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Introduction

- The head of global investment strategy for Morgan Stanley (Ruchir Sharma) has recently contemplated the extent that financial markets are currently in a bubble… and therefore have potential to collapse.

  According to the Financial Times (07/06/21):

  My research on the 10 biggest bubbles of the past century, from the US stock market in 1929 to Chinese shares in 2015, shows that prices typically rise 100% in the year before the peak, with much of the gain packed into the climactic last months. That finding is closely in line with bubble studies from academics at Harvard and others.

  By those standards, there are at least five current bubbles. They include the cryptocurrency market for bitcoin and ethereum; clean energy stocks, including some of the biggest names in electric vehicles; small cap stocks, including many of the hottest pandemic stories; a basket of tech stocks that lack earnings, which is also chock-a-block with famous brands; and special purpose acquisition companies (Spacs), which allow investors a new way to buy into private firms before they go public.

  Each of these bubbles is captured in an index that rose in the last year by around 100%, often by much more.

  He found in his studies that bubbles of this type typically correct by around 25%, but never more than 35%. Beyond 35%, the sectors are generally in a one-way downhill path.

  It indicates that bubble-collapses can start to be bought once a bear market (i.e. a drop of 20% or more) commences. Bubbles are not necessarily bad, but very often are just a good idea that has gone too far.

Coronavirus

- The dangerous Indian “double mutant” virus variant is now being referred to as the “Covid Delta Variant” (against the standard “Alpha Variant”), or B. 1.617.2. Its transmissibility and potential to avoid vaccines has got the world “on edge”. The variant played a large part in the explosion of the virus in India and is rapidly spreading to other countries. It is now the dominant variant in the UK - with the potential to shut the country down again.

  According to Barron’s Magazine (07/06/21):

  The risk assessment also suggests that there may be a higher risk of hospitalisation in cases caused by the Delta variant, though that conclusion is less robust.

Public Health England says that a single dose of a two-dose vaccine offers significantly less protection against the Delta variant than it does against other versions of the virus. Two vaccine doses offers far more protection.

Equities

- The US S&P 500 has been trading in a narrow 200-point range between 4,050 and 4,250, as investors struggle to get their heads around a sharp rise in inflation… with the Federal Reserve advising them to take no notice.

  Most major equity markets continued to grind higher last week, ignoring the release of greater than-expected US inflation data.

  The Financial Times said (12/06/21):

  Global stocks hit an all-time high on Friday as investors balanced expectations that the economic recovery will remain robust with caution ahead of next week's US Federal Reserve meeting.

  The FTSE All-World index was up less than 0.1% but still reached a new record by the afternoon in New York, even though the global equities benchmark has risen just 1% so far in June.

  Previous spikes in inflation this year have resulted in a sell off of equity and bond markets, as investors predicted the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates earlier to counter the problem.

  This week however, the opposite occurred, with equities and bonds simultaneously rallying following the data release, reflecting a growing acceptance that inflation will prove to be transitory.

  Investors have also rotated back to technology stocks, to the detriment of value stocks - a reversal of recent trends. The S&P 500 chart is shown above.

- We have mentioned before the strange situation in the US where share market indices have continued to climb, but there has been a rotation between different sectors, creating what has been described as a "stealth bear market".

  It appears that a major part of the reason is that retail (i.e. nonprofessional) investors have been buying into Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) - funds which invest in sectors generally - in a large way, underpinning the expansion of index prices. The underlying volatility, however, has been a problem for stock-pickers.

The Financial Times said (08/06/21):

Amateur traders have driven a record-breaking pace of inflows into exchange traded funds this year, suggesting that beyond their eye-catching forays into quirky individual stocks, they are also playing a role in cushioning broader declines in indices.

This new inflow into ETF's helps to explain the consistency of indices. Generally, they correct by 5% or more at least three times a year, but there has been no such event in the last seven months.

