

SUMMARY

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NEED TO KNOW

11 May 2021

\$1.41

GBP / USD at its highest price in 10 weeks

Sterling has appreciated to \$1.41 for the first time in 10 weeks. Market analysts cite Conservative party gains in local elections and a further easing of the UK lockdown as supporting factors. Sterling is currently the third best performing G10 currency against the dollar year to date, with gains of +3.4%, trailing the Norwegian crown and Canadian dollar.

-6bps
UK 10-year gilt yield

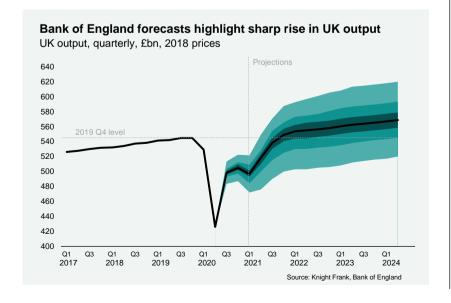
over the last week

Falling yields have tempered the current 'high inflation, rising interest rate' narrative. There are signs of yield compression globally in government bonds, corporate bonds and swap rates. In the UK, 10-year gilt yields have compressed -6bps to 0.78%, while UK corporate bonds and swap rates are both down -7bps to 1.72% and 0.66%.

498k

US jobless claims in week to 1st May

The number of US jobless claims – a barometer of global economic health – totalled 498k in the week to 1st May 2021, its lowest level since March 2020. US workplace mobility has improved from – 31% last month to –28%, according to Google's mobility index, with more people back in their normal place of work compared to the baseline.



WEEK AHEAD

UK GDP to rise

Flash estimates for the UK's GDP growth over the first quarter are set to be released on Wednesday 12th May. Bloomberg economists anticipate a -1.6% quarterly decline in Q1 2021. However, over the month to March, they expect GDP to have increased by +1.3%, following February's +0.4% growth.

All eyes on inflation

CPI data from China (today), India and the US (both Wednesday) is due to be released this week. The US's core CPI figure for April is forecast to be +2.3% y-y, which would be the highest level of inflation since the pandemic prevailed in the US in 2020.

Forthcoming releases from large economies are being closely watched for signs of a significant pick up in inflation. The UK is due to release its next update in the following week.

Overseas trade

The UK's balance of trade data for March is released this week. February's figure, which highlighted a trade deficit of £7.1 billion, was the largest monthly trade shortfall since March 2019.

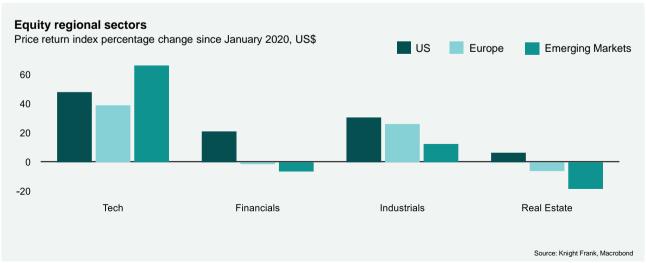


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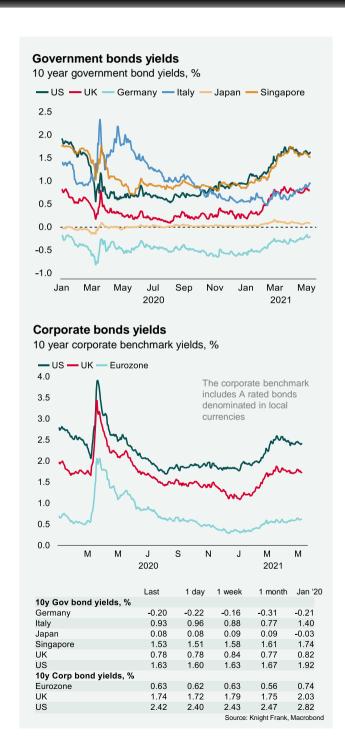


