Economic News

Economics and Strategy



May 1st, 2024

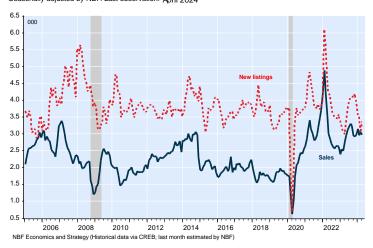
Calgary: Slight pullback in home sales in April

By Daren King

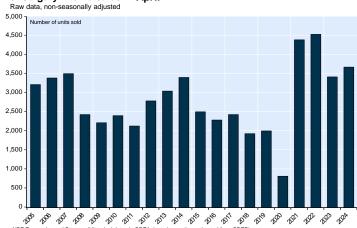
Based on April data from the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB) for the Calgary economic region*, our preliminary estimate indicates that seasonally adjusted home sales decreased 2.1% between March and April (chart 1). Since the rebound in transaction observed in December and January due to more advantageous fixed mortgage interest rates, home sales in Calgary have evolved sideways while the timing of the first-rate cuts has been postponed and the magnitude of the cut in 2024 has been revised downwards. Nevertheless, sales remain strong on a historical basis, while the Alberta city's economy remains buoyant. Unlike the country's 3 other largest cities, the unemployment rate has remained unchanged over the past year (6.5%, nsa), the labor market having been able to absorb the largest population increase (+5.3%) relatively well. It remains to be seen whether the economy will continue to be as resilient over the coming months, but there is reason to believe that the interest rate cuts we expect this summer could support sales in a context of housing shortage.

On the supply side, we estimate that new listings jumped 10.9% in April, a first increase in five months that follows a 14.9% decline in March. Overall, market conditions, as defined by the new-listings-to-sales ratio,

1. Calgary: Home sales and listings
Seasonally adjusted by NBF. Last observation: April 2024







loosened during the month but are still showing a market way tighter than the historical average (chart 2).

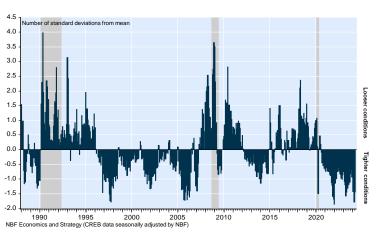
On a year-over-year basis, home sales increased 7.2% in April (chart 3). On the supply side, the inventory of homes for sale continued to be extremely low as it decreased 13.7% compared to April 2023 (chart 4). For the first four months of 2024, cumulative sales were up 15.5% compared to the same period in 2023.

Data for the City of Calgary (less inclusive than the CREB economic region) showed an increase in sales of 7.3% in April compared to 12 months ago. This improvement is due notably to increases in condo (+12.0%) and attached home (+13.7%) sales as affordability issues push buyers into this more affordable segment. Despite this, sales in the detached (+1.4%) home segments still increased. On the supply side, the inventory of homes for sales dropped 16.2% over the past year to its lowest level since comparable data is available (2014) for a month of April. As for prices, the benchmark index was up 9.6% compared to April 2023, an increase slightly less vigorously than the previous month (+10.3%).

*CREB economic region: Calgary CMA + Regions of Foothills, Mountain View, Kneehill, Wheatland, Willow Creek, Vulcan and Bighorn.

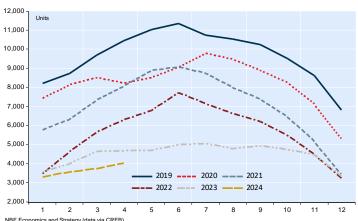
2. Calgary: Home resale market conditions

New-listing-to-sale ratio. Last observation: April 2024



4. Calgary: Active listings

Last observation: April 2024



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General

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