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NEED TO KNOW

18 May 2021

-1.5%UK q-q GDP growth in Q1 2021

The UK's GDP declined -1.5% in Q1, ending two quarters of growth, albeit beating expectations of a -1.6% contraction. The ONS points to school closures and falls in retail sales as the largest drag on output. However, in March, GDP increased +2.1% m-m, its largest increase since August 2020 and outpacing forecasts of +1.4%.

4.8%

UK unemployment in the three months to March 2021

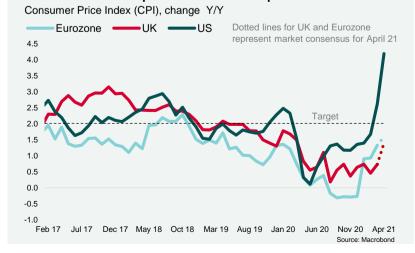
UK unemployment fell to 4.8% in Q1 2021, down -0.3% on the quarter prior and better than expectations of 4.9%. However, unemployment is +0.8% above where it was pre-pandemic. Meanwhile, the employment rate increased for the first time since the turn of 2019 – 2020. At 75.2% it remains -1.4% below pre pandemic levels.

\$1,854

Price of gold escalates to a 3-month high

The price of gold is currently at a three month high of \$1,854 per troy ounce. Concerns around US inflation have driven demand for gold, with US CPI reaching +4.2% in April, higher than expectations of +3.6%. Gasoline and fuel oil contributed to this growth, as a result of low oil prices in 2020.

US inflation reaches highs last seen in 2008 while inflation in UK and Eurozone are expected to see a lower peak.



WEEK AHEAD

European Data

In Europe this week, multiple macroeconomic data sets are due to be released, with updates for the Eurozone's GDP growth and rate of employment due today, while inflation figures are expected on Friday. Preliminary PMI figures will also be announced this week for France, Germany and the Eurozone, providing an insight into the performance of the trading bloc.

UK Inflation

The UK's rate of inflation is due on Wednesday. Annual CPI was +0.7% in March, while the consensus forecast for April shows CPI at +1.4%, which would be the highest rate of inflation since March 2020. Coinciding with this is the release of the UK's retail sales data, on the same week that restrictions on indoor dining has been lifted in England.

Business births and deaths

On Thursday, the ONS will release week 20's figures for the number of Companies House incorporations and voluntary dissolutions, highlighting the current health of the UK business climate. In week 19, there were 13,768 company incorporations and 6,019 voluntary dissolutions, which was an increase of +38% and +32% on the same week in 2020, respectively.

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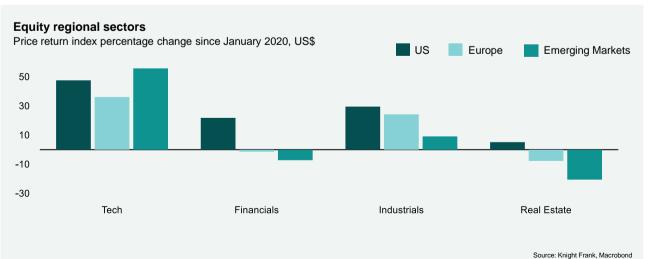


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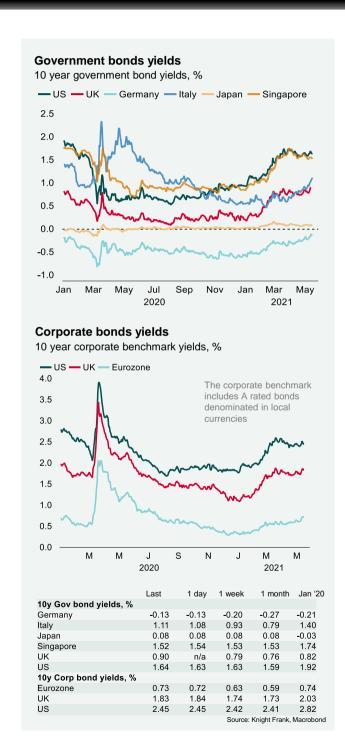