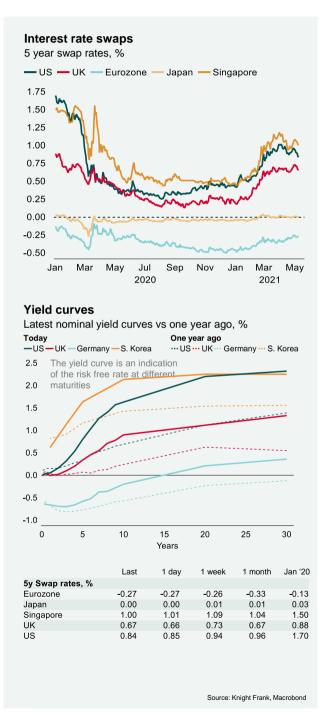




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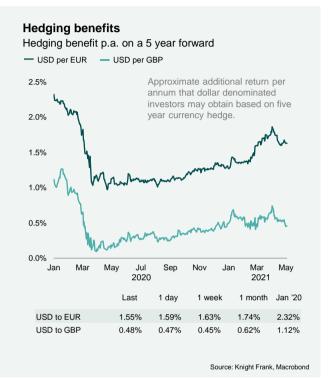




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Monetary policy

Central Banks' policy rates

	Last	Value at Jan '21	Value at Jan '20		
Australia	0.10%	0.10%	0.75%		
Canada	0.25%	0.25%	1.75%		
China	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%		
Euro Area	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
France	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
Germany	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
India	4.00%	4.00%	5.15%		
Italy	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
Japan	-0.10%	-0.10%	-0.10%		
Saudi Arabia	1.00%	1.00%	2.25%		
South Korea	0.50%	0.50%	1.25%		
Spain	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
Sweden	0.00%	0.00%	-0.25%		
UK	0.10%	0.10%	0.75%		
US	0.25%	0.25%	1.75%		

Central Banks' asset purchasing programme

	Lastest (\$)	MoM change	YoY change
Australia	328 bn	7.6%	93.1%
Canada	438 bn	-4.3%	217.0%
China	5.85 tn	-1.4%	13.5%
Euro Area	9.14 tn	3.6%	56.4%
France	2.11 tn	0.2%	52.0%
Germany	3.08 tn	2.5%	49.4%
India	398 bn	2.3%	-38.0%
Italy	1.76 tn	3.1%	45.1%
Japan	6.59 tn	-0.2%	13.8%
Saudi Arabia	494 bn	1.0%	1.8%
South Korea	487 bn	0.8%	17.5%
Spain	487 bn	0.9%	44.3%
Sweden	156 bn	-3.8%	29.3%
UK	1.13 tn	3.2%	73.3%
US	7.81 tn	1.4%	16.4%

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

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Leading Indicators

VOLATILITY & MOBILITY

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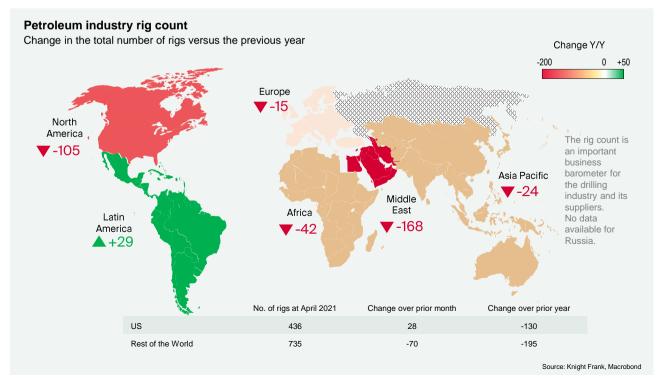
COVID-19

Energy Oil spot prices, \$ per barrel -Brent Crude -West Texas Intermediate (WTI) 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 Brent crude monitors the -10 level of demand for raw -20 materials and is a measure of -30 economic activity. -40 Mar May Sep Nov Jan Mar May Jan Jul 2020 2021 Jan '20 Last 1 day 1 week 1 month Brent, \$ per barrel 68.2 68.2 67.6 63.0 66.0 64.9 64.5 WTI, \$ per barrel 64.9 59.3



