

Brief Response to Referee Report 2

I would like to thank the referee for taking the time and effort to read through the paper. In general I found the comments very helpful, and I believe they will help to improve the paper. Below I respond to the main points.

1. *This analysis would represent a more interesting contribution if the arguments could be tied more closely to the voluminous literature evaluating the relationship between oil prices and the economy.*

Fair point. I make a nod to this literature in the introduction (first and second paragraphs), but I don't really get too much into the oil price/macro research, nor do I explicitly tie it to the main subject matter of the paper. I will add some further discussion.

2. *The simple charts and multiplier effects suggest that oil production and household debt have a role, but one really does not know their extent until one evaluates both past and recent trends with econometric studies over multiple countries. If oil production is the dominant effect, one should expect that economic growth rates in Europe and Asia should be gaining more than North America from the oil price collapse, holding other factors constant.*

I agree that an econometric extension would be interesting, but I think it is beyond the scope of the current paper. I should, however, add a note to the conclusion that such an extension is a good area for future research.