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Melbourne housing market conditions

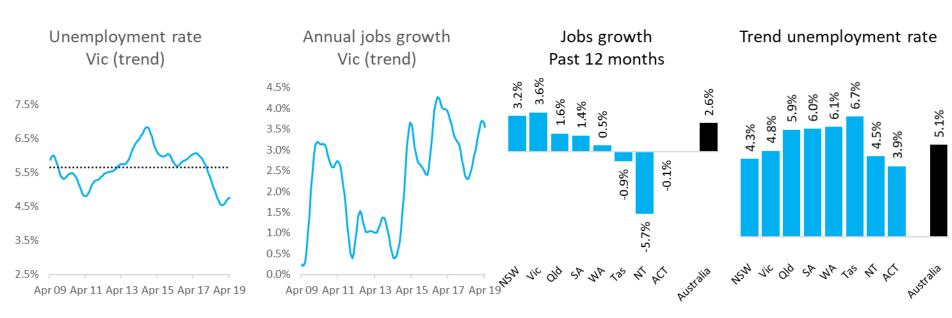
The macro-view Tim Lawless, research director APAC @timlawless







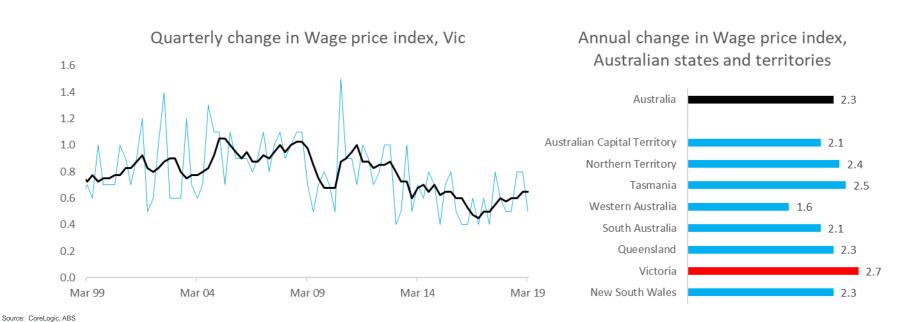
# Labour markets are tight, with unemployment below below 5% and jobs growth leading the nation



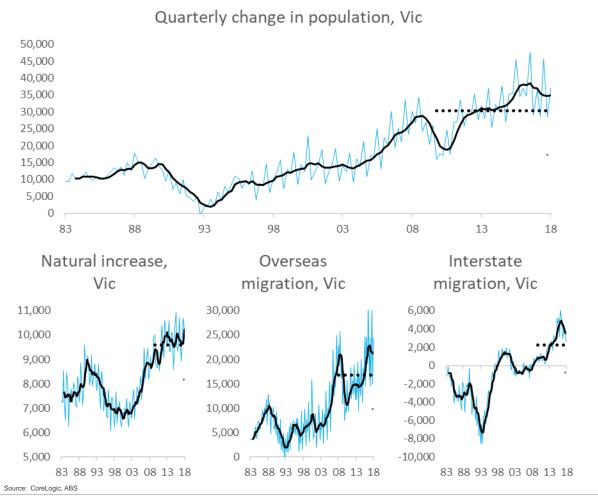
Source: CoreLogic, ABS



# Tight labour markets are pushing wages higher (strongest growth of any state), although the rate of wages growth remains slower than average





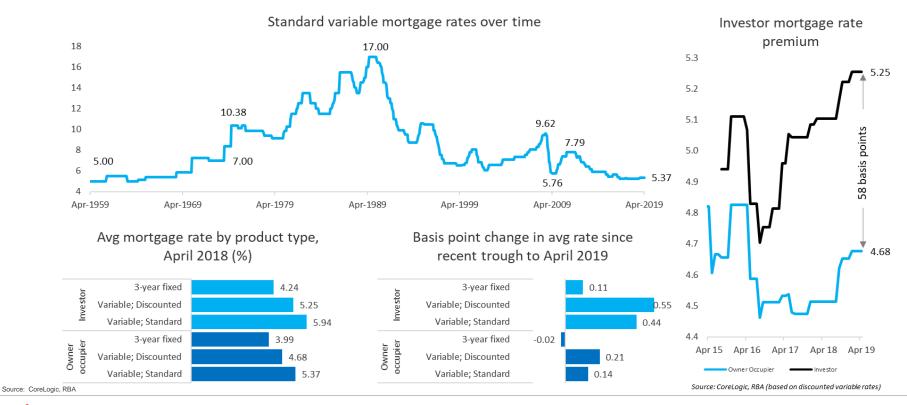


### **DEMAND**

Migration rates have slipped a little but remain well above the decade average.