ESG

MEASURES

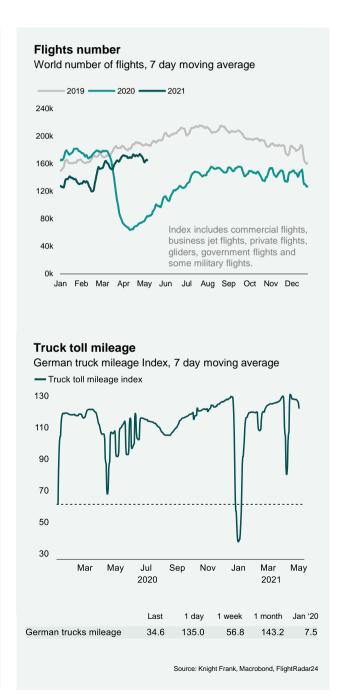




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Baltic dry index Baltic Exchange, Shipping Dry index (BDI), US\$ Baltic dry index Baltic Dry Index is a measure 3500 of what it costs to ship raw materials and is a leading 3000 indicator of global demand. 2500 2000 1500 1000 500 0 Apr Apr 2020 2021 **Shipping traffic** Cargo & tanker traffic in all UK ports, 7 day moving average - Number of cargo & tankers (C&T), units 140 120 100 80 60 S М 2020 2021 1 day 1 week 1 month Baltic Dry Index, US\$ 3,183 2,085 1,090 3,240 3,053 C&T traffic, units 106 n/a n/a 98 72 Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

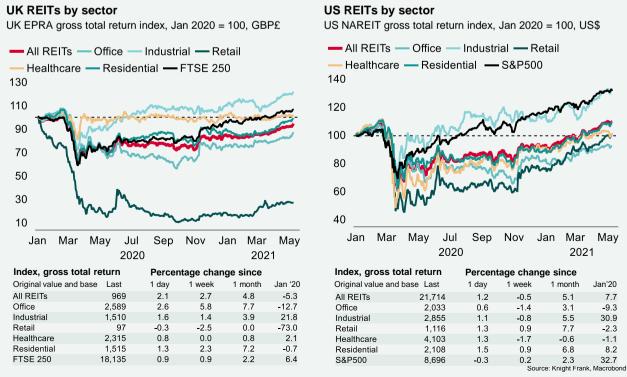




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Volatility index Systemic stress Measures FX, money, sovereign and bond yield volatility Near term stock price volatility indicator CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) --- Long term average — ECB Composite Indicator of Systemic Stress (CISS) --- Long term average The CBOE VIX ("investor The CISS is an indicator of instability fear gauge") is an indication across the whole financial system 0.35 80 of near term S&P 500 stock (hence "systemic stress"). price volatility based on 0.30 70 underlying options. 0.25 60 50 0.20 40 0.15 LTA 0.0917 30 0.10 20 0.05 10 Mar May Jul Jan Mar May Mar Jan Nov Mar Jul Sep Nov Jan May 2020 2021 2020 2021 1 day Jan '20 Jan'20 Last 1 week 1 month Last 1 week 1 month **CBOE VIX** 19.7 19.7 19.5 16.7 13.8 0.036 0.048 0.022 0.046 Systemic stress composite Euro Stoxx 50 VIX 18.5 18.5 22.8 16.2 14.0 Equity markets stress sub index 0.065 0.019 0.032 0.009 Nikkei VIX 18.2 18.2 19.8 17.1 14.8 Bond markets stress sub index 0.024 0.023 0.033 0.020 KOSPI VIX 16.9 16.7 FX markets stress sub index 0.026 0.009 0.006 0.004 Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

Workplace mobility

Google Workplace Mobility Index change since March '20, %

Daily number of office visitors compared to each country's baseline (same day average over five week between Jan 2020 - Feb 2020).



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

Public transport mobility

Citymapper Mobility Index change since March '20, %

Daily trips planned and taken compared to each city's baseline (4 weeks average between Jan 2020 - Feb 2020).



