



November 2020 RICS/Ci Portuguese Housing Market Survey

Buyer enquiries and agreed sales drop back noticeably over the month

- · Activity metrics weaken further
- · Near term outlook for prices and sales subdued
- · Demand steadier across the lettings market

Summary:

The November 2020 RICS/Ci PHMS results point to a subdued month for activity across the sales market, with expectations suggesting this softer picture is likely continue through to the end of the year. On the lettings side, tenant demand was broadly stable during November, although respondents remain downbeat on the near term outlook for rents.

With regards to new buyer demand, a headline net balance of -33% of respondents noted a decline over the latest survey period. What's more, the latest reading is the weakest since April 2020, having fallen slightly deeper into negative in each of the past four months. When disaggregated, the latest results show all regions covered (Lisbon, Porto and the Algarve) saw a decline in new buyer demand during November.

Alongside this, new instructions being listed on the sales market also fell for a fourth month in succession. Meanwhile, the number of agreed sales was reported to have declined by a headline net balance of -34% of survey participants (down from a figure of -17% in both October and September). Going forward, a net balance of -25% of contributors anticipate a further softening in sales volumes over the coming three months.

In terms of house prices, the headline indicator again returned a net balance reading of -10% (which has remained unchanged for the past three months). As such, the latest feedback continues to signal a marginal decline in house prices both at the aggregate level and across all regions covered. Looking ahead, respondents are now projecting price declines of around -2% over the next year. Within this, Porto displays the most negative expectations, with respondents envisaging a -3.6% drop in the year ahead, while expectations are broadly flat across the Algarve on the same basis.

The national confidence index (a combined measure incorporating near term price and sales expectations) registered a value of -30 in November, broadly in line with -32 posted last time out.

In the lettings market, tenant demand remained more or less stable over the month, having pulled back slightly in October. Nevertheless rents are still expected to fall in the near term, with the latest net balance coming in at -26%.

Ricardo Guimarães, Director of Ci: "The direction of the pandemic is still the main driver of expectations. Despite the perspectives on the vaccines, the truth is that the short term is determined by a reinforcement of semi-lockdown measures, aiming to control the second wave. It's important to note that market expectations, even though getting more pessimistic, are currently above the levels reached during the first wave. This suggest that the covid crises is becoming less of a field of the unknown."

RICS Chief Economist, Simon Rubinsohn: "The short term outlook for the economy continues to be weighed down heavily by the ongoing second wave of the pandemic across Europe. As a result, respondents reported a further deterioration in market conditions this month. Unfortunately, it is difficult to foresee trends improving to any significant extent in the immediate future, but progress on the vaccine front should allow for a recovery to emerge later in the coming year."

Chart 1: Sales market indicators

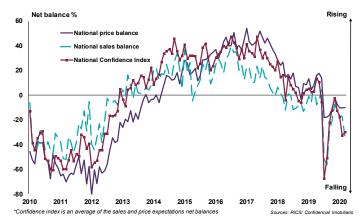
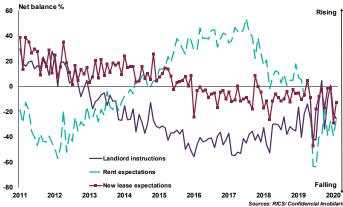


Chart 2: Lettings market indicators



The RICS/Ci Portuguese Housing Market Survey (PHMS) provides a qualitative monthly assessment of the sales and lettings sectors based on around 100 regular responses. The PHMS contains a regional breakdown covering Lisbon, Porto and the Algarve.

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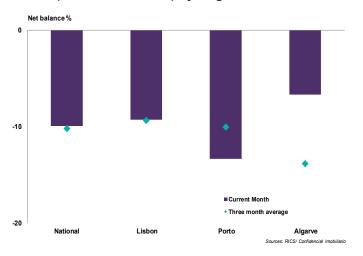




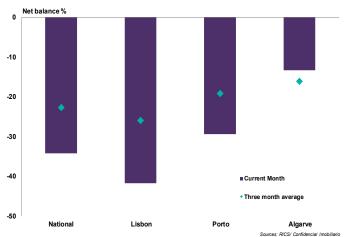


Sales Market Charts

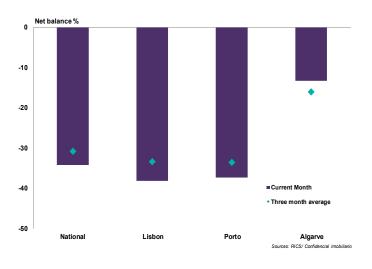
Prices (last three months) by Region



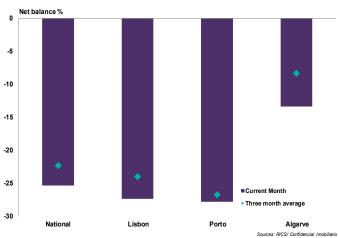
Promised Sales (past month) by Region



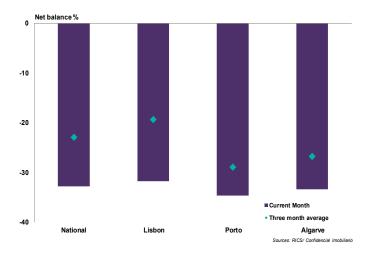
Price Expectations (next three months) by Region



