

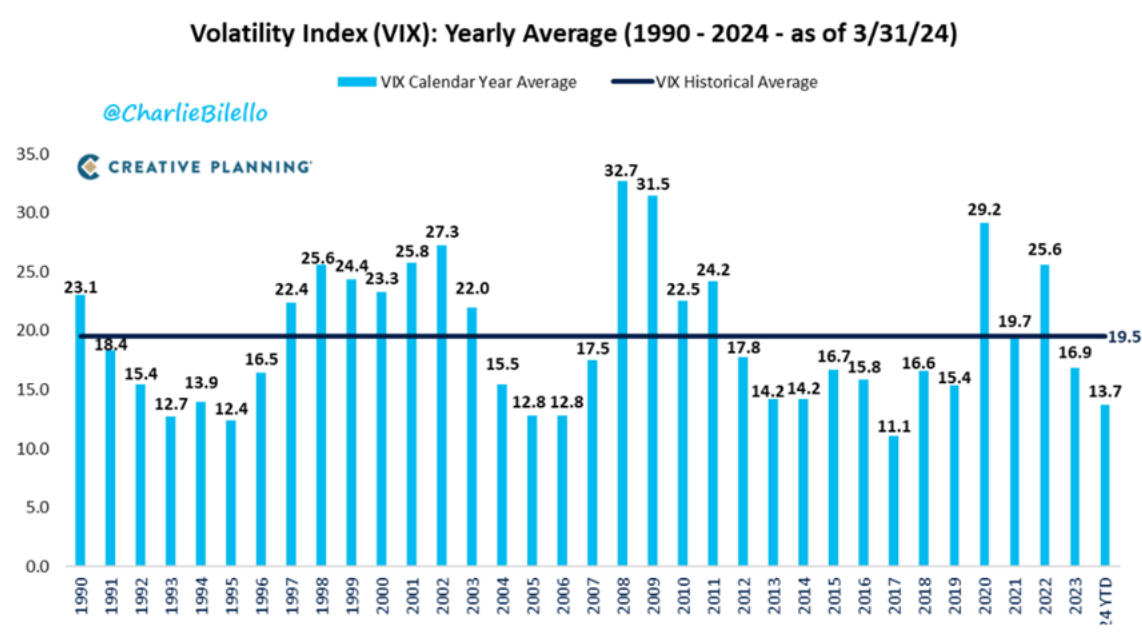
1) Smooth Sailing

The first three months of the year were highly abnormal, but in a good way. Investors have rarely experienced such smooth sailing, with high returns and very low volatility.

The S&P 500 gained over 10% in the first 61 trading days, its 14th best start to a year in history.

S&P 500: Best Performance through First 61 Trading Days (1928 - 2024)				
Rank	Year	Price Return: First 61 Trading Days	Price Return: Day 62 to Year-End	Price Return: Full Calendar Year
1	1975	21.6%	7.7%	30.9%
2	1987	19.4%	-14.3%	2.3%
3	1943	18.5%	0.8%	19.4%
4	1930	15.9%	-38.3%	-28.5%
5	1991	13.6%	10.6%	25.7%
6	1976	13.5%	4.4%	18.5%
7	1998	13.5%	11.6%	26.7%
8	1986	13.1%	1.9%	15.2%
9	2019	13.1%	14.0%	28.9%
10	1967	12.9%	6.4%	20.1%
11	1961	11.7%	10.2%	23.1%
12	2012	11.6%	1.6%	13.4%
13	1936	10.3%	16.5%	28.6%
14	2024	10.2%	?	?
15	1995	9.5%	22.4%	34.1%

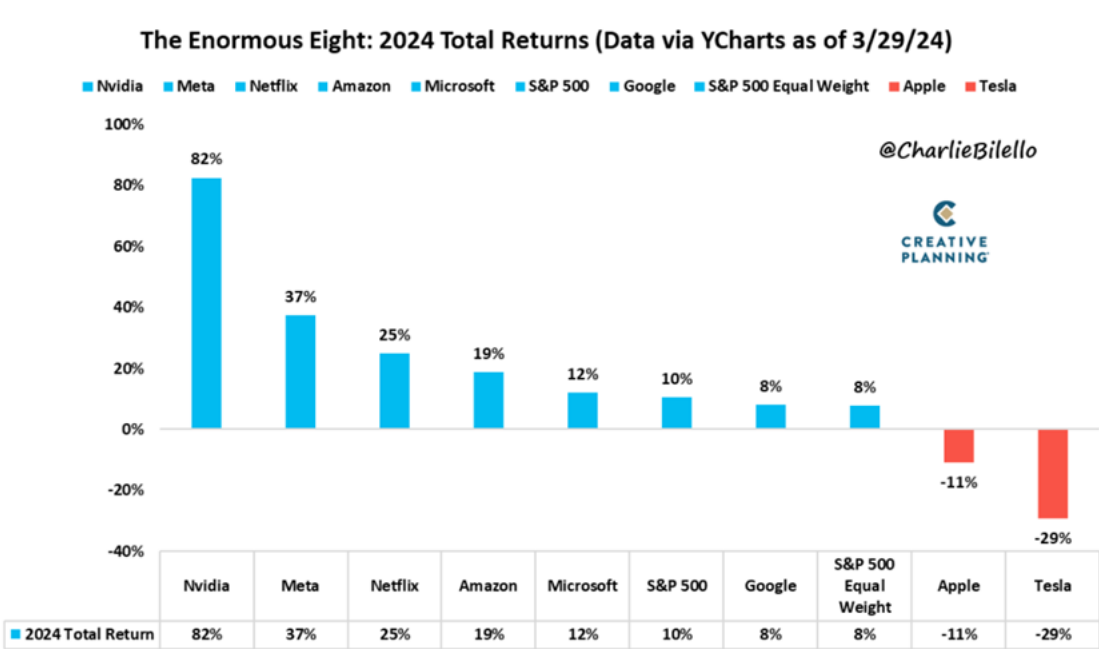
More remarkable, though, was the calmness in getting there. The Volatility Index (\$VIX) averaged 13.7, on pace for the least volatile year since 2017.



