Benham Reeves Market Index Review Q2, 2019

London's lettings & sales agent

The Benham and Reeves Market Index Review, Q2 2019

The Benham and Reeves Market Index Review is based on data from the top four existing indices, looking at where the average house price sits and how the gap has changed between buyers and seller expectation and asking price and actual sales price, on a quarterly basis across London and the UK.



Based on a geometric mean of all four existing data sets, Benham and Reeves puts the current average UK house price at £251,682 for the second quarter of 2019, reversing the downward trend seen over the previous two quarters and a 1.4% increase annually. In London, the current average is £512,192, with the capital registering its first positive quarterly price growth in a year but still down on an annual basis.



Quarterly House Price Growth

Mortgage Approval Price vs Asking Price

When analysing the difference between each stage of the market, it's clear that the price expectation of sellers continues to cause issues and this out of kilter pricing is a leading factor in the slow in price growth across the board.



Since the start of 2019, the average UK asking price being reported by Rightmove has exceeded the £300,000 mark and remained there with a current gap of some £81,000 between that and the average price being approved for buyers by mortgage lenders. In London the current gap is notably bigger, with a £152,510 difference.



Percentage Difference Between Mortgage Approval & Asking Price (%)



Director, Marc von Grundherr

"Positive signs for both London and the UK as a whole, with the first increase in quarterly house price growth for some time suggesting the market has dusted itself off to a degree. However, there it still a reality gap between the price buyers are entering the market at, the price sellers are trying to achieve and the price they are ultimately doing a deal at. While there are a number of factors that can influence this price gulf, it will do little to help a lethargic market that is currently struggling to shake off the shackles of Brexit uncertainty."

Asking Price vs Sold Price

This overpricing is also apparent when analysing the price being asked by sellers and the actual price properties are selling for according to the Land Registry.



Currently, the average sold price being secured by UK and London sellers is some 25% lower than the average asking price. While there is often a reduction from the price a seller will try to achieve to that at which they sell, this gap has been widening since the end of last year, as current market conditions play their part and sellers continue to lower their price expectations in order to secure a buyer.





"It's only natural that the nation's home sellers want to achieve the best price for their property but what many are failing to understand is that this price is dictated by current market conditions and not their emotional attachment, or a previous valuation some many moons ago.

Grundherr

While we haven't seen prices tumble per se, we have seen a hesitance from buyers to transact. The result in this demand reduction is always going to be a widening gap Director, Marc von between asking price expectation and the price a property will actually sell at and we've seen this gap continue to widen so far this year.

Table 1.

	Benham and Reeves House Price Index				
UK					
Year	Quarter	Average House Price	Quarterly Change		
2018	Q1	£245,073.87			
	Q2	£248,244.63	1.3%		
	Q3	£250,244.22	0.8%		
	Q4	£248,513.04	-0.7%		
2019	Q1	£247,463.02	-0.4%		
	Q2	£251,682.01	1.7%		
		London			
Year Quarter		Average House Price	Quarterly Change		
2018	Q1	£519,238.24			
	Q2	£520,411.98	0.2%		
	Q3	£517,059.24	-0.6%		
	Q4	£514,975.97	-0.4%		
2019	Q1	£504,730.72	-2.0%		
	Q2	£512,192.87	1.5%		

Table 2.

Mortgage Approval Price vs Asking Price

UK					
Year	Quarter	Mortgage Approvals Price	Difference	Asking Price	
2018	Q1	£218,231 37.8%		£300,684	
2018	Q2	£219,116 40.4%		£307,745	
2018	Q3	£221,959	37.4%	£305,060	
2018	Q4	£220,522	37.1%	£302,239	
2019	Q1	£221,578	35.6%	£300,481	
2019	Q2	£225,987	36.2%	£307,691	
		London			
Year	Quarter	Mortgage Approvals Price	Difference	Asking Price	
2018	Q1	£473,776	30.8%	£619,905	
2018	Q2	£468,845	34.0%	£628,174	
2018	Q3	£468,544	31.2%	£614,537	
2018	Q4	£466,988	31.5%	£614,044	
2019	Q1	£455,594	32.8%	£605,178	
2019	Q2	£465,722	32.7%	£618,232	

Table 3. Asking Price vs Sold Price

UK						
Year	Quarter	Asking Price	Difference	Sold Price		
2018	Q1	£300,684	£300,684 -25.4%			
2018	Q2	£307,745	£307,745 -26.3%			
2018	Q3	£305,060	-24.1%	£231,438		
2018	Q4	£302,239	-23.8%	£230,274		
2019	Q1	£300,481	-24.3%	£227,608		
2019	Q2	£307,691	-25.5%	£229,276		
London						
Year	Quarter	Asking Price	Difference	Sold Price		
2018	Q1	£619,905	-23.1%	£476,653		
2018	Q2	£628,174	-23.8%	£478,555		
2018	Q3	£614,537	-21.9%	£480,090		
2018	Q4	£614,044	-22.4%	£476,273		
2019	Q1	£605,178	-22.9%	£466,356		
2019	Q2	£618,232	-24.5%	£466,683		

Table 4. All Index House Prices

UK					
Year	Quarter	Land Registry	Nationwide /Halifax	Rightmove	Benhams and Reeves
2018	Q1	£224,319	£218,231	£300,684	£245,074
2018	Q2	£226,869	£219,116	£307,745	£248,245
2018	Q3	£231,438	£221,959	£305,060	£250,244
2018	Q4	£230,274	£220,522	£302,239	£248,513
2019	Q1	£227,608	£221,578	£300,481	£247,463
2019	Q2	£229,276	£225,987	£307,691	£251,682

London					
Year	Quarter	Land Registry	Nationwide	Rightmove	Benhams and Reeves
2018	Q1	£476,653	£473,776	£619,905	£519,238
2018	Q2	£478,555	£468,845	£628,174	£520,412
2018	Q3	£480,090	£468,544	£614,537	£517,059
2018	Q4	£476,273	£466,988	£614,044	£514,976
2019	Q1	£466,356	£455,594	£605,178	£504,731
2019	Q2	£466,683	£465,722	£618,232	£512,193

Offices London

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