

# Chart of the Day



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As we approach the US Presidential election in November, how the consumer “feels” about the economy becomes more important than how the economy is “actually” doing. Historically, oil prices have had a high correlation with the consumers’ perception of inflation. Higher inflation expectations, in turn, influence wage growth. According to Capital Economics, the baseline view is that oil prices remain range-bound, increasing headline inflation by less than a few tenths of a percentage point (or not at all). However, if Middle East escalation precipitated a return in oil prices to levels that immediately followed the Ukraine invasion (\$120-130), advanced economy inflation would increase by more than a full percentage point.

**Brent (y/y, advanced 1 year) and survey-based 1 year inflation expectations (G4 average)**



Source: (1) Capital Economics, "Middle East Tensions Not Yet a Major Threat to Inflation" (Jennifer McKeown, Chief Global Economist). April 16, 2024. Inflation expectations are survey-based G4 average, standardized.

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**“Macro stability isn’t everything, but without it, you have nothing.”**