2) Enormous Eight Dispersion

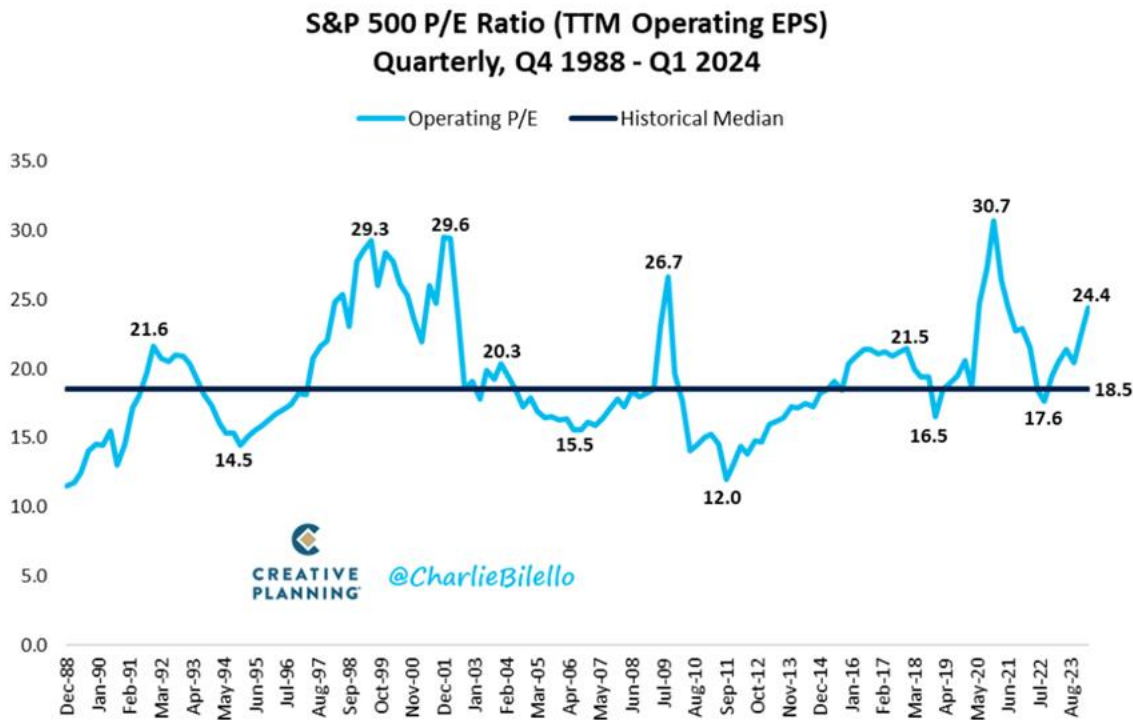
Unlike 2023, the rising tide did not lift all boats in Q1.

Nvidia continued to lead the Enormous Eight with a gain of 82%, but Apple (-11%) and Tesla (-29%) moved in the opposite direction.



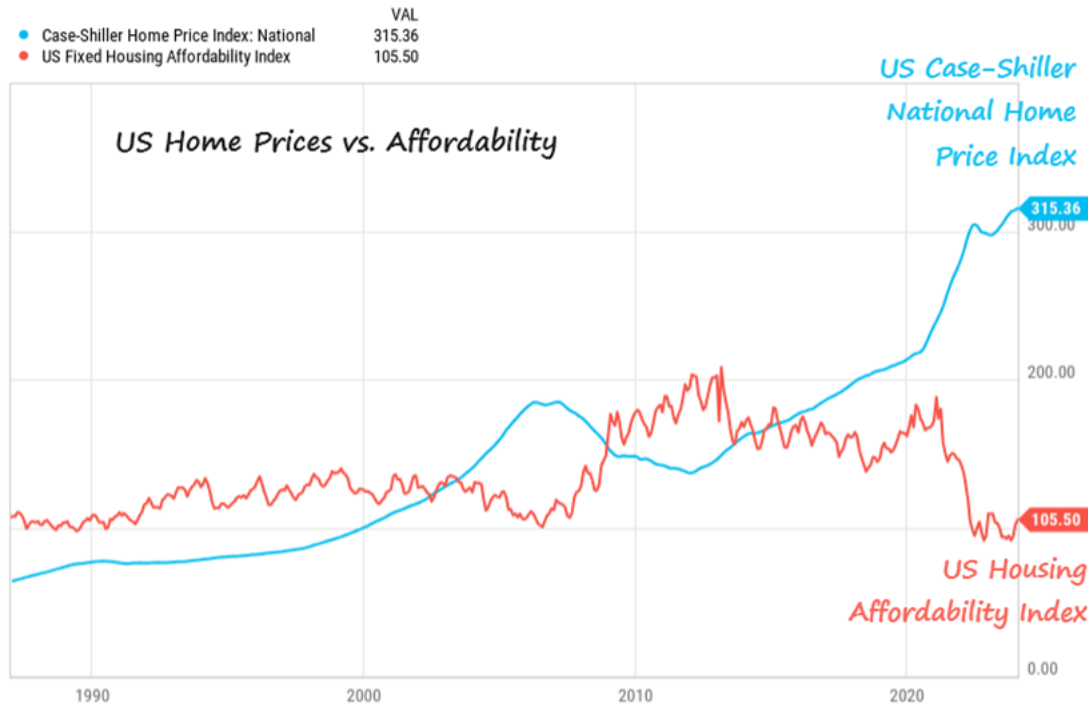
4) Multiple Expansion

The S&P 500's P/E ratio has moved up to 24.4x from 22.3x at the start of the year. That's 32% higher than the historical median P/E going back to 1988 (18.5x).