Investment Strategies

- Investors are finding a new interest in high-yielding dividend stocks, on the expectation that a post-Covid recovery will mean the reinstallation of previously strong dividends for good companies.

  The Financial Times said (07/06/21):

  Investors are pouring into dividend-paying stocks in an effort to capitalise on their rebound, after many companies suspended or barely raised payouts last year due to uncertainties surrounding the pandemic.

  The investors believe that the coast is clear and the global economy is not about to suffer from a new era of pandemics. This is yet to be established.

- In NZ, there are minimum stock exchange requirements for listed companies to have independent directors, in order to protect the interests of smaller investors (which is a good policy). Institutions put pressure on public companies to at least comply with the minimum… and preferably exceed it.

  However, the Australian Financial Review (AFR) has criticised the automatic box ticking of institutions with regard to resolutions supporting the re-election of directors, as well as other matters, without individually considering the company circumstances. The article suggests this is a major reason why good companies are no longer attracted by the public company scenario and instead favour private equity firms.

  The AFR said - in an article headed "Governance excesses will kill the future of public markets" (10/06/21):

  It's well documented that proxy advisers have a highly restrictive "one size fits all checklist" approach to corporate governance which is leading to negative voting recommendations for non-conformance. Scant consideration is given to the unique circumstances of each company.

  Private markets have no such impediments. As a result, significant capital is moving from public to private markets, and companies are staying private for much longer.

  The AFR reports that institutions usually have the same proxy advisers, often based overseas, who are unaware of individual company characteristics. The institutions rarely vote against these recommendations and often seeking to ditch valuable and experienced directors as part of an arbitrary "refresh" policy. This phenomenon is called "robo-voting".

The AFR said:

Public markets do offer significant benefits. But unless public markets evolve from their current state, they will not be competitive in the 21st century - which will be an era driven by entrepreneurs, innovation, and technology.

- The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) has been plumbing the depths of definitions, in order to differentiate between investors, traders and speculators.

  The WSJ said (11/06/21):

  If you buy a stock purely because it's gone up a lot, without doing any research on it whatsoever, you are not an "investor." If you buy a cryptocurrency because, hey, that sounds like fun, you aren't an investor either.

  Whenever you buy any financial asset because you have a hunch or just for kicks, or because somebody famous is hyping the heck out of it or everybody else seems to be buying it too, you aren't investing.

  You're definitely a trader: someone who has just bought an asset. And you may be a speculator: someone who thinks other people will pay more for it than you did.

  An investor relies on internal sources of return: earnings, income, growth in the value of assets. A speculator counts on external sources of return: primarily whether somebody else will pay more, regardless of fundamental value.

Debt, Bonds, Interest Rates & Inflation

- US consumer prices spiked 5%, year-on-year, in May, up from the prior month's 4.2% increase, according to the US Bureau of Labour Statistics - the highest rate of inflation since August 2008. The rapid increase in prices is causing concern among analysts that it may force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates faster than previously expected.

  Central bankers believe that the increase will prove to be temporary. As evidence – one third of the total increase in US inflation was from a spike in the price of second-hand cars, as semiconductor shortages slowed the delivery of new vehicles. Rapidly climbing prices for airline tickets also fuelled the high reading (but came from a low base), as did a 56% increase in the price of gasoline.

  The benchmark yield on 10-Year Treasuries continued to fall (as shown in the chart above), reflecting the lack of concern in America and faith that the Federal Reserve will stick to its commitment not to ease monetary policy for some years. The Fed is following a new doctrine of not pre-empting inflation increases - which many consider a dangerous move.

The Wall Street Journal said (07/06/21):

No other major central bank has adopted anything like the Fed's new framework. The People's Bank of China has already removed significant accommodation. The Bank of Canada announced meaningful steps toward normalisation. The Bank of Korea signaled interest in a somewhat tighter policy. I expect other Group of 20 central banks to move further from the Fed's policy in the coming months.