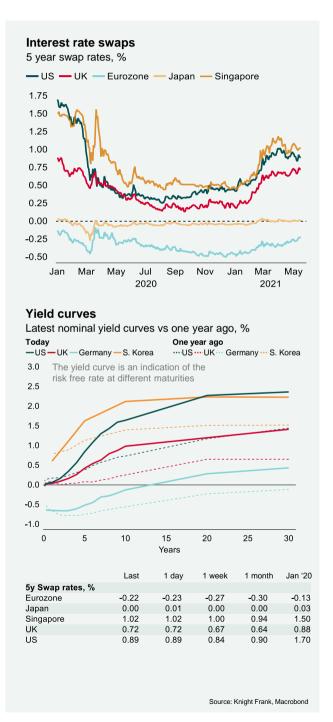




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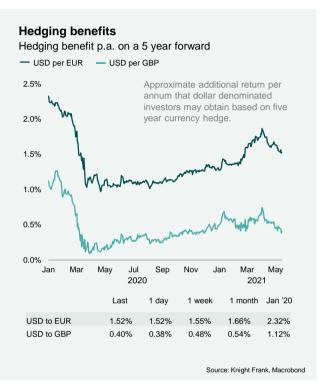




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Monetary policy

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

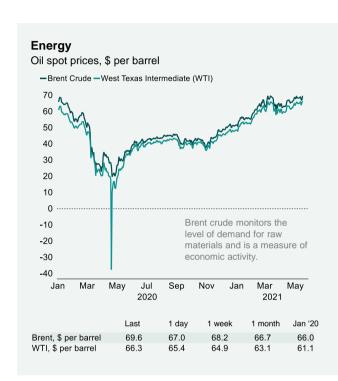
	Lastest (\$)	MoM change	YoY change		
Australia	335 bn	7.2%	95.6%		
Canada	385 bn	-12.2%	38.2%		
China	5.9 tn	0.9%	15.9%		
Euro Area	9.15 tn	2.8%	55.1%		
France	2.11 tn	0.2%	52.0%		
Germany	3.12 tn	3.8%	46.2%		
India	398 bn	2.3%	-38.0%		
Italy	1.76 tn	3.1%	45.1%		
Japan	6.61 tn	1.3%	13.5%		
Saudi Arabia	494 bn	1.0%	1.8%		
South Korea	493 bn	1.3%	18.3%		
Spain	487 bn	0.9%	44.3%		
Sweden	159 bn	3.4%	29.1%		
UK	1.16 tn	4.7%	74.5%		
US	7.83 tn	0.8%	13.4%		

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

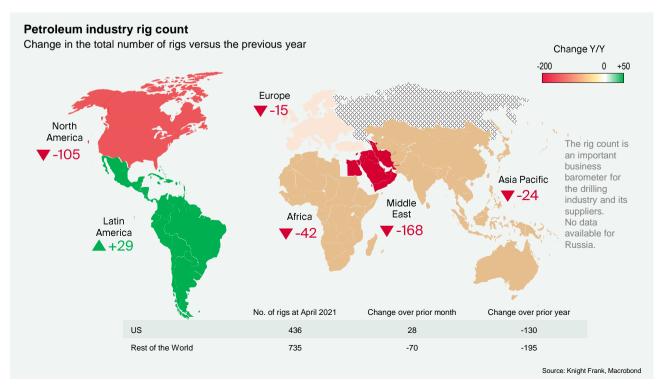


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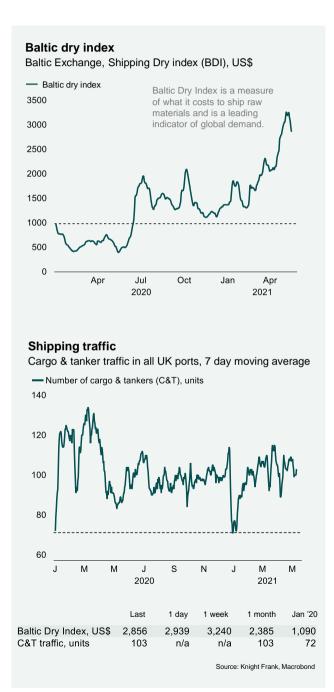