5) The Housing Affordability Gap

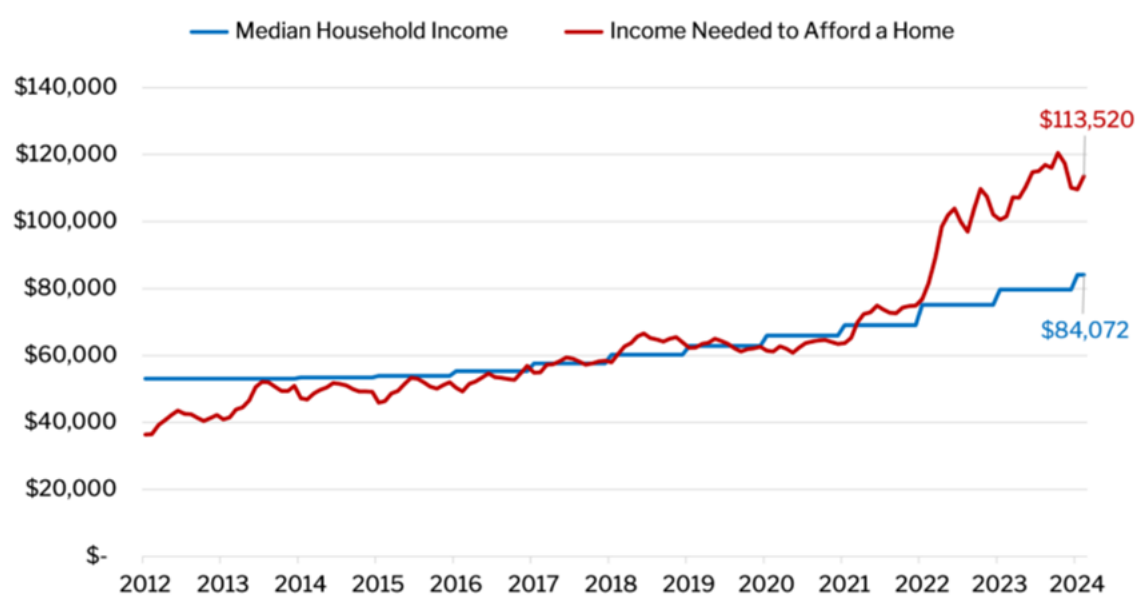
US Home Prices hit another all-time high in January while affordability remains near record lows.



A US homebuyer now needs to earn \$114k to afford the median priced home for sale. The problem: that's 35% more than the median household income.

Homebuying Costs Are Growing Twice as Fast as Incomes

Median U.S. household income and income needed to afford median priced U.S. home



Note: Most recent data point represents Feb. 2024

REDFIN

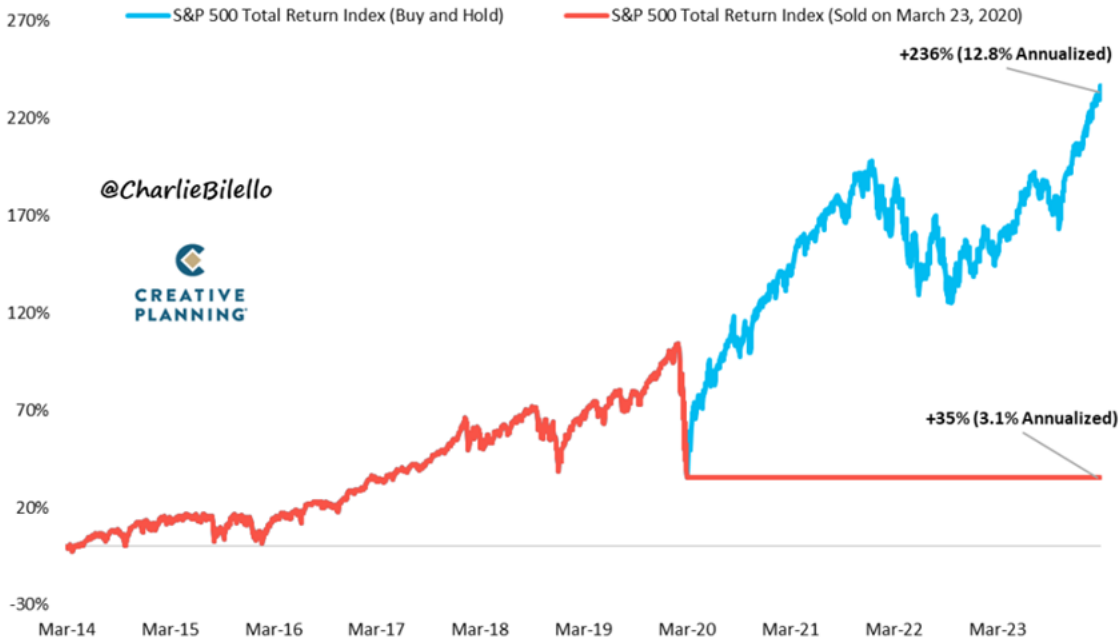
8) June in Jeopardy?