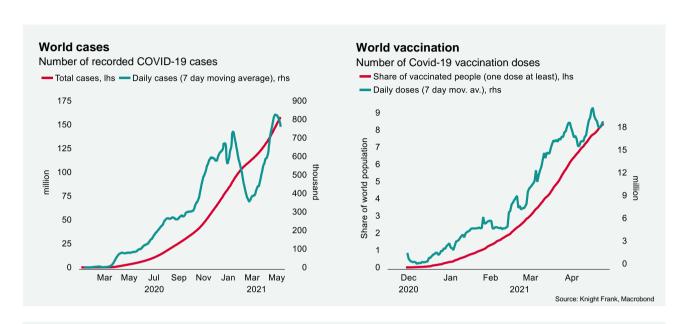


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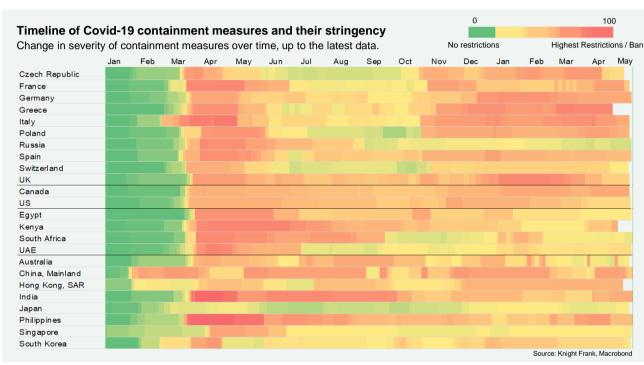
Cases and vaccinations breakdown by country People vaccinated Total cases New cases New doses Millions 1 week ago 1 month ago Millions Population (%) Last day Last 7days av. Argentina 3.1 18,024 16,502 23,683 7,689 17 22,137 8,169 Australia 0.0 159 17 14 5 Belgium 1,134 4,479 3,528 30 13,123 1.0 2 63,430 85,237 Brazil 15.1 66,964 86,652 31,723 15 Canada 1.3 6.802 7,610 7,982 14.669 39 42.695 China 0.1 13 18 32 n/a 999,367 n/a 1,489 867 698 0.3 677 26 6,795 Denmark Finland 419 1,944 5,985 0.1 132 35 5.7 20,745 9,888 39,963 17,693 26 62,932 France Germany 3.5 12,656 9,160 24,097 26,872 32 96,867 Greece 0.4 2,461 2.734 2,450 24 10,864 10 India 22 7 366.161 368.147 145,384 133.855 287.620 Ireland 0.3 401 1,305 26 4,621 469 Israel 0.8 97 13 212 5.422 63 855 Italy 4.1 10,174 9,145 18,924 16,823 28 65,628 Japan 0.6 7,017 5,637 3,587 3,278 3 15,776 Netherlands 16 7,521 7,665 26 13,470 5,471 4.449 878 1,466 27 4,190 Norway 0.1 Portugal 8.0 406 330 694 2,858 28 11,053 Russia 4.9 8,419 8,489 8.704 13.130 9 34.369 Saudi Arabia 0.4 942 937 904 n/a n/a 20,946 1,364 Singapore 0.1 28 39 26 23 6,504 South Africa 2,191 1,222 1,267 1,302 1.6 382 1 South Korea 0.1 463 488 3,675 7 677 11,177 Spain 3.6 0 3.778 10.197 13.272 28 54.766 Sweden 1.0 0 4,756 7,758 2,853 28 8,420 UK 2.047 2.456 65,430 44 1,671 35,372 52 US 32.3 34,155 45,150 76,377 152,117 45 288,276 World 157.9 607,544 737,365 649,854 770,637 2,684,766