- In the ongoing argument over whether inflation is temporary or not, there is a reasonable theory that the escalating level of global debt, created in an effort to combat Covid-19, will help to keep inflation under control.

  Maudlin Economic said (28/05/21):

  Today's core problem is that excess debt suppresses economic growth, without which demand can't rise enough to generate inflation, or push up interest rates over the medium term. This is a structural problem, which at this point we really can't fix.

  The US has experienced five major debt bubbles in the last 200 years and all of them led to deflation or disinflation (and not inflation). Japan (with a debt to GDP ratio of around 240%) is an example of a highly indebted nation, which has struggled to generate much inflation since the latter half of the 1990s.

- The Australian government recently raised a bond with a negative interest rate on $1 billion borrowed from institutional investors - the first time on record in Australia that the total cost of a Treasury debt sale has been negative. Banks are flush with funds, thanks to deposits by households, and businesses that are cashed up from government stimulus payments… and also have access to cheap loans. Investors are discouraged from investing in low yielding bank deposits and are putting their money into alternatives such as government debt.

  According to the Australian Financial Review (10/06/21):

  Institutional investors such as foreign pension funds, insurers and banks need to park their money for short periods of time in safe assets and will pay the Australian government to hold their funds for the next three months.

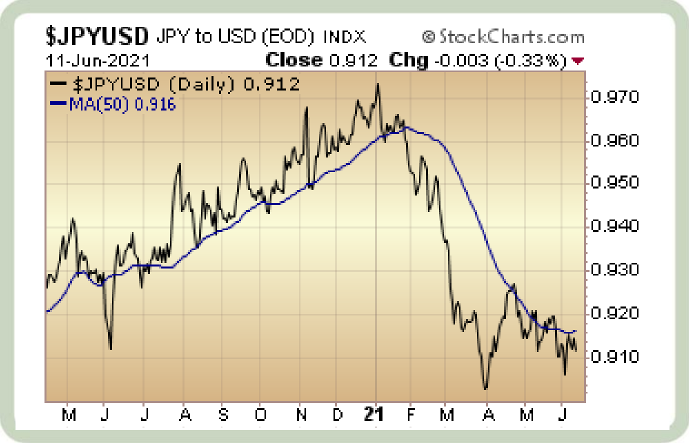
  In December, around 25% of the world's investment-grade debt (around US $17 trillion) had negative yields.

- The Australian Reserve Bank (RBA) reiterated this month that the central bank is unlikely to raise interest rates until 2024, at the earliest. This is in spite of recent GDP figures showing that the economy has now recovered to pre-Covid levels, and there is also an improvement to the country's long-term credit rating. The economy has been boosted by the strength of commodity prices, particularly iron ore.

  However, Bank of America has said that bank bill futures indicate there will be four increases, of 25 basis points (0.25%) each, by June 2024.

Currencies

- Adjacent is a chart of JPY/USD, showing that Japanese Yen has suffered against the Greenback during 2021.



  However, Yen is a seriously undervalued currency as the economy has growth potential when it emerges from the pandemic, probably without associated issues of inflation (i.e. it will be non-inflationary growth). Inflation is being constrained in Japan by a rapidly ageing population and large public debt.

  Japan has underperformed in its reaction to Covid-19, as witnessed by the controversy over still holding the Olympic Games. However, the vaccination programme should now expand at a rapid rate and move towards herd immunity.

  According to Bank Credit Analyst (11/06/21):

  A turnaround in the vaccination campaign would not only boost public opinion about the Covid-19 response but would also be a welcome fillip to much subdued consumer and business sentiment.

  Currently, the manufacturing sector is experiencing difficulties catering for the huge global increase in demand for consumer goods (especially electronic), but this should improve as the country emerges from the pandemic. Wages are also accelerating at a fast pace, which will increase Japanese consumer demand.

  In comparison, CNN said (07/06/21):

  The market still views the Fed as the 'most dovish' global central bank, and as long as that's the case, the US dollar will have a hard time rallying much.

  There is upside potential for JPY/USD.