Gas prices in the US have moved up to \$3.53 per gallon (national average), the highest level since last October and 10 cents above year-ago prices. This will likely be a factor in pushing up CPI for March (Cleveland Fed is currently forecasting 3.4%, up from 3.2% in February).



How the Fed reacts to this development remains to be seen, but we've already seen a huge shift in investor expectations. Entering the year the bond market was pricing in 3 rate cuts by the June FOMC meeting and 7 rate cuts throughout the entire year. Fast forward to today investors are expecting just 3 rate cuts in 2024 with the June start date now in jeopardy (<60% probability of a cut).

Total Returns, Last 10 Years (Mar 20, 2014 - Mar 20, 2024)



@CharlieBilello



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Welcome to the

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Population 26,821,557 30 September 2023	Consumer price index 4.1% Annual change December 2023 quarter	Gross domestic product 0.2% Quarterly change, Dec 2023	Average weekly earnings \$1,888.80 November 2023	Unemployment rate 3.7% February 2024
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Unemployment

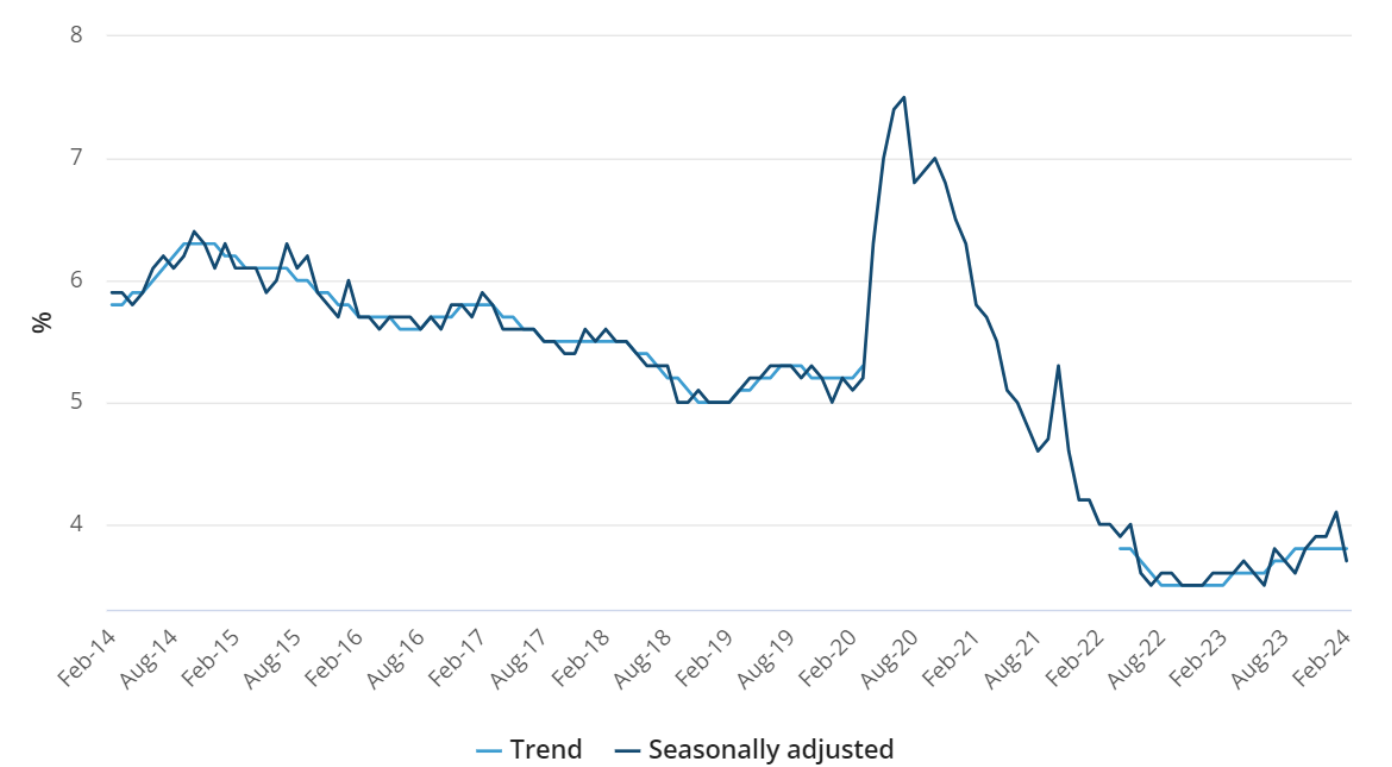
In trend terms, in February 2024:

- unemployment rate remained at 3.8%.
- unemployed people decreased by 3,500 to 562,200.
- youth unemployment rate remained at 9.3%.