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond



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Covid-19 containment measures breakdown Confirmed Cases Confirmed Deaths Internal Movement Workplace International Travel Czech Republic 1.645.061 29 667 France 5.727.293 105.645 3,530,887 84,844 Germany Greece 362,004 11.029 4,111,210 122,833 Poland 2.833.052 70,012 71 37 Russia 4.824.621 111.425 Switzerland 670.613 10.706 4,434,860 127,605 Canada 1,293,625 32,707,750 Egypt Kenva 163 554 2 895 South Africa 1,596,595 54,735 44 UAE 536,017 1,613 Australia 29,931 910 49 China, Mainland 90,769 4,636 Hong Kong, SAR 11.807 210 22,662,575 246,116 642.146 10.860 49 Philippines 1.101.990 18,472 68 Singapore South Korea 128,283 1,879 Lockdown Index key & Scale Public eventsPublic transportNo MeasureNo measureRecommendedRecommended Internal movements Workplace International travel No Restrictions Recommended Restrictions 0-25 No measure No measure 26-50 Recommended Recommended Recommended Screening Quarantine arrivals from Enforced Restrictions Restriction Required closure of Highest Restrictions / Ban schooling to close high risk regions Required closure for all Ban on high risk regions but essential work All schools ed to close Total border closure Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond



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ESG FUNDS & SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

7x

The growth of capital inflow into ESG funds

- Inflows into ESG funds grew sevenfold to \$15bn between 2019 and 2020.
- ESG funds have taken \$84 out of every net \$100 flowing into equity funds over the same period.
 - Three quarters of this new ESG capital (\$11.3bn) flowed into active funds.

2x

The growth of sustainable bonds

- Sustainable bonds issuance doubled during 2020, to reach an all time record of \$554bn.
 - Social bonds increased nearly tenfold to \$164bn.
 - Sustainability bonds grew threefold to \$128bn.
 - Green bonds grew by c.25% to \$223bn.

3%

The growth of sustainable loans

- The market for sustainable syndicated loans grew by 3% in 2020, up to just below the \$200bn mark.
 - European borrowers dominate the sustainable loan market, with 64% market share.

65%

The growth in sustainable equity

- Equity issuance from sustainable companies increased by 65% in 2020 to a record \$14bn.
- The Americas accounted for 62% of the sustainable equity market, followed by Europe (23%) and Asia Pacific (11%).

EMISSION TARGETS

UK

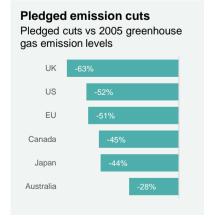
The British government is due to accelerate its climate change target, by announcing a new pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 78% compared to 1990 levels, by 2035. This compares to the previous target of cutting emissions by 68% by 2030.

EU

Under a new law agreed between member states and the EU Parliament, the bloc pledged to cut carbon emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels.

US

President Biden announced that America would aim to cut its greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.