Sales Expectations (next three months) by Region

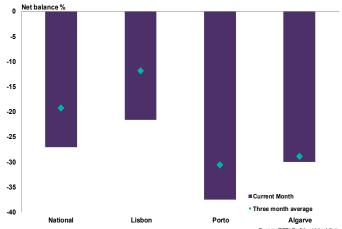


New Buyer Enquiries (past month) by Region



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New Instructions to Sell (past month) by Region



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About Ci

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Ci - Confidencial Imobiliário is an independent company dedicated to supplying real estate market professionals with the statistical information required for their investment and strategic decision making. Ci specializes in producing market intelligence indicators, indices and exclusive databases on the housing market, covering both supply and transactions, typically in high geographical detail. One of its main products is the Index Ci, which is the most referred to house price index in Portugal. Given its credibility and independence, the Index Ci is used by entities like the European Central Bank, the Bank of Portugal and the Portuguese Government.

Survey sponsors

Both RICS and Ci are grateful to BPI, IMPIC and Millennium bcp for supporting the survey.

Notes to editors

About:

 The RICS/Ci Portuguese Housing Market Survey is a monthly sentiment survey of estate agents and developers who operate in the Portuguese residential sales market.

Regions:

 Three regions make up the national (headline) readings: Lisbon Metropolitan Area, Oporto Metropolitan Area and the Algarve. The data is regionally weighted and operator (agent/developer) weighted.

Questions asked:

- How have house prices have changed over the last three months? – Net balance
- Over the last month how did the number of 'promised' sales change? – Net balance
- Over the **last month** how have the number of new enquiries changed? – Net balance
- 4. Over the last month how has the number of new instructions changed? Net balance
- 5. Over the **next three months** how do you expect house price levels to change? Net balance
- Over the next three months how do you expect the number of agreed sales to change? – Net balance
- 7. Over the **next twelve months** how do you expect house price levels to change Point estimate
- 8. Over the **next five years** how do you expect house price levels to change (average per year) Point estimate
- 9. Over the **last month** how has tenant demand for rented accommodation changed? Net balance
- 10. Over the **last month** how have new instructions to let rented accommodation changed? Net balance
- 11. Over the **last month** how have residential rents changed? Net balance
- 12. Over the **next three months** how do you expect residential rents to change? Net balance
- 13. Over the **next three months** how do you expect residential rental transactions to change? – Net balance

Net balance data:

- Net balance = Proportion of surveyors reporting a rise in prices minus those reporting a fall (if 30% reported a rise and 5% reported a fall, the net balance will be 25%).
- Net balance data is opinion based; it does not quantify actual changes in an underlying variable.
- Net balance data can range from -100 to +100.
- A positive net balance implies that more respondents are seeing increases than decreases (in the underlying variable), a negative net balance implies that more respondents are seeing decreases than increases and a zero net balance implies an equal number of respondents are seeing increases and decreases.
- Therefore, a -100 reading implies that no respondents are seeing increases (or no change), and a +100 reading

- implies that no respondents are seeing decreases (or no change).
- In the case of the RICS/Ci price balance, a reading of +10 should not be interpreted as RICS/Ci are saying that house prices are going up by 10%, but that 10% more surveyors reported increases rather than decreases in prices (over the last three months).
- A change from +30 to +60 does not mean that the variable grew by 30% in one period and by 60% in the next period, but it does indicate that twice as many surveyors reported an increase compared to a decrease than in the previous period.
- Likewise, if we get a reading dropping from +90 to +5, this still means that more respondents are reporting increases than decreases overall, but the breadth of those reporting increases has fallen dramatically; meanwhile, a shift in the reading from -90 to -5 still means that more respondents are reporting decreases than increases overall, but the breadth of those reporting decreases has fallen dramatically.

Seasonal adjustments:

 The RICS/Ci Portuguese Housing Market Survey data is not seasonally adjusted.

RICS/ Ci Confidence Index:

- The RICS/ Ci Confidence Index is an average of the Sales Expectations net balance and Price Expectations net balance.
- This is intended as a summary measure of confidence overall.

Third party distributors:

 The RICS/ Ci PHMS national data set is available to users of Macrobond.

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