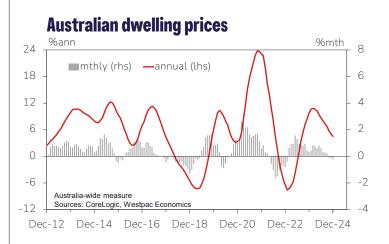


# 6 January 2025 AUSTRALIAN DWELLING PRICES BULLETIN

Prices 'dip into the close'

### **Key points**

- Australia's housing market posted a weak finish to 2024, turnover dropping and prices down. The CoreLogic home value index declined 0.2% in the final month with the previous two months revised lower to slight 0.1% dips.
- While the monthly softness is exaggerated by seasonality, annual price growth has continued to move lower, dropping to 4.5%yr with the more granular price details suggesting the pace will fall further in coming months.
- Across the major cities, Sydney and Melbourne are recording clearer price declines over and above seasonal effects with falls looking firmly entrenched in Melbourne. Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth continue to record price gains but at a much slower rate compared to the strong double-digit annual pace seen in early 2024.



## Dec CoreLogic home value index: -0.2%mth; 4.5%yr

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### Australia's housing markets stumble into year-end



Matthew Hassan Head of Australian Macro-Forecasting

The CoreLogic home value index, covering the eight major capital cities, declined 0.2% in December, with October and November also revised down to 0.1% dips from slight gains. Prices declined 0.5% over the guarter as a whole although all of this looks to be a seasonal effect with prices holding flat in seasonally adjusted terms. Note that, unless specified, the figures in titles, tables and commentary below are in non-seasonally adjusted terms, consistent with the 'headline' figures reported by CoreLogic. Figures in charts are in seasonally adjusted terms.

The flat final quarter still represents a material step-down from the 1.2% gain in the September guarter and the 1.4% gain in the June quarter. Annual price growth has now slowed to 4.5%yr, down from 8.7%yr in mid-2024 and a peak of 10.8%yr in February.

### Granular price detail points to further softening

The CoreLogic price data includes an enormous amount of geographic detail, essentially going down to local 'suburbs' for each major capital city. Our November Housing Pulse showed some of these suburbs appear to be 'bellwether' markets that give a slight lead to price cycles across the wider city (see here for more). The chart bottom right shows these sub-markets currently point to a further moderation in annual price growth nationally in coming months, with momentum tracking a slight negative annual pace over the second half of 2024.

### December guarter slowing broad-based

All major capital city markets recorded weak finishes to 2024, with the pace of outright price declines accelerating in Sydney and Melbourne, and a further moderation in the previously strong growth in Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Sydney prices fell 0.6% in December after 0.4% declines in October and November. That said, about half of the 1.4% decline in the guarter is attributed to seasonality. Annual growth slowed to 2.3%yr. 'Top tier' houses continue to lead the declines.

Melbourne prices fell 0.7%mth in December to be down -1.8% gtr and -3% yr. Melbourne dwelling prices have lagged inflation for the best part of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years now. All tiers and segments recorded price declines in the December quarter.

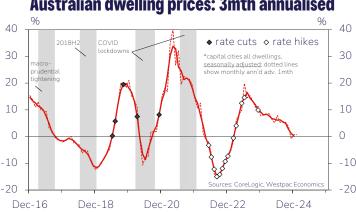
Brisbane prices rose 0.5% in December, in line with the 0.5% gain in November and up a tick from the 0.3% rise in October but well off the 1% average over the previous nine months. Annual price growth softened to 11.2%yr.