Graph Table

▼ Download

Unemployment rate





Housing finance

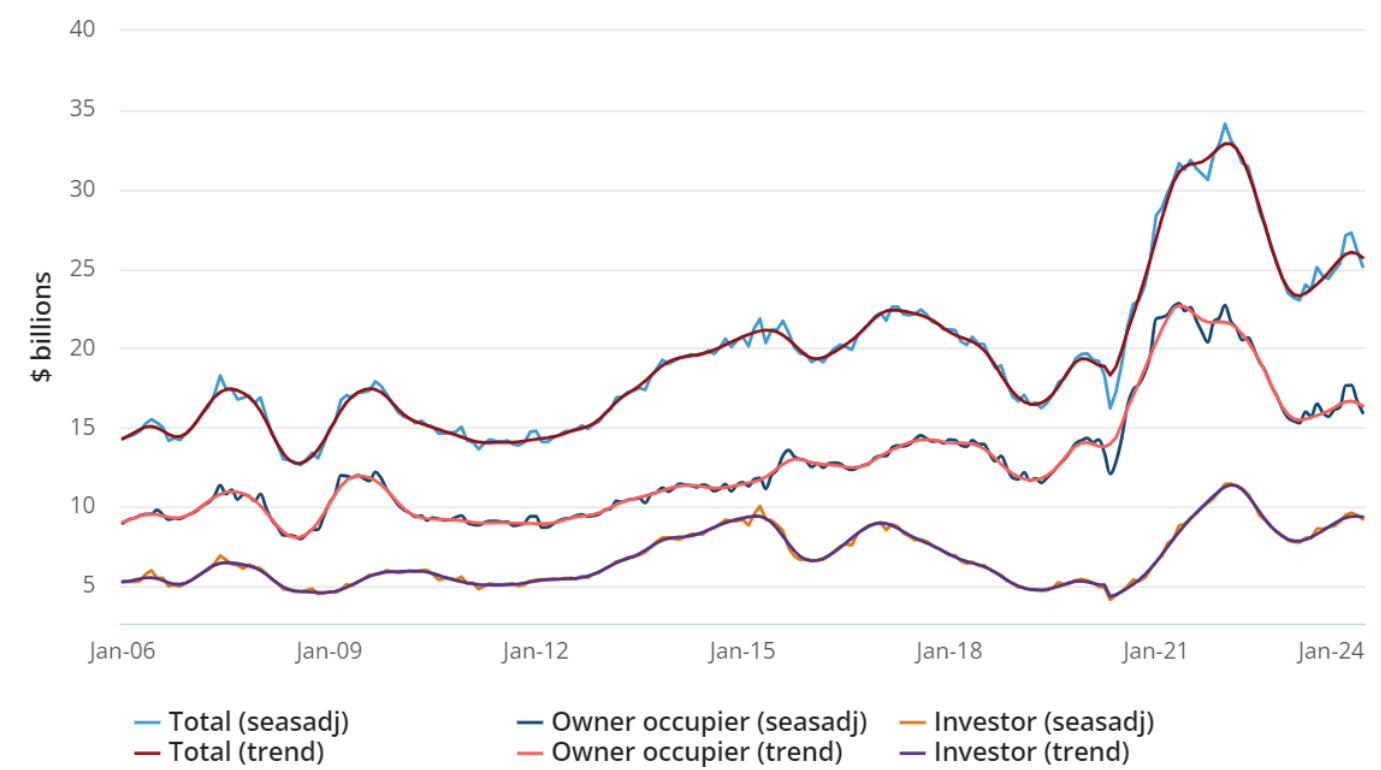
In January 2024 in seasonally adjusted terms, the value of new loan commitments:

- for total housing fell 3.9% to \$25.1b, after a fall of 4.1% in December. It was 8.5% higher compared to a year ago.
- for owner-occupier housing fell 4.6% to \$15.9b but was 3.4% higher compared to a year ago
- for investor housing fell 2.6% to \$9.2b but was 18.5% higher compared to a year ago

Graph Table

Download

New loan commitments, total housing (a) (seasonally adjusted and trend), values, Australia

