rates to combat inflation, labour markets have begun to show signs of added capacity, potentially providing the much-needed workforce for OFS firms striving to be able to increase operational levels in the WCSB.

Following OPEC+'s announcement of a voluntary 1.66 million barrels per day cut, effective from May 1 through December 31, crude prices jumped. Consequently, there is potential for enhanced profitability and equity performance for both E&P and OFS firms as the economy continues to show resiliency against the risk of a recession.





## **Energy Service and Industrial Transactions**

Q1 2023 was fraught with uncertainty, generating headwinds in the wider Canadian M&A market. The Bank of Canada raised interest rates by 0.25% in January and subsequently announced a pause on further hikes. As borrowing costs increased and concerns regarding a potential banking crisis intensified, Q1 2023 saw a decline in overall transactions compared to Q1 2022 in both the Oilfield Services and broader Industrial sectors, echoing the trend observed in Q4 2022.

Despite prevailing uncertainty, the outlook for the second quarter remains optimistic. The Bank of Canada's decision to halt interest rate hikes is expected to establish more certainty regarding interest rate environment and foster a steadier market.

### Q1 2023 vs 2022 Transaction Mix(1)





Q1 2023 witnessed 80 disclosed transactions within the industrial and oilfield services sectors involving either a Canadian target or buyer, representing a decrease from the 101 transactions in Q4 2022 and the 105 transactions in Q1 2022. Among the 80 transactions in the quarter, 6% were in the oilfield services sector, consistent with Q4 2022's 6% and slightly lower than Q1 2022's 12%.



## **Buyer Profile**

#### Industrial & OFS Transactions By Buyer Location (1)

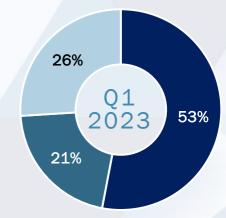
Buyer Location	Q1 2023 (Count)	Q1 2023 (%)	Q1 2022 (Count)	Q1 2022 (%)
Western Canada	15	19%	26	25%
Eastern Canada	35	44%	51	48%
USA	26	33%	22	21%
International	4	5%	6	6%
Total	80	100%	105	100%

In line with historical patterns, Canadian buyers remain predominantly involved in domestic acquisitions, with a rising trend in US buyer activity primarily driven by the growing strength of the US dollar compared to the Canadian dollar. This currency disparity offers considerable advantages for cross-border transactions.

#### By Buyer Type(1)

Strategic buyers accounted for over half of transaction activity in Q1 2023, while financial buyers demonstrated an uptick in their involvement during the quarter. Despite increasing borrowing costs, the percentage of total transactions attributed to financial buyers more than doubled compared to Q1 2022 in the industrials and oilfield services sectors, as private equity firms have increasingly returned to lower-risk, old economy business models amidst increasing uncertainty.

Buyer Type	Q1 2023	Q1 2022
Strategic	53%	57%
Financial	21%	9%
Financial Backed Strategic	26%	34%



- Strategic Buyer
- Financial Buyer
- Financial Backed Strategic Buyer



## Commodity Pricing and Analyst Forecasts

Q1 2023 began with WTI and Brent trading at \$78.12 and \$85.91 USD respectively. Prices were relatively steady throughout January and February, before declining in March as the global market sold off risky asset classes due to concerns around the health of the banking sector as Silicon Valley Bank collapsed and concerns about the health of other banks, notably Credit Suisse, arose. By the end of the month, prices had largely recovered as steps were taken to shore up the banking sector and economic activity continued to remain resilient. Pricing post-quarter was further buoyed by OPEC+ implementing a voluntary cut of 1.66 million b/d from May 1 to Dec 31 - sending a message that the group intends to support pricing.

WCS ended Q1 at \$49.38, peaking in the mid \$60 range in early March before following the broader market downward. The differential blowout that we saw in Q4 largely dissipated, as the completion of the SPR release and resolution of refinery outages saw the Canadian benchmark reach a price that more closely approximates a normal discount. With the completion of the Trans Mountain expected later this year, analysts largely see adequate takeaway capacity to accommodate growth in the coming years.

2023 has the potential to be another year of volatility and uncertainty as the market weighs the risk of a recession, China demand growth, OPEC+'s market position and the impact of Western sanctions on Russian oil production and exports. Analysts have diverging views on how these factors will play out and the impact on oil prices over the course of the year. If there's one thing to be expected in this industry, its ongoing volatility and having to expect the unexpected. Overall, pricing remains at levels that feel sustainable longer term, providing the opportunity for both operators and services to generate robust cash flows.

