

# THE WELL STREET JOURNAL seque

PARTNERS

Oilfield Services and Industrials Deep Dive Q4 2024



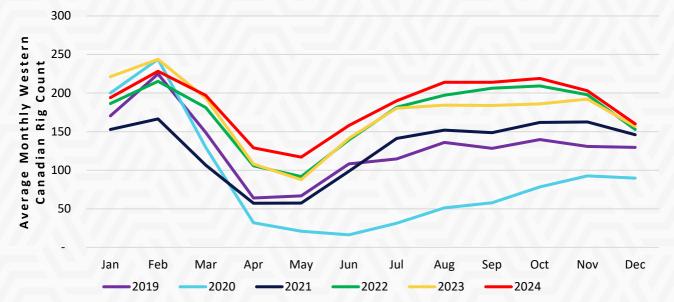
### **Energy Market Overview**

Geopolitical events abroad remained a major source of volatility within the energy markets through out  $Q\overline{4}$  2024. While conflicts in the Middle East continued to drive uncertainty, the recent developments of a pending ceasefire in Palestine offered some optimism for stability in the region. Trepidation around the threat of U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods by the new administration has added additional uncertainty to Canadian and U.S. energy markets, raising questions about the longer-term impact on trade, market stability, and cross-border energy dynamics.

Consistent with the prior two quarters, active rigs in Western Canada have continued to trend above activity levels from prior years. This is largely driven by the TMX pipeline which is now in its second full quarter of operation and has added 590,000 barrels per day to Canadian shipping capacity. This has directly affected Canada's exports to Asian markets reaching a monthly average of \$325M in petroleum products. Furthermore, the differential between WTI and WCS narrowed in 2024 and continued WCS price increases in 2025 would be a strong indicator of the positive and lasting impact of TMX on the Canadian crude oil markets.

AECO, the Canadian benchmark for natural gas pricing, showed improvement at the end of Q4 capping off a year of continuous, true-to-form volatility. Analysts anticipate modest improvement in pricing to continue due to LNG Canada commencing operations in 2025. With increasing global demand, the incremental export capacity from LNG Canada will allow for a draw down on the oversupply of natural gas that has long plagued the industry in Canada.







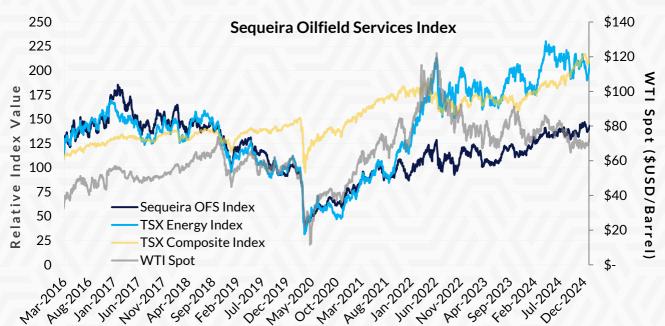
Source: Baker Hughes

#### **Market Sentiment**

Sequeira's OFS Index tracks the stock price performance of publicly listed Canadian Oilfield Service (OFS) companies. The gap between Sequeira's tracked OFS Index and the TSX Energy index that materialized in Q4 2021 has remained through Q4 2024. Despite this disparity, Sequeira's OFS index has displayed notable stability supported by impressive cash flow generation and improving margins. This operating environment has allowed service companies to pay down debt while still deploying capital in pursuit of technological advancements to further bolster earnings.

In 2024, the Sequeira OFS Index experienced a year-over-year increase of 15.6% which exceeded the TSX Energy Index increase of 10.4%. Similarly, in Q4 specifically, our OFS Index increased by 5.5% outpacing the TSX Energy Index which increased by 1.5% over the same period. Taking a page from the E&P playbook, service companies in the sector continued to prioritize shareholder returns and utilize free cash flow generation to buy back shares and pay dividends through the final quarter of 2024. As service companies improve profitability without a corresponding increase in capex, this share value appreciation should continue.

In terms of M&A activity in the year, stronger financial results and a stable operating environment supported transaction activity in the OFS space. The sector experienced consolidation as OFS companies focused on technological advancement and diversification into other services through acquisition. This was evident in Schlumberger's \$7.8B acquisition of ChampionX and Nabors' acquisition of Parker Wellbore for \$472M.



