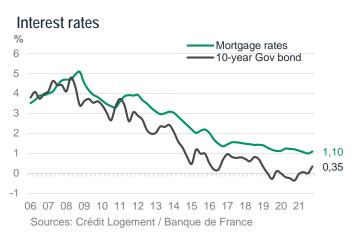




CONDUCIVE LENDING CLIMATE

After hitting floor levels in 2021, mortgage rates increased slightly to 1.09% in February 2022. Lending over 2021 came in at \in 294bn, a 7% increase vs 2020. Despite the health backdrop, growth resumed from the beginning of 2021. The average mortgage length reached a new high of 19.8 years. Although the ability of households to buy property is being helped by the easing of lending conditions and rising incomes, it is still hampered by rising prices.





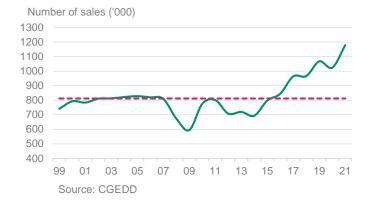




SALES RECORD

In 2021, there were 1,178,000 pre-owned homes sold in France, setting a new annual record. The sales peak was hit in August 2021 (over 1.2 million sales over 12 rolling months). However, growth has been stabilising since September. Real estate is still core to French people's wealth strategies.

Take-up of second-hand dwellings









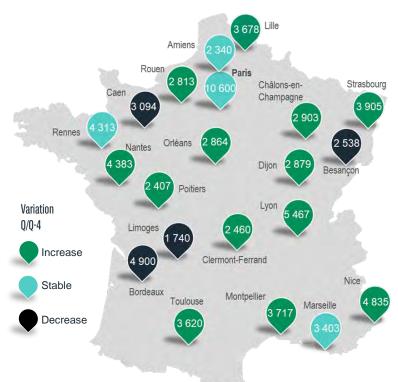


A MIXED PRICE MARKET

The upward trend that began in 2016 generally continued despite the health crisis. As such, according to the latest notary figures, the average price increase for all pre-owned homes in France between 2020 and 2021 was 7%.

This national average was the result of a 3% increase in Île-de-France and 9% in the regions. In the regions, while most cities experienced price increases over one year (Lyon, Lille, Toulouse, Nantes, Nice), some cities (Marseille, Rennes) have begun to stabilise, or even decline, as in Bordeaux. Prices in Paris contracted by -1.7%.

Over the same period, the price increase was slightly more pronounced for houses (+9%) than for apartments (+5%).



Sources: LPI-Seloger, notaires Paris



+7%
IN FRANC





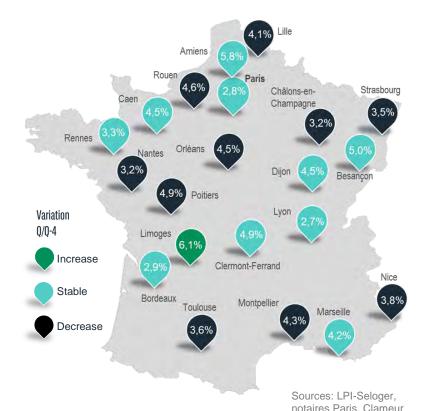
-1.7% IN PARIS

YIELDS STILL AT FLOOR LEVELS

Gross yields stabilised over 2021. This was due to particularly stable rents, just as the general upswing in prices draws to a close.

This has meant that the floor levels reached at the end of 2020 still applied a year later in most markets. However, the gross yield in Lyon (2.7%) has fallen below that of Paris (2.8%) and Bordeaux, which has risen to 2.9%. Yields are also below 3.5% in Nantes and Rennes. In other major cities, rental yields range from 3.5% in Strasbourg to 4.2% in Marseille. In medium-sized cities such as Besançon, Amiens and Limoges, yields are above 5%.

The 10-year OAT, at 0.31% in January, started to rise again in February on the back of expectations that the ECB would hike key interest rates and reduce asset purchases. However, this was disrupted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, prompting a flight to safety by investors.



CONSTRUCTION PICKING UP AGAIN

New homes bounced back in 2021 from their 2020 low point, but unlike pre-owned homes, they are not yet back to their pre-crisis record levels.

Although building permits for housing are up over one year (+21%) with 460,000 granted in metropolitan France, actual building starts are less vigorous (+7%). Work only started on 330,000 homes, compared to over 370,000 in 2018.