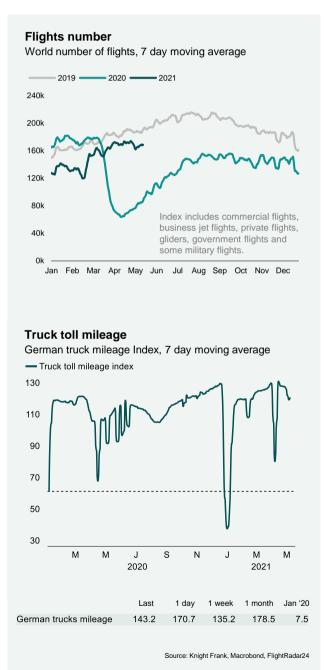




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UK REITs by sector US REITs by sector UK EPRA gross total return index, Jan 2020 = 100, GBP£ US NAREIT gross total return index, Jan 2020 = 100, US\$ — All REITs — Office — Industrial — Retail — All REITs — Office — Industrial — Retail Healthcare — Residential — S&P500 Healthcare — Residential — FTSE 250 140 130 110 120 90 100 70 80 50 60 30 40 10 Jul Sep Jan Mar May Nov Mar May May Jul Sep Mar May Jan Mar Nov Jan 2021 Index, gross total return Index, gross total return Percentage change since Percentage change since Original value and base Last 1 day 1 week 1 month Jan '20 Original value and base Last 1 day 1 week 1 month Jan'20 All REITs 939 0.7 -1.9 1.0 -8.2 All REITs 21,455 1.2 -1.2 1.7 6.4 Office 2,478 0.2 -3.2 1.9 -16.4 Office 2.010 1.3 -1.2 0.4 -10.4 Industrial 1,485 0.5 -1.0 1.8 19.8 Industrial 2 806 0.7 -18 0.8 28 7 Retail 2.6 -6.6 -7.9 -74.7 Retail 1.087 2.0 -2.9 3.2 -4.8 Healthcare 2,286 0.4 -0.7 -0.2 0.8 Healthcare 4,030 1.3 -1.7-2.8 -2.9Residential 1.448 0.0 -4.0-0.4 -5.1Residential 2,100 0.9 0.2 4.2 7.8 FTSF 250 17.760 -1.0 S&P500 8,648 -0.1 Source: Knight Frank, Macrobono



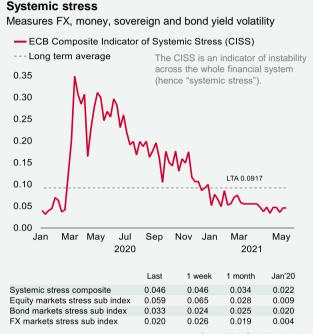
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Volatility index Near term stock price volatility indicator CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) --- Long term average The CBOE VIX ("investor fear gauge") is an indication 80 of near term S&P 500 stock price volatility based on 70 underlying options. 60 50 40 30 20 10 Mar May Jul Sep Jan Mar May Jan Nov 2020 2021 1 day Jan '20 Last 1 week 1 month **CBOE VIX** 19.7 19.7 21.8 16.3 13.8 Euro Stoxx 50 VIX 21.8 22.6 16.1 14.0 Nikkei VIX 23.7 26.2 22.7 17.6 14.8 KOSPI VIX 17.6

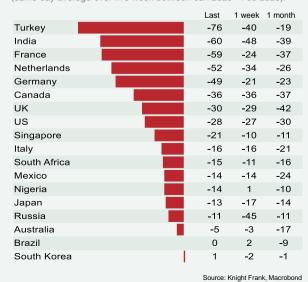


Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

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).



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).