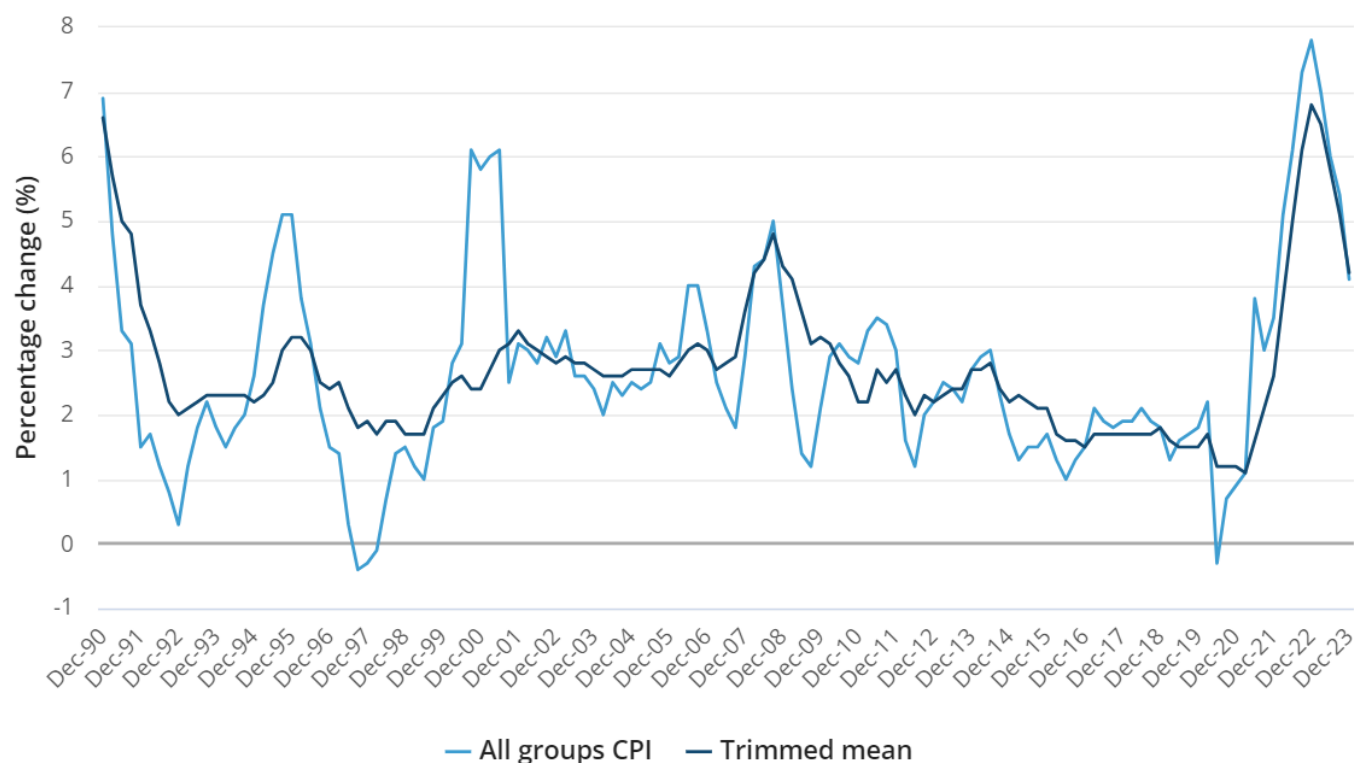


Graph

Table

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All groups CPI and Trimmed mean, Australia, annual movement (%)



Goods and Services annual inflation both lower

This is the fifth consecutive quarter of lower annual inflation for goods, down from the peak of 9.6 per cent in September 2022 quarter. Annual inflation for most goods eased in the December 2023 quarter, with some goods seeing deflation, where prices are lower compared to 12 months ago, such as clothing, footwear, furniture and household appliances. Annual services inflation eased for the second consecutive quarter, down from the peak of 6.3 per cent in the June 2023 quarter.

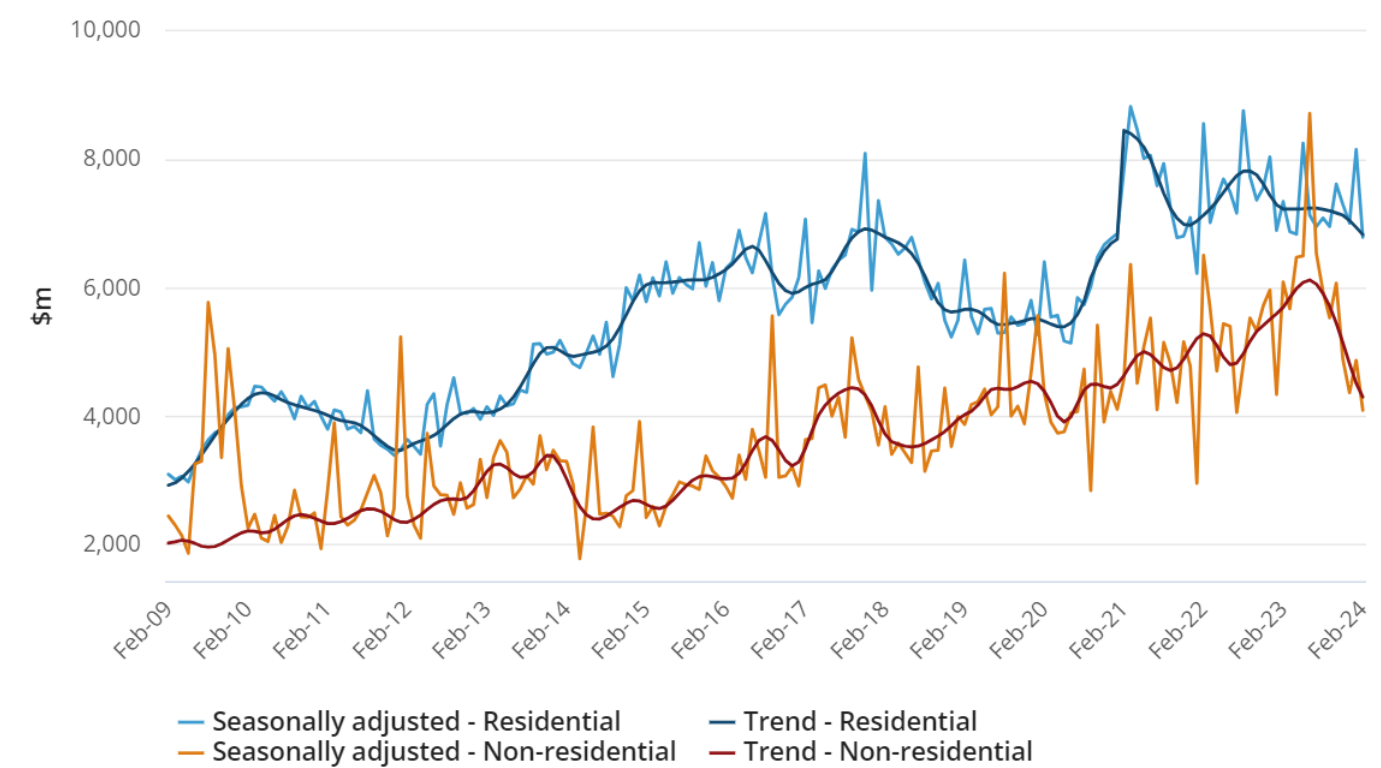
Value of building approved [🔗](#)

Graph

Table

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Value of building approved, by building type (a)

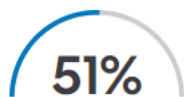


a. Trend break added to 'Total residential' trend series for September 2020 and February 2021.