This was due to rising land and material prices, as well as the impact of the ongoing health crisis. Nevertheless, the higher number of granted building permits suggests that building starts will increase more rapidly in the coming months.

DEVELOPMENT MARKET RECOVERING

In 2021, there were 116,700 homes reserved, i.e. an increase of 15% vs 2020, which was hit by the health crisis. However, sales of new homes have not yet got back to their 2016-2019 peak, when around 130,000 units were being reserved each year.

The number of new homes for sale rose by 21% to 104,500, after a 25% fall in 2020. The total amount of housing for sale at the end of 2021 was still very low, representing just 10.8 months of sales.

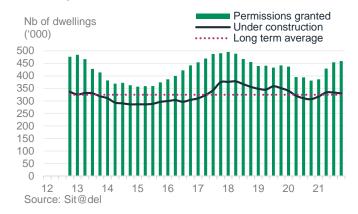
This tight supply has led to further increases in the price of new homes, which averaged \in 4,500/sqm at end 2021 for apartments (+5% over one year), and \in 340,000 for houses (+13%).

BLOCK RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENTS

In 2021, the overall amount invested in residential and so-called "alternative" assets was \in 7.4bn, up 8% vs 2020. Investment in residential in the strict sense of the term rose by 11% to \in 6.3bn, of which a third in intermediate housing.

Investment in so-called "alternative" assets was just € 1.1bn, vs € 1.2bn in 2020.

Housing construction in France

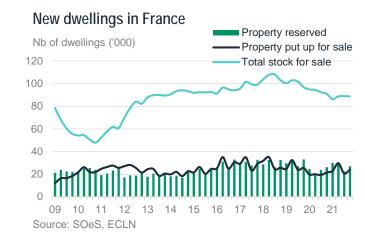






BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED

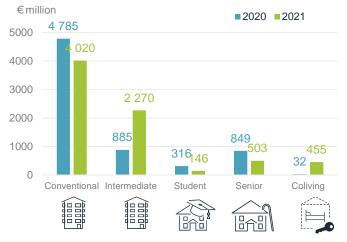
BUILDING STARTS







Investment by typology

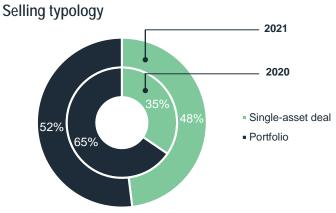


Sources: Immostat, BNP Paribas Real Estate



Investment in residential



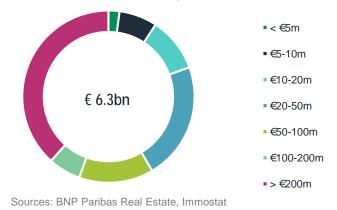


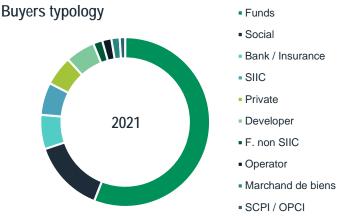
Sources: BNP Paribas Real Estate, Immostat

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT STILL VERY BUOYANT

Portfolios accounted for more than half of the € 6.3bn invested in "strictly" residential property in France in 2021. Some very large portfolios have been targeted by social and intermediate housing players (CDC Habitat, In'li) and developers. Paris and the Inner Rim dominated the market, attracting investment of € 2.6bn in 2021, followed by the Outer Rim of Paris (€ 191m), Aix/Marseille (€ 129m) and Bordeaux (€ 101m).

Breakdown of investment by volume size





Sources: BNP Paribas Real Estate, Immostat

Out of the 237 block transactions in 2021, about half were for less than € 10m. Transactions for over € 50m meanwhile accounted for just 8% of the number and 59% of the volume, showing the significant weighting of large portfolios in the market. Funds largely dominated the market again, accounting for 56% of investment, followed by social housing players at 14%.

Outlook

The housing market saw record sales in 2021, along with an overall rise in prices and record mortgage term lengths. However, the playing field could change in 2022. Firstly, we expect mortgage rates to go up, driven by the rise in the French 10-year OAT bond, despite a slowdown caused by geopolitical uncertainty. This increase could prevent some households from accessing mortgages, thereby easing some of the pressure on prices. Secondly, the presidential elections could generate manifesto messages and then action on housing, which is by far the biggest expense for French people and which reduces their purchasing power.

