

Australian home values hit record high as rates fall; Perth prices overtake Melbourne

Key findings:

- National home prices hit a new record in May, growing by 0.39%. Prices have now grown for five consecutive months and are up 4.12% year-on-year.
- Capital city markets led the gains over the month, rising 0.45%. All capitals saw prices rise. Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin are all now at price peaks.
- Melbourne saw the strongest monthly rise (+0.79%), continuing its recovery after a prolonged period of softer growth. However, values remain 2.85% below their peak.
- Despite Melbourne leading monthly gains, Perth's median home value of \$787,000 has overtaken Melbourne's at \$782,000 for the first time in a decade. This reflects Melbourne's relative weakness compared to Perth's persistent outperformance in recent years and affordability-driven demand.
- Adelaide (+11.04%) led annual growth among the capitals, followed by Perth (+8.40%) and Brisbane (+8.38%).
 Although these markets continue to lead annually, momentum is increasing in Melbourne, Canberra and Hobart after lagging in 2024.
- Regional prices rose 0.25%, with annual growth of 5.19% outpacing the combined capitals (+3.71%). Regional prices are now 65% higher than their levels five years ago.

"National home prices rose 0.39% in May, marking the fifth consecutive month of growth and a new record high for Australian home values. With interest rates falling, price momentum has increased and broadened, with all capitals seeing prices lift in May.

"Price growth across the capitals is starting to converge. Melbourne, which previously lagged the other capitals, is now seeing home price growth pick up. Cities such as Perth and Brisbane are now seeing growth moderate after strong outperformance. The growth seen in all capital cities is underpinned by improved buyer sentiment and renewed confidence following interest rate cuts.

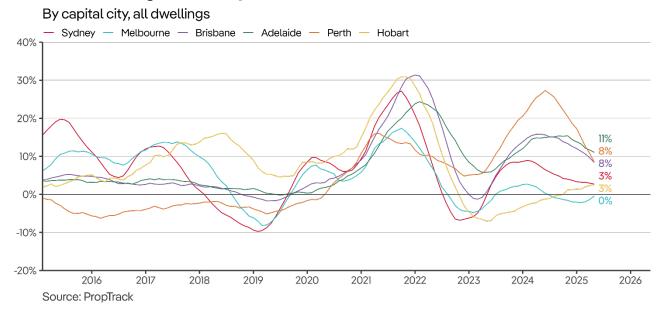
"Lower interest rates have lifted borrowing capacities and boosted buyer demand. And with further price increases and rate cuts expected, prospective buyers are moving off the sidelines and accelerating their purchasing decisions.

"Looking ahead, while stretched affordability will remain a constraint, a chronic lack of new housing supply, population growth, and targeted buyer incentives are expected to keep upward pressure on prices. In combination with interest rates continuing to move lower, these factors are likely to drive further price growth throughout the remainder of 2025."

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PropTrack Home Price Index May 2025					
All dwellings	Monthly growth	Annual growth	Change from peak	Change since March 2020	Median value
Sydney	0.39%	2.70%	At peak	41.3%	\$1,124,000
Melbourne	0.79%	-0.38%	-2.85%	17.6%	\$782,000
Brisbane	0.24%	8.38%	At peak	85.3%	\$889,000
Adelaide	0.52%	11.04%	At peak	87.3%	\$805,000
Perth	0.27%	8.40%	At peak	86.7%	\$787,000
Hobart	0.30%	2.58%	-6.25%	39.0%	\$685,000
Darwin	0.27%	5.50%	At peak	36.0%	\$535,000
ACT	0.22%	1.50%	-4.35%	37.7%	\$856,000
Capital Cities	0.45%	3.71%	At peak	44.8%	\$877,000
Rest of NSW	0.37%	4.12%	At peak	60.1%	\$751,000
Rest of Vic.	0.18%	0.38%	-3.48%	41.7%	\$578,000
Rest of Qld	0.25%	8.66%	At peak	87.6%	\$733,000
Rest of SA	-0.30%	11.83%	-0.30%	89.8%	\$486,000
Rest of WA	0.12%	8.84%	-0.76%	86.2%	\$578,000
Rest of Tas.	-0.29%	1.72%	-0.58%	58.2%	\$526,000
Rest of NT	-0.14%	3.15%	-1.81%	14.1%	\$416,000
Regional Areas	0.25%	5.19 %	At peak	65.7%	\$672,000
National	0.39%	4.12%	At peak	50.1%	\$809,000

Annual change in home prices



Methodology

The PropTrack HPI model uses a hybrid methodology that combines repeat sales and hedonic regression. Both of these methodologies are commonly used to measure housing price movements in Australia and overseas. These methodologies are designed to estimate the change in home prices in a way that is not affected by the quality and location of the sample of homes that transact in a given period.

Repeat sales regression matches transactions of identical properties over time. This uses the fact that the change in price of a given property over time should only reflect changes in market prices (assuming no significant alteration or renovation was undertaken between sales). Hedonic regression breaks down the value of homes into observable characteristics (e.g. size, location) to account for differences in characteristics of sold properties over time.

The PropTrack HPI uses a hybrid methodology, which starts with a repeat sales regression, but allows transactions for non-identical, but closely located properties of the same type to be matched together. Sales of properties of the same type (house, unit) in the same ABS Statistical Area Level I are matched together. There are over 57,000 spatial SAI regions across Australia, with a population generally between 200 and 800 people. This increases the number of matches that can be used to estimate home price growth and uses the fact that nearby properties are generally similar. Hedonic regression is used to account for differences in the size of properties that are matched together, using the number of bedrooms in each property.

In this way, the hybrid methodology augments the repeat sales methodology for home price growth to be estimated where there might not be sufficient volume of repeat sales transactions.

The PropTrack HPI estimates home price growth in a robust and flexible manner, which is revised each month, allowing each estimate to best reflect the available data on Australian home prices over time.

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