Value of building approved, seasonally adjusted

The value of total building approved fell 16.5%, following a 14.5% January increase. The value of total residential building fell 16.8%, comprised of a 19.1% decrease in the value of new residential building and a 0.1% fall in alterations and additions.

The value of non-residential building fell 16.0%, after a 11.6% rise in January.



QLD clearance rate*

Updated Wed 3 Apr 11:30 PM AEDT

Based on **181** auction results available

SOLD

56

Sold at auction

27

Sold prior to auction

9

Sold after auction

NOT SOLD

19

Withdrawn

70

Passed in

206 auctions scheduled

Non-auction sales

1,099

Private sales

CoreLogic Auction Results

Welcome to the CoreLogic Weekly Auction Result Summary. Stay abreast of the very latest property market conditions with the most comprehensive auction clearance rates available. Every week we endeavour to capture the results of every known auction and make them available by Sunday morning, with progressive updates as the full set of auction results are collected.

Week ending 31 March 2024

CITY	TOTAL AUCTIONS	CORELOGIC AUCTION RESULTS	SOLD PRIOR TO AUCTION	SOLD AT AUCTION	SOLD AFTER AUCTION	PASSED IN	WITHDRAWN	CLEARANCE RATE	CLEARED AUCTIONS	UNCLEARED AUCTIONS
Sydney	414	413	143	127	14	92	37	68.8%	284	129
Melbourne	283	282	43	114	13	87	25	60.3%	170	112
Brisbane	95	94	28	28	1	33	4	60.6%	57	37
Perth	5	5	1	NA	NA	3	1	20%	1	4
Canberra	46	46	11	13	2	15	5	56.5%	26	20
Adelaide	58	58	12	30	2	13	1	75.9%	44	14
Tasmania	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0%	NA	NA
Combined Capitals*	901	898	238	312	32	243	73	64.8%	582	316