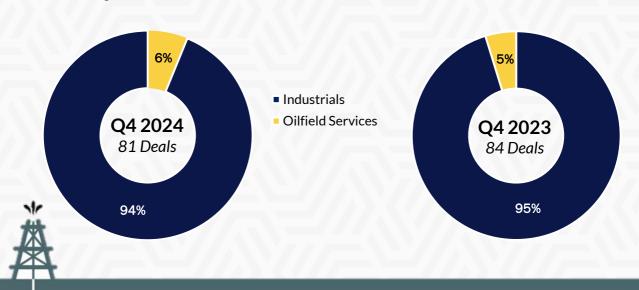


## **Energy and Industrial Transactions**

M&A activity in the industrial and oilfield services sectors remained stable in Q4 2024, with 81 disclosed deals completed, down slightly from 84 in Q4 2023. The stability in deal volumes is noteworthy given the macroeconomic challenges faced in 2024, including Canada's slower GDP growth compared to other developed economies and higher interest rates to start the year. This consistency highlights sustained interest and opportunities within these sectors.

While the announcement of potential U.S. tariffs on Canadian imports introduced uncertainty for industrial businesses reliant on cross-border trade, the overall impact on M&A activity in the quarter was limited. In the oilfield services sector, weaker demand – evidenced by revenue declines among major OFS providers in Q4 2024 – may have impacted deal activity. However, we have noticed cautious optimism for a rebound in M&A activity in 2025. Stabilizing interest rates and high forecasted investment in the energy sector will foster a favorable environment for transactions in the industrial and oilfield services sectors, though the impact of the potential U.S. import tariffs on activity levels remains to be seen.

#### Q4 2024 vs 2023 Transaction Mix(1)





### **Buyer Profile**

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

Buyer Location	Q4 2024 (Count)	Q4 2024 (%)	Q4 2023 (Count)	Q4 2023 (%)
Western Canada	19	24%	20	24%
Eastern Canada	30	37%	38	45%
USA	23	28%	18	21%
International	9	11%	8	10%
Total	81	100%	84	100%

Domestic buyers accounted for 61% of activity this quarter, down from 69% in Q4 2023. This shift reflects a 7% increase in participation from U.S. buyers, along with a modest 1% increase in international buyers. While there has been some fluctuation, particularly with the growth in U.S. buyer participation, North American buyers remain the most active participants overall.

### By Buyer Type(1)

Strategic buyers remained the most active acquirers this quarter, though their overall deal volume decreased compared to earlier periods. This decline was offset by increased activity from financially-backed strategic buyers. While financial buyer participation was limited. The Bank of Canada's recent rate cuts may encourage increased financial buyer activity due to lower costs of capital.

Buyer Type	Q4 2024	Q4 2023
Strategic	54%	58%
Financial	8%	17%
Financial Backed Strategic	38%	25%



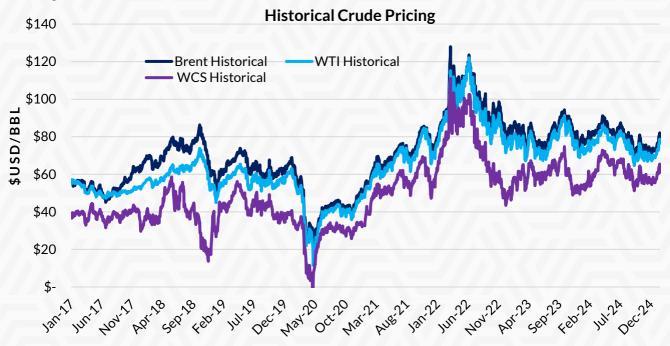


### **Commodity Pricing and Analyst Forecasts**

Oil prices ended the year near where they began in Q4, with minimal net movement over the past three months despite potentially significant catalysts, particularly geopolitical tensions that often influence market trends. WTI crude prices spiked to \$76 per barrel in the first week of October, the peak for the Quarter. However, the final two months of 2024 may have been one of the most rangebound and predictable trading periods in recent history, with WTI crude prices fluctuating within a narrow range of \$67 to \$72 per barrel.

The surge to \$76 per barrel in early October was driven by potential supply disruption due to threats of Israeli air strikes on Iran's oil and gas infrastructure. However, as tensions de-escalated and demand concerns in China resurfaced, prices began to fall. OPEC's December announcement to delay output hikes had limited impact on pricing, with WTI prices continuing to trade within a narrow range, never exceeding \$72 per barrel. This stability is a result of ample global supply, offsetting some of the impact of the earlier geopolitical risk premiums.