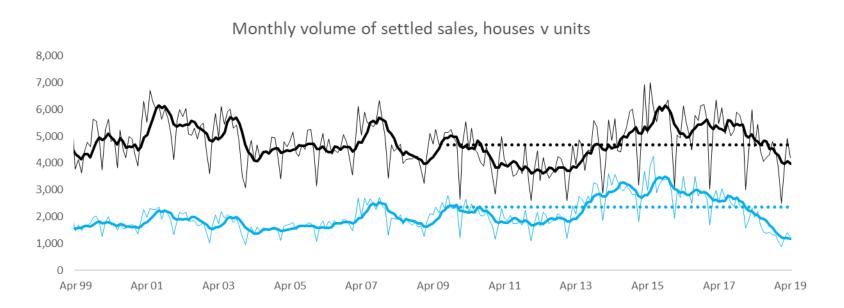


# Mortgage rates are set to remain around the lowest level since the 1960's – potentially tracking lower later this year





Despite strong economic and demographic fundamentals, sales activity has been trending lower in line with changes to credit policy

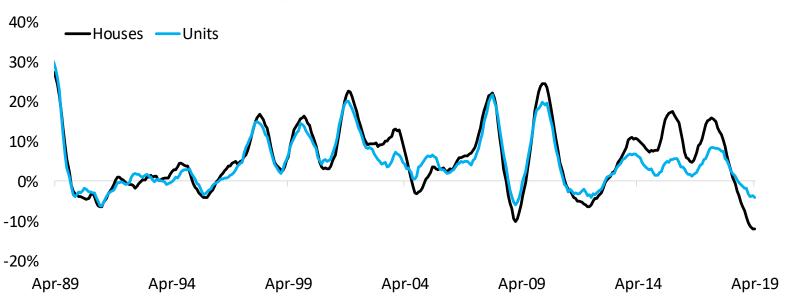


Source: CoreLogic Note sales volumes are modelled based on historic levels of revision and include settled sales only. Unsettled sales (ie off the plan purchases) are counted at contract date upon settlement.



# Housing values continue to fall with house values -12.1% lower over the past year and unit values down -4.2%

#### Annual change in house and unit values, Melbourne

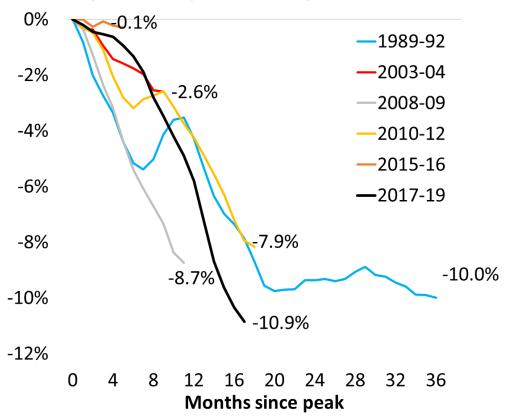






With dwelling values down 10.9% since peaking, the decline in Melbourne is now the largest since at least the 1980's

#### Historic periods of peak to trough decline, Melbourne



Source: CoreLogic





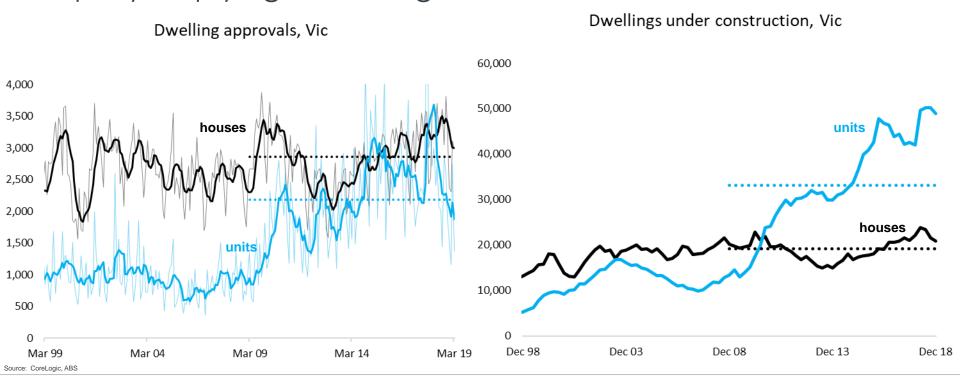


**Credit** Credit tightening has been phased, with macroprudential policies initially impacting investors and (more recently) stricter credit policies following the royal commission have impacted owner occupiers as well