- The Bank of England has warned that digital currencies could be a threat to the economy, saying that their rise could result in a flood of withdrawals from trading banks. In their opinion, stablecoins, a type of digital currency that can be issued by private companies, are pegged to traditional currencies and would need to be regulated in the same way as Fiat currencies are now, if they received widespread adoption.

  According to the Guardian (07/06/21):

  Stablecoins are similar to bitcoin, the most prominent digital currency, but do not suffer extreme price movements because they are designed to move in lockstep with government-

backed currencies, such as the Pound or Euro, or commodities such as gold, which are less volatile.

While these new forms of money can be issued by private companies, they could also be issued by a central bank such as the Bank of England. The move from the Bank comes as Diem, the digital currency project backed by Facebook, previously known as Libra, plans to offer a stablecoin linked to the Pound.

The Bank said the private use of the currency could affect its ability to control monetary policy, including altering interest rates.

Economies

- The World Bank has released its June Global Economic Prospects report detailing the divergence in the pandemic-induced economic recovery paths for developed and developing nations. Around 94% of high-income countries should regain pre-pandemic GDP per head within two years. This stands in stark contrast to developing countries, with only 40% expected to see a similar recovery. The relative outperformance of developing countries stems from the sheer scale of their stimulus packages and rapid roll out of vaccines.

  Quantitative easing, since Covid-19 began, averaged 15% of GDP in high-income countries, versus 3% in developing countries. Fiscal support averaged 17% in high-income countries, versus 5% in developing countries. The gaps are large.

  The World Bank is upgrading the outlook for global growth this year, forecasting that the world economy will grow by 5.6%... up from 4.1% forecast in January. This would make 2021 the fastest year of growth since 1973's figure of 6.6%.

- In the latest sign of a rapid recovery in the US economy, the Labour Department has advised that the number of Americans applying for jobless benefits has decreased for the last six weeks in a row. They have declined to 376,000 (from 385,000 in the prior week) representing a marked recovery from a high of over 900,000 in January.

  The rate of unemployment fell to 5.8% in May, from 6.1% in April.

  Job offerings hit a record 9.3 million in April, while layoffs declined to 1.4 million – the lowest in more than 20 years. 4 million people quit their jobs during April (also a record), pointing to extra confidence in employment prospects.

  There is, however, a mismatch between unemployment and job vacancies, as the US is still 7.6 million jobs short of its pre-pandemic figure.

  According to the Wall Street Journal (08/06/21):

  A Chamber of Commerce survey last week found that 90.5% of companies said a lack of available workers was slowing the economy in their area, which was twice as many as cited pandemic issues.

  A large part of the problem is that government support programmes are sufficient to discourage people from applying for jobs.

CNN said (07/06/21):

The US government has sent $804 billion directly to low- and middle-income individuals and families via direct deposit, cheques or debit cards. But it would appear the circumstances of US households improved following the delivery of robust income transfers deployed by the federal government. With some of that stimulus money still parked at the bank, Americans have significant financial power to fuel the economy's ongoing resurgence.

- The dislocated nature of the pandemic has encouraged businesses in the US to utilise technology to a much greater extent, with employees working remotely. This flexible combination has caused the nation to significantly increase its productivity.

  The Wall Street Journal said (09/06/21):

  The pandemic may have prodded companies to change their business models and intensify their use of technology to squeeze more sales out of the same workforce. Industries accounting for a third of the job loss since the start of the pandemic have increased output, including retailing, information, finance, construction, and professional and business services.

  Commentators believe that the imbalance of vacancies in some sectors, with a lack of employees in others, is rapidly being filled by new technology.

- Economic recovery is progressing in Europe, but lags behind major countries such as China and the US. Economic growth for the EU in the first quarter was -0.3%, and the European Central Bank (ECB) is forecasting that growth for the year will be around 4.3%.