LOCATIONS

(March 2022)

HEADQUARTERS

50 cours de l'île Seguin 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt Tél. : +33 (0)1 55 65 20 04

ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

AUBERVILLIERS

Parc des Portes de Paris 40 rue Victor Hugo Bât 264 / 4ème étage 93300 Aubervilliers Tél. : +33 (0)1 49 93 70 73

ERAGNY

Immeuble Tennessee 8 allée Rosa Luxembourg

BP 30272 Eragny 95615 Cergy Pontoise Cedex Tél.: +33 (0)1 34 30 86 46

REGIONS

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Parc du Golf - Bât 33 350 rue Jean René Guillibert

Gauthier de la Lauzière 13290 Aix-en-Provence Tél. : +33 (0)4 42 90 72 72

ANNECY

PAE Des Glaisins 19 avenue du Pré-de-Challes 74940 Annecy-le-Vieux Tél. : +33 (0)4 50 64 12 12

BIARRITZ

26 Allée Marie Politzer 64200 Biarritz

BORDEAUX

Immeuble Opus 33 61-64 quai de Paludate 33800 Bordeaux Tél. : +33 (0)5 56 44 09 12

DIJON

Immeuble Le Richelieu 10 boulevard Carnot 21000 Dijon

Tél. : +33 (0)3 80 67 3

GRENOBLE

Immeuble Le Grenat 285 rue Lavoisier 38330 Montbonnot Tél.: +33 (0)4 76 85 43 43

LILLE

100 Tour de Lille Boulevard de Turin 59777 Euralille Tél. : +33 (0)2 20 06 99 00

LYON

Silex 1 15 rue des Cuirassiers 69003 Lyon Tél. : +33 (0)4 78 63 62 61

MARSEILLE

44 boulevard de Dunkerque CS11527—13235 Marseille

Tél.: +33 (0)4 91 56 03 03 METZ

WTC-Technopôle de Metz 2 rue Augustin Fresnel 57082 Metz cedex 3

MONTPELLIER

Immeuble Le Triangle 26 allée Jules Milhau CS 89501 34265 Montpellier Cedex 02 Tél. : +33 (0)4 67 92 43 60

MULHOUSE

Beverly Plaza

15 rue de Copenhague 67300 Schiltigheim Tél.: +33 (0)3 89 33 40 50

NANCY

Immeuble Quai Ouest 35 avenue du XX^{ème} Corps 54000 Nancy Tél.: +33 (0)3 83 95 88 88

NANTES

14 mail Pablo Picasso BP 61611 44016 Nantes Cedex 1 Tél.: +33 (0)2 40 20 20 20

NICE

Immeuble Phoenix - Arénas 455 promenade des Anglais 06285 Nice Cedex 3 Tél.: +33 (0)4 93 18 08 88

ORLÉANS

16 rue de la république 45000 Orléans Tél.: +33 (0)2 38 62 09 91

RENNES

Centre d'affaires Athéas

11 rue Louis Kerautret-Botmel 35000 Rennes Tél. : +33 (0)2 99 22 85 55

ROUEN

Immeuble Europa

101 Boulevard de l'Europe 76100 Rouen Tél.: +33 (0)2 35 72 15 50

STRASBOURG Beverly Plaza

15 rue de Copenhague 67300 Schiltigheim Tél.: +33 (0)3 88 22 19 44

TOULOUSE

Immeuble Elipsys 8/10 rue des 36 Ponts CS 84216 31432 Toulouse Cedex Tél. : +33 (0)5 61 23 56 56

TOURS

29 rue de la Milletière 37100 Tours Tél. : +33 (0)2 47 44 70 58

CONTACT

RESEARCH FRANCE

Guillaume JOLY

Directeur département France guillaume.joly@bnpparibas.com

Analyste Résidentiel morgane.lelievre@bnpparibas.com

RÉSIDENTIEL

Jean-François MORINEAU Directeur Général délégué jean-françois.morineau@bnpparibas.com

Dominique BONETTI Directeur commercial vente en bloc Tél.: +33 (0)1 47 59 22 06 dominique.bonetti@bnpparibas.com

David MOLHO Directeur commercial vente lot par lot Tél.: +33 (0)1 47 59 22 57 david.molho@bnpparibas.com

Julien JAMOT

Directeur commercial et marketing France Tél.: +33 (0)1 55 65 29 97 julien.jamot@bnpparibas.com

Directeur consulting Paris Ile-de-France Tél. : +33 (0)1 55 65 22 22 paul.gibeaud@bnpparibas.com

Stéphane GAUX Directeur promotion immobilière Régions Tél. : +33 (0)1 55 65 25 48 stéphane.gaux@bnpparibas.com

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