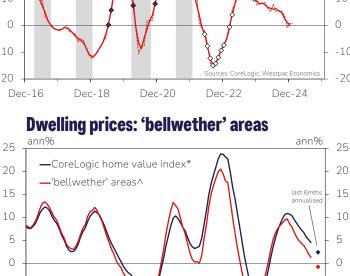
### CoreLogic home value index: December 2024

	%mth				%ann			
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Australia*	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	6.8	5.7	5.1	4.5
seas. adjusted	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.0	6.7	5.7	5.1	4.5
– houses	0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	7.5	6.4	5.7	5.0
– units	0.3	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	4.5	3.6	3.4	3.0
Major capital cities								
Sydney	0.1	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6	4.8	3.6	3.1	2.3
Melbourne	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-1.0	-2.0	-2.6	-3.0
Brisbane	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5	14.0	12.5	11.7	11.2
Adelaide	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.6	14.4	14.4	13.8	13.1
Perth	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.7	23.5	21.8	20.4	19.1
Turnover^	4.4	-1.0	-4.3	-8.5	11.2	7.1	3.9	1.4

\* combined capital cities

Sources: CoreLogic, Westpac Economics. ^ rolling 3mth total, %3mth and %ann ch, seasonally adjusted by Westpac.





### Australian dwelling prices: 3mth annualised

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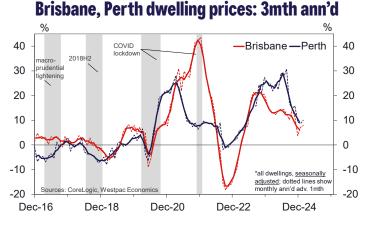
Adelaide recorded a 0.6% mth price gain in December, matching November but also off the 1.1% mth average over the previous nine months. Annual growth ticked down to 13.1% yr but prices tracked an 8.5% annual pace in the final quarter.

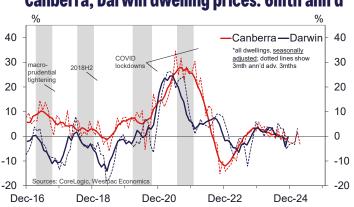
Perth prices rose 0.7% mth in December, with previous months revised down more materially. Annual growth remains high at 21% yr but prices tracked a much milder 7.5% annual pace in the December quarter.

The Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth markets all continue to show firmer growth across lower price tiers.

Across the smaller capitals: Hobart recorded a 0.5%mth fall, prices down –0.6%yr; Canberra was also down –0.5%mth, –0.4%yr; but Darwin posted a 0.4%mth rise to be up 0.8%yr. Regional areas mirrored capital city performances, regional Vic down 0.3%mth, –2.7%yr, regional NSW flat%mth, +3.2%yr; regional Queensland up +0.4%mth, +10.9%yr.

Preliminary estimates of sales volumes remain problematic due to the pattern of upward revisions. Current estimates have volumes down 10.5% for the December quarter. Our estimates – shown in the charts and tables in this note – suggest this is likely to be revised up to an 8.5% decline, still a large pullback and at a time that new listings appear to be rising – the shift in the 'balance of power' between buyers and sellers adding to the soft near term price outlook.



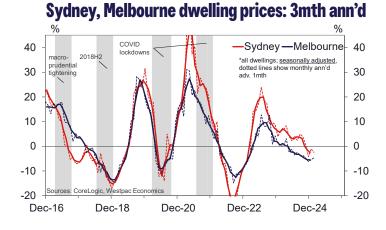


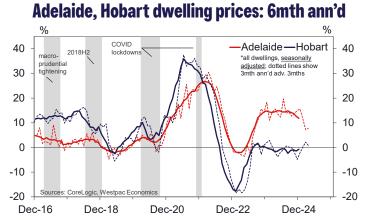
### Canberra, Darwin dwelling prices: 6mth ann'd



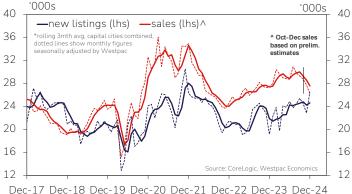
Overall, the December update shows markets stumbling into year-end with more price weakness in the two biggest markets and growth clearly coming off the boil in the previously strong 'middle-sized' capitals. With turnover also pulling back and listings starting to rise, the market looks susceptible to more price softness in early 2025.

How auction markets perform when they reopen in early February will be an important test of how far the 'balance of power' has shifted between buyers and sellers in the Sydney and Melbourne markets.









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