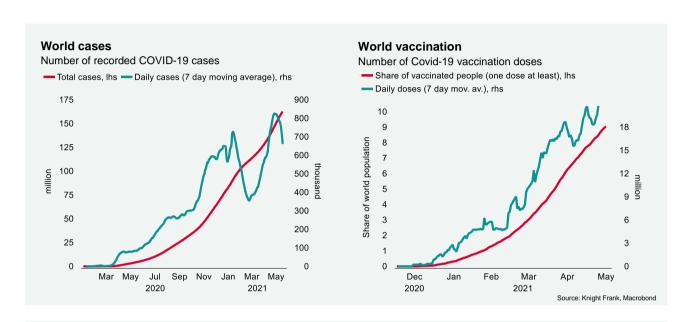


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MEASURES



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 3.3 21,469 18,024 24,999 8,024 18 17,249 8,874 159 Australia 0.0 8 15 17 Belgium 863 4,027 3,889 34 10,811 1.0 67,009 113,666 Brazil 15.6 63,430 73,174 35,801 17 Canada 1.3 5.282 6,802 9,564 17,005 45 50.986 China 0.1 237 34 n/a 1,686,347 13 n/a 964 874 677 1,642 28 6,720 Denmark 0.3 227 380 2,105 4,749 Finland 0.1 162 38 5.8 9,128 36,360 20,117 30 70,011 France 13.948 Germany 3.6 5,412 6,922 23,804 30,432 36 99,314 Greece 0.4 1,259 1,427 3.027 2,772 27 13,162 10 India 25.0 281,386 366.161 234.692 141.764 284,615 Ireland 0.3 506 1,409 29 5,450 417 Israel 0.8 45 95 5,432 63 555 5,748 8,289 Italy 4.2 15,923 19,033 31 67,409 Japan 0.7 5,187 7,017 4,473 4,381 3 34,206 4,494 Netherlands 16 6,648 8,897 5,269 31 8,266 617 29 3,963 Norway 0.1 1,557 8.0 334 324 553 3,196 31 11,452 Portugal Russia 4.9 9.328 8,465 9.321 14,313 10 46.505 Saudi Arabia 0.4 825 942 964 n/a n/a 20,808 4,705 Singapore 0.1 49 28 34 1,900 32 South Africa 2,585 1,778 1,424 479 1,834 1.6 1 South Korea 0.1 619 3,734 7 10,064 463 658 3.337 Spain 3.6 0 9.561 14.911 32 53.787 Sweden 1.0 0 4,479 7,667 3,194 32 10,168 UK 1,926 2,756 45 1,770 36,573 54 74,203 US 32.6 30,732 38,091 72,382 157,486 47 282,209 World 162.7 524,228 825,683 704,866 702,681 3,459,267

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

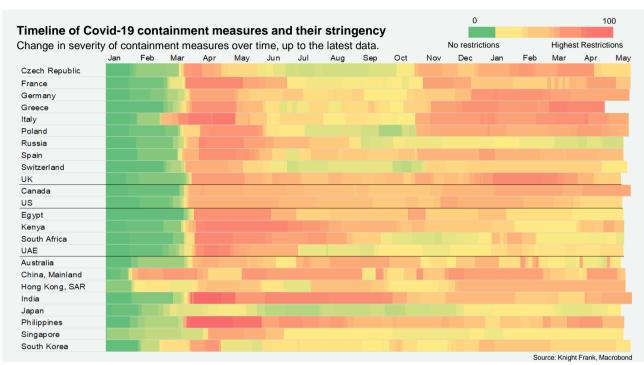


Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

Leading Indicators

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Covid-19 containment measures breakdown Confirmed Cases Confirmed Deaths Lockdown Index International Travel Internal Movement Public Events Public Transport Workplace Schools Czech Republic 1,652,840 29,901 France 5 825 659 106,845 3,602,939 86,166 Germany 11,415 Italy Poland 4.159.122 124.156 74 2,854,079 71,664 Russia 4,883,734 113,927 37 Spain 3.604.799 79.339 63 679,510 10,731 UK 4 450 777 127 679 Canada 1,335,782 24,904 US 32,940,846 585,970 Egypt 245,721 14,327 Kenya South Africa 1.613.728 55.210 44 UAE 546,182 1,631 Australia China, Mainland 90.872 4.636 63 Hong Kong, SAR 274.390 India 24,965,463 685,135 Japan Philippines 1.143.963 19,191 61.585 Singapore 31 1,903 Lockdown Index key & Scale Public events Public transport Value No Measure No measure 0 Recommended Recommended 1 Internal movements Workplace International travel No Restrictions Recommended Restrictions 0-25 No measure No measure Recommended 26-50 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



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ESG FUNDS & SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



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

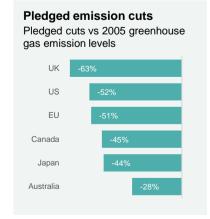
The British government is due to accelerate its climate change target, by announcing a new pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 78% compared to 1990 levels, by 2035. This compares to the previous target of cutting emissions by 68% by 2030.