While prices rallied through most of January, the potential impact of U.S. tariffs on Canadian energy have added uncertainty and put pressure on pricing to close out the first month of 2025. Concerns over reduced export demand, higher potential cross-border costs, and potential supply chain disruptions are expected to weigh on the market until there is a more definitive resolution of tariffs.





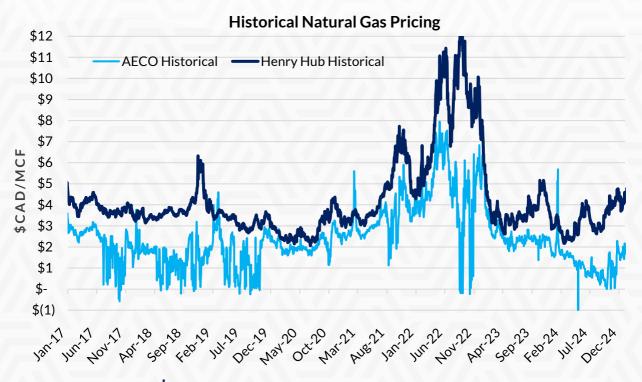
Source: S&P Capital IO

### **Commodity Pricing and Analyst Forecasts**

In Q4 2024, natural gas prices continued to be volatile though finished higher than the previous quarter. Henry Hub opened the quarter at \$3.81/mcf and trended upwards for most of the quarter closing at a price of \$4.35/mcf. AECO prices displayed characteristic volatility, opening the quarter at \$0.49/mcf before plunging to \$0.01/mcf in October due to oversupplied storage and warmer-than-expected weather. Subsequently, prices rebounded sharply to \$2.29/mcf in late November driven by unseasonably cold weather in parts of the U.S and storage drawdowns. Despite the significant fluctuations, AECO prices closed the quarter at \$1.99/mcf, exceeding the opening Q4 price.

Looking ahead to 2025, the anticipated demand growth, combined with LNG Canada coming online, is expected to help reduce Canada's oversupply of natural gas production. Analysts predict continued modest price improvements throughout 2025, with Henry Hub prices projected to stabilize at \$3.20 USD.

Canada's gas production and capital spending are estimated to increase by 12% and 13.5%, respectively driven by increasing global demand for natural gas, specifically from countries such as China and Japan. However, past volatility and key geopolitical factors such as the threat of U.S. tariffs on Canadian imports may temper analyst's expectations for substantial near-term price increases.





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AKITA Drilling Ltd.	\$	1.64	67	116	178	37	20.6%	3.2x	2.7x	2.4x	0.4x	
Ensign Energy Services Inc.	\$	2.98	550	1,642	1,688	464	27.5%	3.5x	3.7x	3.6x	0.4x	

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High Arctic Energy Services Inc

**Precision Drilling Corporation** 

Western Energy Services Corp.

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. Trican Well Service Ltd.

**Transportation & Logistics** 

**Environmental & Geophysical** 

Vertex Resource Group Ltd.

Black Diamond Group Limited

SECURE Waste Infrastructure Corp.

Gibson Energy Inc.

Mullen Group Ltd

Pulse Seismic Inc.

Camps & Catering

Civeo Corporation

Dexterra Group Inc

Mean - All Subsectors

Median - All Subsectors

Badger Infrastructure Solutions Ltd.

North American Construction Group Ltd.

McCoy Global Inc.

Pason Systems Inc. PHX Energy Services Corp.

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### **Recent Transactions**







Sequeira Partners is proud to have acted as the financial advisor to Alberta Wilbert Sales on the sale to Petwin Private Equity; to Cascade Process Solutions on the sale to Mako Industries; and to Falcon on the sale to RELAM.

The Sequeira team provided advisory assistance throughout the transactions 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.

#### **About Us**

Sequeira Partners is Western Canada's largest boutique advisory firm, specializing in sell-side deal advisory and corporate valuations. Having completed more than 175 national and cross-border transactions, and over 500 valuation mandates, we are proud of our diverse industry experience and credentials. At Sequeira Partners, we combine decades of experience and top-tier credentials to deliver client-centric service with a personalized, boutique approach.

Learn more at: www.sequeirapartners.com





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