Switch Quote

AUDUSD

Tullett Prebon

Australian Dollar

ADD TO WATCHLIST

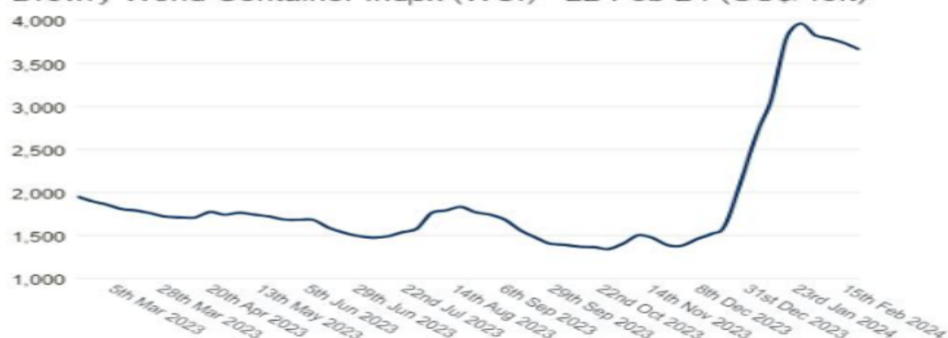


The latest updates for the International Freight Market

Overview

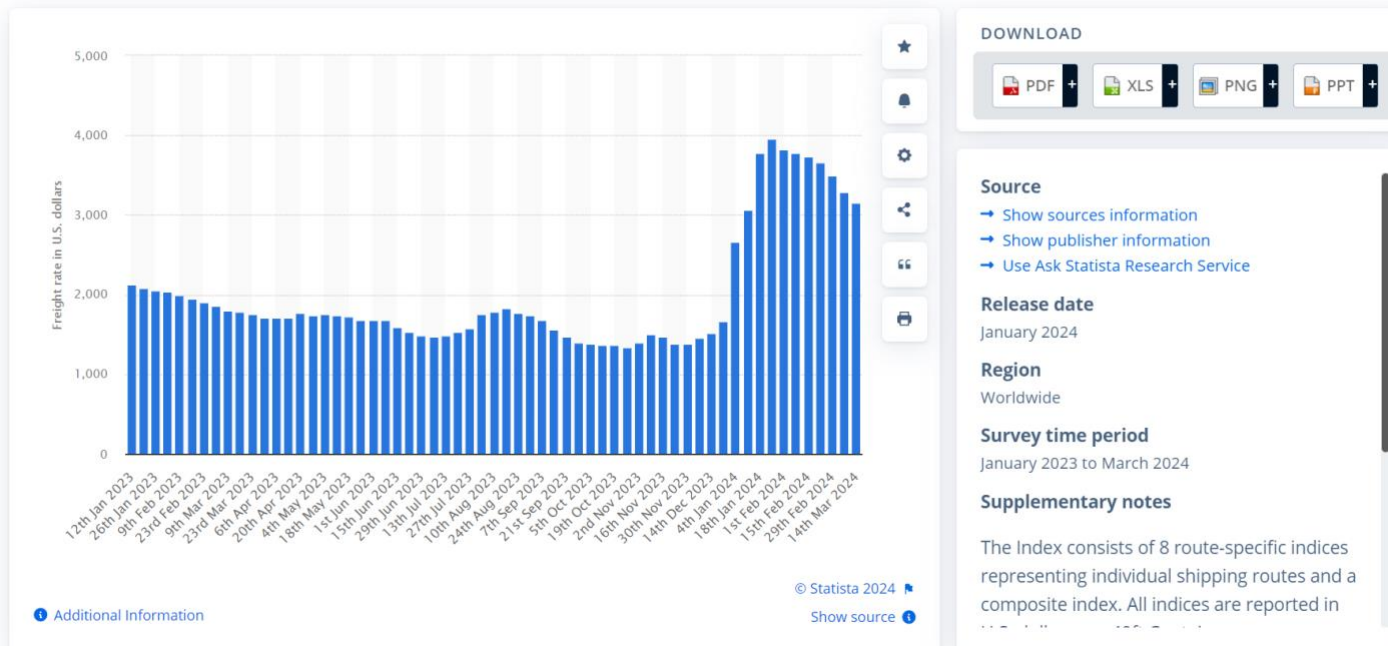
- Freight rates peaked in late January and have started declining as demand eases post-Chinese New Year with new ships introducing additional capacity.
- Carriers continue to avoid the Red Sea due to the ongoing disruptions.
- Houthi rebels continue attacks on vessels transiting the Red Sea, with at least 57 attacks on commercial and military ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since 19 November 2023, increasing toward the latter half of February.
- Asset imbalances and equipment shortages from trade flow blockages continue to create challenges for shippers as trade volumes going through the Suez Canal and Panama Canal have decreased by 42% and 49% respectively.
- Drewry's composite World Container Index (WCI) has decreased steadily in the past four weeks to \$3,659 per 40ft container as of 22 February 2024, after reaching a high of \$3,964 per 40ft container on 25 January 2024 for eight consecutive weekly gains.
- Despite the recent reductions, rate levels remain up by 164.4% in the past three months since the seizure of Nippon Yusen's the Galaxy Leader at which time the WCI was \$1,384 per 40ft.
- Rate levels are up by 93%, compared to the same period in 2023.
- The latest Drewry WCI composite index of \$3,964 per 40ft container has reached its highest since October 2022 and is 158% more than the 2019 average (pre-pandemic) rate of \$1,420.

Drewry World Container Index (WCI) - 22 Feb 24 (US\$/40ft)



Global container freight rate index from the 12th January 2023 to the 14th March 2024

(in U.S. dollars per 40-foot container)



Monthly container freight rate index worldwide 2023-2024

Published by [Statista Research Department](#), Mar 19, 2024

Container freight rates oscillated dramatically between January 2023 and March 2024. Freight rates slumped to their lowest level on the 26th of October 2023, when the going rate for a 40-foot container was only 1,342 U.S. dollars. Since then, the global freight rate has gradually increased, hitting over 3,900 U.S. dollars in February 2024, the highest value on record, before decreasing slightly in March.

How did we get here?

The global supply chain is a fragile system consisting of numerous links. Disruption to one can send cascading effects down a chain that needs to function properly for the whole system to work. The COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be an event of such a magnitude to either bring to halt whole industries and supply chains, or severely reduce their efficiency. Due to its complexity and transcontinental nature, [container shipping](#) was hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the start of the pandemic, the shipping industry has had to struggle with port closures and congestions, labor shortages, difficulties with capacity utilization, as well as a lack of new shipping containers. These challenges continue to have repercussions on the industry to this day.

Container carriers profiting

While costs of operating a container fleet have increased, the surge in freight rates has not served just to cover rising expenses. [Container ship operators had been reporting record-high operating profit margins](#) since the beginning of the pandemic. However, despite these high profit margins, the freight rate increase has had some repercussions. In the second quarter of 2023, main container shipping companies had an average profit margin of 8.9 percent, a decrease of almost 50 percent compared to the peak EBIT in the first quarter of 2022. Despite this decrease, some of the carriers are combating this trend by using their previous profits to increase their carrying capacity by buying new containers and [ordering new container ships](#). However, the delivery of these newly ordered ships is still years away.

the 11,447 hybrids reported as sold last month.

Data below supplied by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FAI), and compiled by Alex Misoyannis.

TOP 10 CARS IN February 2024

Rank	Model	Volume February 2024	Change year-on-year
1	Ford Ranger	5353	up 19.7 per cent
2	Toyota HiLux	4403	up 11.8 per cent
3	Tesla Model 3	3593	up 34.5 per cent
4	Isuzu D-Max	2941	up 52.3 per cent
5	Toyota RAV4	2843	up 34.4 per cent
6	Nissan X-Trail	2508	up 283.5 per cent
7	Toyota Corolla	2495	up 105.5 per cent
8	MG ZS	2357	up 15.1 per cent
9	Mitsubishi Outlander	2209	up 2 per cent
10	Tesla Model Y	2072	up 145.2 per cent

TOP 10 CAR BRANDS IN February 2024

Rank	Brand	Volume February 2024	Change year-on-year
1	Toyota	19,374	up 35.2 per cent
2	Mazda	7350	down 4.1 per cent
3	Ford	7275	up 20.8 per cent
4	Nissan	6617	up 157 per cent
5	Mitsubishi	6411	up 16.6 per cent
6	Kia	6141	up 2.4 per cent
7	Hyundai	5703	up 3.6 per cent
8	Tesla	5665	up 61.1 per cent
9	Isuzu Ute	4692	up 48.7 per cent
10	MG	4474	up 2.5 per cent