

Welcome to your weekly analysis of the key performance indicators in the UK residential property market.



Amidst a very high level of market disruption at this time, REalyse is providing our clients and friends with a weekly update on key indicators in the UK residential sector, on a nationwide basis. This is derived from analysis of the main REalyse database, which itself brings together every available dataset on UK residential property.

As many of the important metrics in residential property analysis are not updated on a real time basis, we have focused on a weekly trend for those indicators that do update in real time and will show how the national and international health situation is impacting on the market.

This weekly report will be developed over time to add greater detail and analysis, and we are refining our approach to it on an ongoing basis. REalyse platform users will have access to a greater level of detail, including specific data, and will receive updates when a new edition of the report becomes available.

The report currently looks at the areas of sales, rentals and development, and covers data up to Tuesday April 21. This edition looks at the most responsive indicators of change in the market including listings, transactions and planning applications. As the Covid-19 situation develops, we may look at further indicators, as appropriate.

Sales

Since the announcement of partial lockdown in the UK, numbers of new listings have followed a continuous downward path. While they have not yet reached zero, the week to April 21 saw a mid-three-digit figure of new listings nationwide, the lowest since the beginning of the crisis.

Transaction levels are not a precise indicator of recent sentiment, as only a proportion of SSTC properties are recorded publicly and transactions themselves are updated a couple of months in arrears. However, this is still a useful metric in relative terms weekly recorded SSTC numbers are now in the low three figures, down from midfour-figures in normal times. This does indicate, however, that a very low level of market activity is continuing, despite the very significant obstacles that exist in the current situation.







Rental

Although a relatively normal rate of new rental listings persisted well after the announcement of lockdown in the UK, new rental listings in the week to April 21 were close to zero, with a low two-digit number of listings. Interestingly, the number of listings removed was similarly low, indicating an almost total lack of activity on the part of landlords and letting agents. The length of this pause will be an important indicator of market sentiment, and REalyse will continue to provide updates through this regular report.

Rental transactions, however, persisted at the same very low level as in the preceding two weeks. Since the beginning of April, over 1000 rental transactions have taken place - a small fraction of the number that take place each week in normal times, but a level of activity that shows some landlords and tenants are able to complete their plans in spite of the restrictions currently in place.





Development

While new planning applications continued to be submitted for some time after the announcement of lockdown in the UK, that number is now very much reduced. While the data for the week to April 21 is not yet available, the week to April 15 saw a twodigit number of applications, effectively zero. An important indicator of sentiment in the industry will be how long this virtual freeze in planning activity persist, and REalyse will continue to track this indicator in this regular report.



■ New Applications



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