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

									Gov.	Gov. Debt/
Country	Population	GDP		0.0		Interest			•	
	million	\$tn	YoY	QoQ		rate				
Australia	26	1,393	-1.1%	3.1%		0.10% 1.1%				
Austria	9	446	-2.7%	0.2%		0.00%				
Belgium	12	530	-1.0%	0.6%		0.00%				
Brazil	212	1,840	-1.1%	3.2%		3.50%				
Canada	38	1,736	-3.2%	2.3%		0.25%				
China	1,444	14,343	18.3%	0.6%		3.85%	3.85% 0.9%	3.85% 0.9% 5.3%	3.85% 0.9% 5.3% -3.7%	3.85% 0.9% 5.3% -3.7% 66.8%
Denmark	6	348	-1.5%	0.7%		-0.50%	-0.50% 1.5%	-0.50% 1.5% 4.5%	-0.50% 1.5% 4.5% -1.1%	-0.50% 1.5% 4.5% -1.1% 42.2%
Egypt	101	303	2.0%	2.0%		8.25%	8.25% 4.1%	8.25% 4.1% 7.4%	8.25% 4.1% 7.4% -9.0%	8.25% 4.1% 7.4% -9.0% 90.2%
uro Area	342	13,336	-1.8%	-0.6%		0.00%	0.00% 1.6%	0.00% 1.6% 8.1%	0.00% 1.6% 8.1% -7.2%	0.00% 1.6% 8.1% -7.2% 98.0%
nland	6	269	-1.4%	0.4%	0.00%		2.1%	2.1% 8.1%	2.1% 8.1% -5.4%	2.1% 8.1% -5.4% 69.2%
rance	67	2,716	1.5%	0.4%	0.00%		1.2%	1.2% 8.0%	1.2% 8.0% -9.2%	1.2% 8.0% -9.2% 115.7%
Germany	83	3,846	-3.0%	-1.7%	0.00%	2.0%		4.5%	4.5% -4.2%	4.5% -4.2% 69.8%
Hong Kong	7	366	7.9%	5.4%	0.86%	0.5%		6.8%	6.8% -12.0%	6.8% -12.0% 38.4%
India	1,347	2,869	0.4%	7.9%	4.00%	4.3%		6.5%	6.5% -9.5%	6.5% -9.5% 69.6%
Indonesia	270	1,119	-0.7%	-1.0%	3.50%	1.4%	6.0	3%	3% -6.5%	3% -6.5% 38.5%
Ireland	5	389	1.5%	-5.1%	0.00%	1.1%	5.8%	•	-5.0%	-5.0% 59.5%
Israel	9	395	-0.4%	1.6%	0.10%	0.8%	5.4%		-11.7%	-11.7% 71.1%
Italy	60	2,001	-1.4%	-0.4%	0.00%	1.1%	10.1%		-9.5%	-9.5% 155.8%
Japan	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	-1.4%	-0.6%	0.00%	3.0%	5.0%		6.4%	6.4% 40.6%
Philippines	109	377	-4.2%	0.3%	2.00%	4.5%	8.7%		-3.5%	-3.5% 41.5%
Poland	38	592	-1.2%	0.9%	0.10%	4.3%	6.4%	-7.0)%)% 57.5%
Romania	19	250	-1.4%	4.8%	1.25%	3.2%	5.5%	-9.2%		47.3%
Russia	147	1,700	-1.8%	1.5%	5.00%	5.5%	5.4%	1.8%		14.6%
Singapore	6	372	0.2%	2.0%	0.26%	1.3%	2.9%	-13.9%		131.0%
South Africa	59	351	-4.1%	6.3%	3.50%	3.2%	32.5%	-6.3%	83	.0%
South Korea	52	1,647	1.8%	1.6%	0.50%	2.3%	3.7%	-2.6%	42.6%	,
Spain	47	1,394	-4.3%	-0.5%	0.00%	2.2%	16.0%	-11.0%	120.0%	
Sweden	10	531	0.0%	1.1%	0.00%	2.2%	10.0%	-3.1%	39.9%	
Switzerland	9	703	-1.6%	0.3%	-0.75%	0.3%	3.3%	1.5%	41.0%	
Turkey	84	754	5.9%	1.7%	19.00%	17.1%	13.1%	-3.4%	39.5%	
UAE	10	421	1.6%	2.0%	1.50%	-2.0%	5.0%	-0.8%	36.9%	
UK	67	2,829	-6.1%	-1.5%	0.10%	0.7%	4.9%	-16.9%	100.2%	
US	329	21,433	0.4%	6.4%	0.25%	4.2%	6.1%	-4.6%	107.6%	

Source: Trading Economics





Recent research



The Next Chapter 2021

Our analysis and forecasts for the market, exploring the defining themes of climate, connectivity and community. The world of office working has undoubtedly been profoundly altered by the pandemic, but with the accelerated pace of change comes opportunity. So, what will define the next chapter?



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.

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