  This should mean that the ECB will be later than the US Federal Reserve to phase out monetary stimulus. Inflation is rising, but like other central bankers, the President of the ECB (Christine Lagarde) is saying that this will be temporary.

- The UK economy grew by 2.3% in April, the fastest monthly expansion since July 2020. However, the economy still remains 3.7% below its pre-pandemic peak. Retail spending has surged, as more than 1 million people came off the furlough scheme in March and April. Much of the spending was on non-essential goods, as people splashed out to celebrate the newfound freedom of being able to visit shops.

  The service sector was boosted (particularly restaurants, café's and bars) and grew by 3.4% for the month, but was still 4.1% below the pre-pandemic peak.

  However, the economy still has a considerable way to go, as the UK was the most impacted by the pandemic (and also Brexit) out of the G 20 economies.

- The number of job advertisements in Australia has increased for the twelfth consecutive month in May, despite the removal of some government support programmes. Figures from ANZ show a 7.9% increase in job postings in May, following 4.9% in April. The 213,894 postings are the most since 2008 and are up 220% year-on-year. The unemployment rate declined to 5.5% in April, down from a pandemic peak of 7.5% in April 2020.

  Adding to the positivity, the National Australia Bank's index of business conditions rose five points in May (to +37), while trading conditions increased to a "massive +47 index points".

Business

- The plant-based food industry is forecast to rise 100-fold by 2050, according to analysis by Credit Suisse bank. The report forecasts that global sales will climb from $US14 billion to $US1.4 trillion within 30 years, for plant-based food producers.

- The cost of sending a shipping container from China to Europe has risen 500% since last June, to surpass US $10,000 for the first time. While this is an extreme example, port congestion and pressure on global supply chains are causing shipping costs to increase everywhere.

  In the year to May 2021, the median cost of shipping a 20-foot export container from Australia to China increased by almost 40%, to nearly AUD$1,479, while the cost of shipping a 40-foot container from Shanghai to Sydney doubled to $US4,307.

Politics

- The European Union is preparing legislation aiming to tax imported goods based on the greenhouse gases emitted to make them, alarming trading partners such as the US, Russia and China. The plan is due to be released next month and aims to stop polluting industries from shifting production outside of Europe to avoid the bloc's emissions limits… and then exporting back to the EU. It sends a message to other countries to start regulating their carbon emissions.

  The rules would initially only apply to heavy polluting industries – steel, concrete, aluminium and fertiliser – and would require European importers to issue certificates covering the carbon content of their imports.

- Finance ministers from the G7 nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US) have backed a US proposal to set a global minimum tax rate of 15% on earnings. While details have yet to be fully decided, the agreement would *"award taxing rights on at least 20% of profit exceeding a 10% margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises",* according to a statement by the group.

  The agreement is clearly targeted at large multinational corporations, allegedly dodging tax to the tune of billions of dollars every year. Under current rules, multinationals are often able to shift profits offshore to low-taxation jurisdictions to minimise tax bills.

  The agreement faces a number of challenges, particularly from countries, such as Ireland and Hungary, that are tax havens and enjoy outsized tax receipts from multinationals. These countries will have a veto power when it is time to ratify a deal in the EU parliament.

Commodities

- The editorial board of the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) has said that the US is barrelling along towards the greatest self-inflicted injury in the history of commodities, because Joe Biden has suspended oil leases in Alaska for climate purposes. They call it an "energy gift to dictators".

  According to the WSJ (09/06/21):