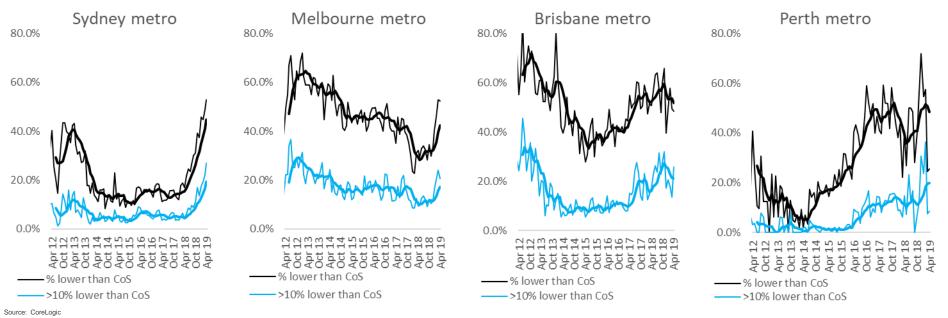


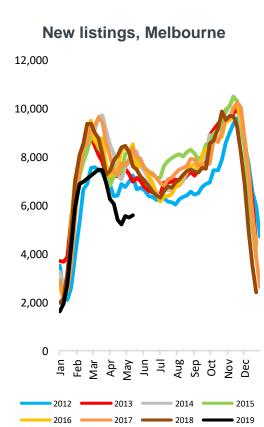
**Supply** Pipeline supply remains above average, especially across the unit sector, but approvals are trending lower rapidly, implying the 'hangover' will be short-lived

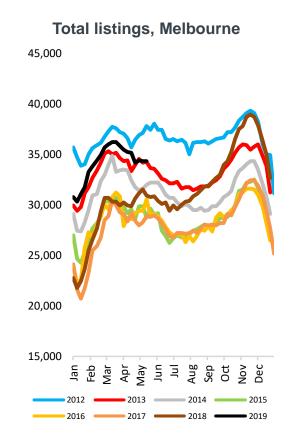


Cracks are appearing in the off-the-plan unit sector as a higher proportion of settlement valuations come in below the contract price

## Proportion of Off the Plan settlement valuations where the valuation was lower than the contract price and at least 10% lower than the contract price





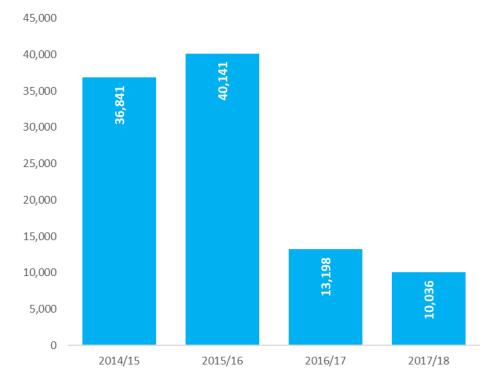


The number of new properties advertised for sale in Melbourne is significantly lower than it has been over recent years however, the tougher sales conditions have resulted in total stock mounting to its highest levels since 2013.

Source: CoreLogic



### Number of foreign investment real estate approvals

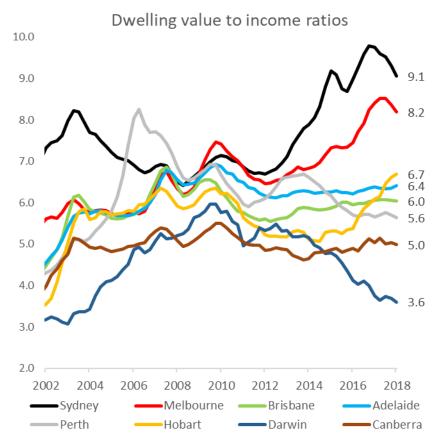


# Foreign buying activity has fallen off a cliff

- Higher taxes & fees
- More scrutiny on the rules
- Less opportunity for capital gain
- Restrictions of capital flows away from China

Source: CoreLogic, FIRB





### Housing affordability

Although housing affordability is improving, expensive markets like Melbourne are still showing a high entry point relative to incomes

Source: CoreLogic



## Where to now?



### Much has changed in a few weeks

- Stable federal government
- Rates set to move lower
- Improved serviceability assessments (likely)

#### But there are still headwinds

- Credit polices remain much tighter despite the likely improvements to servicing calcs
- Supply will remain high across the high density sector for at least another year
- Economic conditions are less certain



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