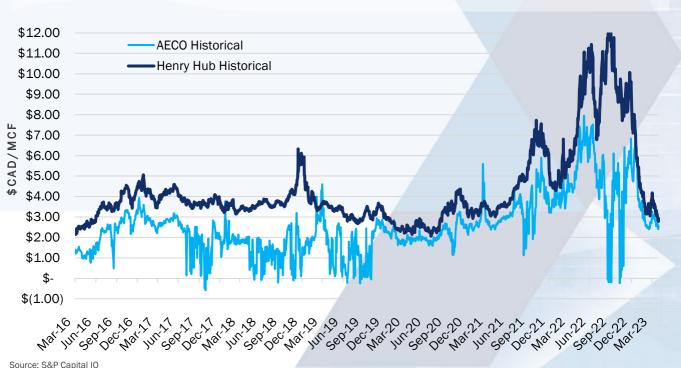




## Commodity Pricing and Analyst Forecasts

Natural gas prices remained volatile in Q1, with both AECO and Henry Hub experiencing price declines throughout the quarter, briefly dipping below the \$2 mark before stabilizing above \$2 to end the month. The fall in prices were largely driven by warmer-than-expected temperatures throughout Europe and North America, leading to lower-than-expected demand. With many countries avoiding originally anticipated shortages this winter, analysts observed increasing levels of stockpiles being accumulated, though the outlook is less certain longer term. Analysts expect further growth in demand in the latter half of the year as Europe maintains its dependency on LNG to bridge the renewables transition and it looks to ensure it has sufficient reserves to forgo reliance on Russian supplies.

Canada continues to work towards creating adequate infrastructure to export natural gas to broader markets and fulfill this critical global need. With production levels anticipated to continue ramping up in advance of the completion of LNG Canada's Kitimat export terminal, analysts expect takeaway capacity to be filled. Less resource rich countries such as Korea and Japan continue to advocate for incremental Canadian LNG to reach global markets. We are hopeful that federal and provincial government bodies will continue to increasingly recognize the benefits of these projects for local communities, national prosperity, and global energy security.







## Team Update



Thomas Chung, Analyst Vancouver



Dallon Stoddart, Analyst Vancouver



Timothy Chow, Analyst Vancouver

Building on the momentum of 2022 we continue to enhance the strength and depth of our team, having added 3 new team members to Sequeira Partners in our Vancouver office.

Welcome to the team Thomas, Dallon and Tim!

#### **Our Partners**

#### M&A

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Kira Gregson, CA, CBV kgregson@sequeirapartners.com 780.784.0125

#### Recent Transactions



Sequeira Partners is proud to have acted as the exclusive financial advisor to Local Environmental Services on their recent transaction with Environmental 360 Solutions Inc.

The Sequeira team provided advisory assistance throughout the transaction including marketing the business, negotiating preliminary and final deal terms, advising on transaction structure and consideration, as well as assisting with due-diligence and other pre-closing matters.

### Announcements

Sequeira Partners is thrilled to announce that ACG British Columbia recognized Adam Lewis, founder of Ecofish Research Ltd., as the 2022 Dealmaker of the Year. Sequeira partners acted as financial advisor to Ecofish on the sale to Trinity Consultants in July 2022.

Partner Erica McGuinness also received a nomination for Deal of the Year for the sale of Comalatech to Appfire Technologies LLC in May 2022.

400, 520 - 5TH Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2P 3R7

587-352-2500

2701, 10104 103 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5J 0H8 780-633-5200 1680, 400 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6C 3A6 604-687-5300



Total Energy Services Inc.

**Production & Completion** 

CES Energy Solutions Corp.

Source Energy Services Ltd.

Computer Modelling Group Ltd.

Oilfield & Facility Construction

Enterprise Group, Inc.

Pressure Pumping

Calfrac Well Services Ltd.

STEP Energy Services Ltd

Transportation & Logistics

**Environmental & Geophysica** 

Secure Energy Services Inc. Vertex Resource Group Ltd.

Black Diamond Group Limited

Gibson Energy Inc.

Mullen Group Ltd.

Pulse Seismic Inc.

Camps & Catering

Civeo Corporation

Dexterra Group Inc.

Mean - All Subsectors

Median - All Subsectors

Trican Well Service Ltd

Badger Infrastructure Solutions Ltd.

North American Construction Group Ltd.

Wolverine Energy and Infrastructure Inc.

Bri-Chem Corp.

Enerflex Ltd.

Median

Shawcor Ltd.