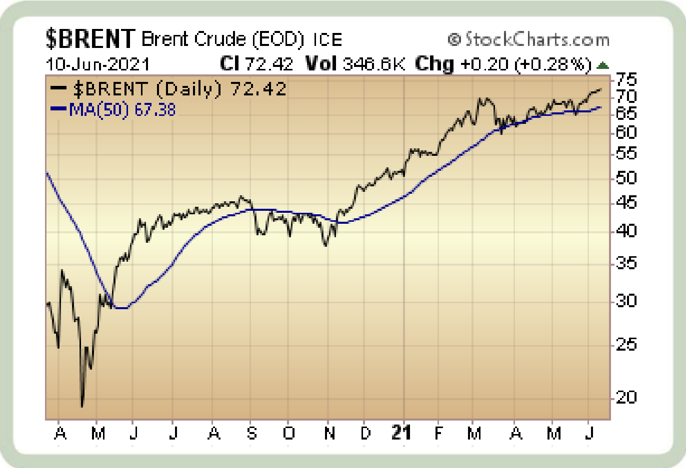
Mr. Biden's anti-carbon fusillade will have no effect on the climate, as global demand for fossil fuels will continue to increase for decades no matter what the US does. Meantime, Russia, China and Iran will take advantage of America's astonishing fossil-fuel retreat.

The move is similar to the NZ government's 2018 banning of new offshore exploration of oil and gas. The strategy should focus on discouraging *demand* for fossil fuels, rather than reducing local *supply*, which just increases the cost and volume of imports. The NZ government's announcement yesterday to offer discounts for electric vehicles (the "Clean Air Discount"), and adding a cost to fossil fuel consuming vehicles, took a while… but is a step in the right direction.

- The Biden administration has lifted sanctions on more than a dozen Iranian officials and energy companies in an effort to resume stalled nuclear negotiations. Officials are preparing to engage in a sixth round of negotiations to restore the 2015 nuclear accord.

  This would release an estimated 1.5 million barrels per day into the global oil market, raising concerns that it could cause a fall in global prices.

  However, oil prices continue to move upwards, as shown by the adjacent chart of Brent crude. A major reason is that Americans have now hit the road for summer driving, taking advantage of at last being released from restrictive pandemic lockdowns (and there are difficulties with travelling overseas).



  The same is occurring in Europe, with traffic congestion now up to pre-pandemic levels. The International Energy Agency has predicted demand will recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of next year.

- The steel industry is on a roll, with a number of US mills refusing to take orders because of their inability to supply.

  According to the Australian Financial Review (12/06/21):

  Steel in the US has tripled in 12 months as the swifter-than-expected economic recovery caught producers by surprise, while in China futures reached a record after authorities pledged to lower output in a push to control emissions. Prices have also surged in Europe, so imports may only rise a certain amount even if the US were to lift Trump administration tariffs.

  As a result, the price of iron ore has returned to over US $200 a tonne and Macquarie has lifted its price forecast for the June quarter by 39%, to US $195 a tonne.

Real Estate

- The Economist has said: “Home ownership is the West’s biggest economic policy mistake”, adding that it can cause “sudden collapses” and “chronic diseases”.

  A leading Economist article, in January 2020, said:

  Creeping dysfunction that housing has created over decades: vibrant cities without space to grow; ageing homeowners sitting in half-empty homes who are keen to protect their view; and a generation of young people who cannot easily afford to rent or buy and think capitalism has let them down.

  The Economist said that the root of the failure is a lack of building, especially near thriving cities in which jobs are plentiful.

  Now, boosted by economic policies designed to remedy issues from Covid-19, the problem has increased in most major countries - with NZ at the forefront of rising house prices globally.

  It has the potential to create generational “warfare”, as young people increasingly find it difficult to take the first step onto the housing ladder. It also sets up a scenario where central banks could find it impossible to raise interest rates, in order to deal with inflation, due to the consequences of collapsing the housing market, with the reduced wealth effect impacting on equities and the economy. Young people, leveraged into the housing market (by preferential government policy) with monstrous levels of debts, will be the first to lose their equity when interest rates rise.

- Economist Tony Alexander has questioned the validity of the NZ Reserve Bank’s belief that house prices will be relatively flat in 2022. He said that such predictions invariably are incorrect, that house prices generally tend to rise as an economy improves and Treasury predicts that mortgage and deposit rates will not increase until 2025 (which is a bit optimistic).

  Overall, the leverage provided by residential property, together with the satisfaction of personal ownership, tends to result in a better investment than most alternatives.

