HOUSING MARKET REPORT

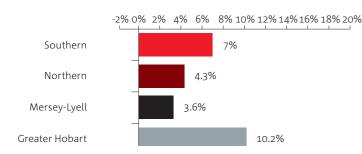
Autumn 2017 Edition

Tasmania overview

CoreLogic's view:

Hobart home values have been gathering momentum over the past year, increasing by 10.2% over the twelve months ending March 2017. The strong result for Hobart comes after many years of a flat to negative housing market performance. The relatively sedate historical performance of Hobart's housing market has kept prices extremely low relative to the other capital cities. This sheer affordability of housing is likely to be one of the key drivers of housing demand across Hobart, as well as the high rental yields and lifestyle appeal of the city. The regional areas of Tasmania have all shown some level of capital gain, however, growth rates have been less than what has been recorded in Hobart. The Southern region of the state has recorded the most substantial gain in home values, posting a 7.0% rise over the past twelve months.

Annual change in home values over past year*



*Data for homes in capital cities, houses in regional areas. Data to Mar-17 for capital cities, Feb-17 for regional areas Source: CoreLogic

Annual change in home values, Hobart



Important information

See next page for details regarding source data used in this report.

NAB's view:

Hobart has been the surprise performer this year, although we expect a more measured market going forward as prices realign with fundamentals.

While strong performance seen in Hobart's property market comes as a surprise to many, it coincides with reasonably solid economic conditions in Tasmania for much of the past couple of years, and follows a prolonged period of very soft property market outcomes in previous years.

Prices in Hobart have been accelerating, supported by an improving economy and attractive affordability. Further gains are expected, but at a slower pace.

The relative affordability of property in Tasmania has made it a relatively attractive market for buyers, especially investors, given Hobart's relatively high rental yields. Consequently, population growth – albeit still very subdued – has steadily improved over recent years, largely driven by net interstate migration. That said, the appeal to owner-occupiers of working age may have been constrained by the state's soft labour market, although there have been noticeable improvements with the unemployment rate easing to around 6% at present, down from over 7% in previous years.





New housing construction approvals and commencements have stayed relatively low in Tasmania, despite the improving economic trends. When combined with stronger population trends, the restrained supply response has helped to keep vacancy rates fairly low – contributing to the much stronger gains in rents (and a higher rental yields) than in other states. Meanwhile, falls in the average time on market and vendor discounts in early 2017, compared to the same time last year, suggest the market remains quite tight.

On balance, both the demand and supply environment for housing is expected to remain reasonably good, although we are unlikely to see a repeat of the exceptionally strong price performance of late. Given our outlook for the state and the market performance to date, NAB is forecasting house prices in Hobart to rise 6.7% in 2017, but much more modest growth of 1.7% in 2018. Similarly, unit prices are expected to increase 3.5% in 2017 and 0.6% in 2018.



Important information about this report

The information on the white background (headed CoreLogic's view) is about the housing market in the 12month period to March 2017 for information about capital cities and to February 2017 for information about regional areas.

It was provided by RP Data Pty Ltd, which trades as CoreLogic Asia Pacific, but is referred to in this report as CoreLogic.

The information on the grey background (headed NAB's view) is provided by NAB Group Economics, taking into account data sourced until March 2017. It's our economists' view about the national capital city house and unit price growth over the next 9 months to December 2017.

NAB's view takes into consideration the March 2017 NAB Residential Property Survey of property market professionals. The survey asked participants to give their views on where they think house prices are expected to move.

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2.4 The NAB Residential Property Survey

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