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Macroeconomic indicators

Country	Population	GDP			Interest	Inflation		Jobless	Gov. Jobless Budget	
,	million	\$tn	YoY	QoQ	rate	rate		rate		
ustralia	26	1,393	-1.1%	3.1%	0.10%	1.1%	5.6	6%	5% -4.3%	5% -4.3% 24.8%
ustria	9	446	-2.7%	0.2%	0.00%	2.0%	8.7%		-8.9%	
Belgium	12	530	-1.0%	0.6%	0.00%	1.2%	5.8%		-9.4%	-9.4% 114.1%
Brazil	210	1,840	-1.1%	3.2%	3.50%	6.1%	14.4%		-5.9%	-5.9% 75.8%
Canada	38	1,736	-3.2%	2.3%	0.25%	2.2%	8.1%		-15.9%	-15.9% 88.6%
China	1,400	14,343	18.3%	0.6%	3.85%	0.4%	5.3%		-3.7%	-3.7% 66.8%
Denmark	6	348	-1.5%	0.7%	-0.50%	1.0%	4.5%		-1.1%	-1.1% 42.2%
Egypt	101	303	2.0%	2.0%	8.25%	4.5%	7.2%		-9.0%	-9.0% 90.2%
Euro Area	342	13,336	-1.8%	-0.6%	0.00%	1.6%	8.1%		-7.2%	-7.2% 98.0%
Finland	6	269	-1.4%	0.4%	0.00%	1.3%	8.1%		-5.4%	-5.4% 69.2%
France	67	2,716	1.5%	0.4%	0.00%	1.3%	8.0%		-9.2%	-9.2% 115.7%
Germany	83	3,846	-3.0%	-1.7%	0.00%	2.0%	4.5%		-4.2%	-4.2% 69.8%
Hong Kong	7	366	7.8%	5.3%	0.86%	0.5%	6.8%		-12.0%	-12.0% 38.4%
ndia	1,347	2,869	0.4%	7.9%	4.00%	5.5%	6.5%		-9.5%	-9.5% 69.6%
ndonesia	270	1,119	-0.7%	-1.0%	3.50%	1.4%	6.3%		-6.5%	-6.5% 38.5%
reland	5	389	1.5%	-5.1%	0.00%	0.0%	5.8%		-5.0%	-5.0% 59.5%
srael	9	395	-0.4%	1.6%	0.10%	0.2%	5.4%		-11.7%	-11.7% 71.1%
taly	60	2,001	-1.4%	-0.4%	0.00%	1.1%	10.1%		-9.5%	-9.5% 155.8%
lapan	126	5,082	-1.4%	2.8%	-0.10%	-0.2%	2.6%		-10.3%	-10.3% 266.2%
Netherlands	17	909	-2.8%	-0.1%	0.00%	1.9%	3.5%		-4.3%	-4.3% 54.5%
Nigeria	206	448	0.1%	9.7%	11.50%	18.2%	33.3%		-3.8%	-3.8% 35.0%
Norway	5	403	-0.6%	0.6%	0.00%	3.1%	5.0%		6.4%	6.4% 40.6%
Philippines	109	377	-8.3%	5.6%	2.00%	4.5%	8.7%		-3.5%	-3.5% 41.5%
Poland	38	592	-2.8%	-0.7%	0.10%	4.3%	6.4%		-7.0%	-7.0% 57.5%
Romania	19	250	-1.4%	4.8%	1.25%	3.1%	5.5%		-9.2%	-9.2% 47.3%
Russia	147	1,700	-1.8%	1.5%	5.00%	5.5%	5.4%		1.8%	1.8% 14.6%
Singapore	6	372	0.2%	2.0%	0.26%	1.3%	2.9%		-13.9%	-13.9% 131.0%
South Africa	59	351	-4.1%	6.3%	3.50%	3.2%	32.5%		-6.3%	-6.3% 83.0%
South Korea	52	1,647	1.8%	1.6%	0.50%	2.3%	3.9%		-2.6%	-2.6% 42.6%
Spain	47	1,394	-4.3%	-0.5%	0.00%	2.2%	16.0%		-11.0%	-11.0% 120.0%
Sweden	10	531	0.0%	1.1%	0.00%	1.7%	10.0%		-3.1%	-3.1% 39.9%
Switzerland	9	703	-1.6%	0.3%	-0.75%	0.3%	3.3%		1.5%	1.5% 41.0%
Turkey	84	754	5.9%	1.7%	19.00%	17.1%	13.4%		-3.4%	-3.4% 39.5%
UAE	10	421	1.6%	2.0%	1.50%	-2.0%	5.0%		-0.8%	-0.8% 36.9%
UK	67	2,829	-7.3%	1.3%	0.10%	0.7%	4.9%	-1	6.9%	6.9% 100.2%
US	329	21,433	0.4%	6.4%	0.25%	2.6%	6.1%	-4.6	%	107.6%

Source: Trading Economics





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The London Report 2021

The London Report 2021 edition, delivers the crucial message that London is uniquely placed to not only drive business growth and attract global capital, but also respond to the new demands of a post-pandemic world-greater sustainability, more flexibility over working patterns and a higher regard for workplace wellbeing.

Contributors



William Matthews

Head of Commercial Research +44 20 3909 6842 william.matthews@knightfrank.com



Victoria Ormond

Partner
Capital Markets Research
+44 207861 5009
victoria.ormond@knightfrank.com



Antonia Haralambous

Analyst Capital Markets Research +44 20 3866 8033

antonia.haralambous@knightfrank.com



Daniel Tomaselli

Senior Analyst
Capital Markets Research
+44 20 8106 1392
daniel.tomaselli@knightfrank.com

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