  Alexander believes that property prices will increase long-term by 4% per annum and for the year ahead by between five and 10%. Any higher increases would attract further government policy, which would be the “worst scenario”.

- The NZ property market remains buoyant (the ASB says its “unsinkable”), but the price increases are slowing - as new government policies start to kick in. CoreLogic recorded price rises of 2.2% in May, which was below the 3.1% increase in April. However, inventories are at an extremely low level, which should help to keep markets positive. It appears that any further slowing will be a gradual, rather than a sharp decrease or collapse. Fewer people are starting to appear at auctions, which is taking the heat out of these contests.

  The RBNZ believes that house price increases in NZ are “temporary”.

  Stuff said (11/06/21):

New Zealand house prices are unlikely to fall in the next year or so, but price growth will slow, ASB says in its quarterly economic predictions released on Friday. After a 27% gain in the past year, house prices are expected to notch up a gain of 10% by the end of this year, and 5% by the end of 2022.

- Most of the major New Zealand mortgage lenders have adjusted longer-term fixed rates upwards, in line with expectations that the Reserve Bank will start raising rates from the middle of next year. ANZ, ASB and Westpac have all increased their 5-year fixed term rates.

  Banks are also reducing shorter-term rates, shifting risk by enticing borrowers to the short end – effectively steepening the interest curve. However, longer-term fixed rate mortgages have become increasingly popular in recent weeks… as borrowers look to lock in mortgage rates, before the inevitable increases.

  A table of key rates from major lenders is below.

Fixed, below 80% LVR	**6 mths**	**1 yr**	**18 mth**	**2 yrs**	**3 yrs**	**4 yrs**	**5 yrs**
as at June 10, 2021	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ANZ	3.39	2.19	2.35	2.59	2.99	3.99	4.39
ASB	2.99	2.25	2.49	2.59	2.89	3.19	3.39
Kiwibank	3.55	2.19		2.55	2.99	3.39	3.69
Westpac	2.99	2.25	2.45	2.59	2.99	3.39	3.69
sbs	3.39	2.19	2.39	2.49	2.79	3.09	3.39
TSB	2.89	2.25	2.45	2.49	2.79	3.09	3.39

- New home sales in Australia rose 15.2%, year-on-year, in May, despite the absence of the Federal government's HomeBuilder programme. This (comparative) figure is high due to the comparatively low sales rate at the beginning of the pandemic, but sales are still 2.9% higher than for the same period in 2019.

  Analysts are voicing concerns over the number of homeowners in financial distress. More than 40% of New South Wales households are now in mortgage distress (up from 38.2% in April), in Tasmania this figure is 56.8%, while it was over 40% in Western Australia. Furthermore, the Australian Financial Review said (09/06/21) that "time is running out for borrowers to fix at ultra-low interest rates".

  Despite the distress figures, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has shown new loans for housing rose by 3.7% in April, compared to the prior month. This amounts to $31 billion worth of housing debt in April alone - a record high.

- The Bank of England believes that the UK property market has been over-stoked by low interest rates, easy monetary policies and the suspension of stamp duties.

  According to the Guardian (08/06/21):

  Britain's housing market is "on fire" thanks to the extension of government tax breaks for homebuyers and increased demand from richer households with more savings following coronavirus lockdowns, the Bank of England's chief economist said on Tuesday.

The chief economist also said that rampant house prices were increasing the wealth gap between the better off and younger generations… adding:

Unless policymakers tackle the supply of homes, inevitably we'll continue to see the most relentless rise in house prices relative to incomes that we've seen over the past 30 to 40 years.

The Australian Financial Review commented (08/06/21):

In addition to the stamp duty effect, the pandemic also sparked a shift in lifestyle choices, and the desire for bigger properties is creating regional hotspots within the housing market.

UK house prices jumped by 1.3% in May and rose by 9.5% over the last year.

John Ryder and Devon Ashby