Mean

Mean

Mean

Mean

Mean

Median

Median

Median

Western Energy Services Corp.

#### Sequeira Oilfield Services Index - Sector Drilldown

8.28

2 93

7.26

3.21

0.10

0.38

12.44

3.36

3.08

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1.70

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5.94

\$ 0.54

\$ 2.68

\$ 8.05

\$ 32.68

\$ 22.54

\$ 4.07

\$

Ś 21.60

\$

\$

Ś 6.31

\$ 20.65

Ś 4.95 3.9%

(%)

3.0%

2.8%

1.2%

2 1%

1.8%

5.2%

(%)

7 2%

4.9%

2.9%

6.3%

(%)

1.3%

7.1%

343

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682

585

996

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(\$mm)

1.127

19

595

873

(\$mm)

(\$mm)

3.081

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1.911

(\$mm)

425

323

46

329

241

684

TSX:TOT

TSX:WRG

TSX:BRY

TSX:CEU

TSX:CMG

TSX:EFX

TSX:SHLE

TSXV:WEII

TSX:BDGI

TSX:NOA

TSX:SCL

TSX:CFW

TSX:STEP

TSX:TCW

TSX:GFI

TSX:MTL

TSX:PSD

TSX:SES

TSX:BD

TSX:DXT

NYSE:CVEO

TSXV:VTX

TSX:E

As at April 17, 2023

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0 6x

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7.9x

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4.1x

5.6x

5.4x

(x)

6.5x

4.8x

4.6x

5.3x

4.8x

4.9x

3.8x

Source: Capital IQ

		Share	Dividend	Market	Enterprise		TTM	EBITDA	E	V/EBITDA		Price/	Net Debt/
Company	Ticker	Price	Yield	Сар	Value	Revenue	EBITDA	Margin	TTM	2023E	2024E	Book	2023E EBITDA
Drilling & Equipment			(%)	(\$mm)	(\$mm)	(\$mm)	(\$mm)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)
AKITA Drilling Ltd.	TSX:AKT.A	\$ 1.48	-	60	142	201	34	16.8%	4.2x	2.2x	2.2x	0.4x	1.2x
Cathedral Energy Services Ltd.	TSX:CET	\$ 0.99	-	222	322	194	26	13.4%	12.4x	2.4x	2.2x	1.5x	0.7x
CWC Energy Services Corp.	TSXV:CWC	\$ 0.22	-	114	157	205	45	21.7%	3.5x	ND	ND	0.5x	ND
Ensign Energy Services Inc.	TSX:ESI	\$ 3.04	-	559	1,966	1,577	349	22.1%	5.6x	3.6x	3.3x	0.4x	2.6x
Essential Energy Services Ltd.	TSX:ESN	\$ 0.33	-	44	52	150	10	6.7%	5.2x	2.2x	2.0x	0.4x	0.4x
High Arctic Energy Services Inc	TSX:HWO	\$ 1.28	4.7%	62	48	80	0	0.3%	NM	ND	ND	0.5x	ND
McCoy Global Inc.	TSX:MCB	\$ 1.34	-	38	27	52	7	13.0%	3.9x	ND	ND	0.7x	ND
Pason Systems Inc.	TSX:PSI	\$ 12.13	4.0%	987	815	335	141	42.2%	5.8x	4.5x	4.1x	2.6x	NM
PHX Energy Services Corp.	TSX:PHX	\$ 6.80	8.8%	347	391	536	69	12.9%	5.7x	2.8x	2.5x	2.0x	0.3x
Precision Drilling Corporation	TSX:PD	\$ 69.45	-	956	2,089	1,617	301	18.6%	6.9x	3.2x	2.9x	0.8x	1.7x

444

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(\$mm)

54

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2,226

564

288

107

(\$mm)

1.344

33

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880

675

407

668

(\$mm)

4.716

2,065

85

2.930

(\$mm)

619

445

180

(\$mm)

760

200

(\$mm)

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(Smm

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770

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1,499

989

866

(\$mm)

11.035

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10

8,002

(\$mm)

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943

972

218

72

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(\$mm)

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8

218

28

108

28

(4)

(\$mm)

112

191

102

(\$mm)

198

169

187

(\$mm)

449

306

3

519

25

73

149

37

(\$mm)

7

16.8%

18.9%

17.0%

16.8%

(%)

8.1%

11.4%

39.3%

6.1%

6.8%

NM

14.3%

14.3%

(%)

14.5%

27.8%

24.8%

8.1%

18.8%

19.7%

(%)

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17.1%

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