

# Australian Dwelling Prices and Tobin's q

# **Presentation to UNSW Business School Real Estate Symposium**

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Tobin's q

Market Value for an asset

q = \_\_\_\_\_\_ Replacement Cost

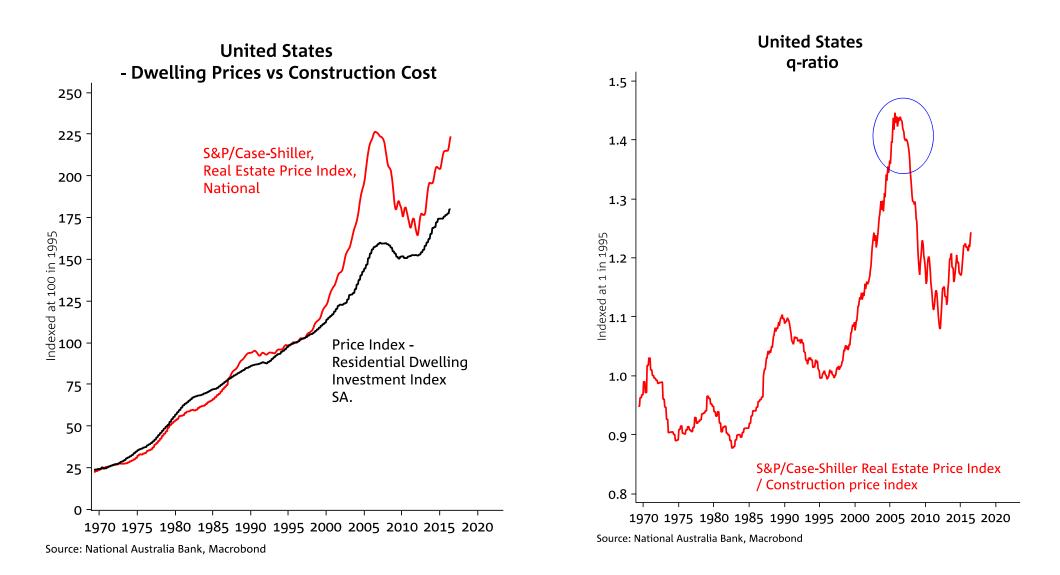
Relevance of *q* 

- If *q* > 1, market prices may be overvalued (MV>RC)
- If *q* < 1, market prices may be undervalued (MV<RC)
- The greater the deviation of *q* from 1, the stronger the signal (+ or -)



#### Shiller's simple q for the United States

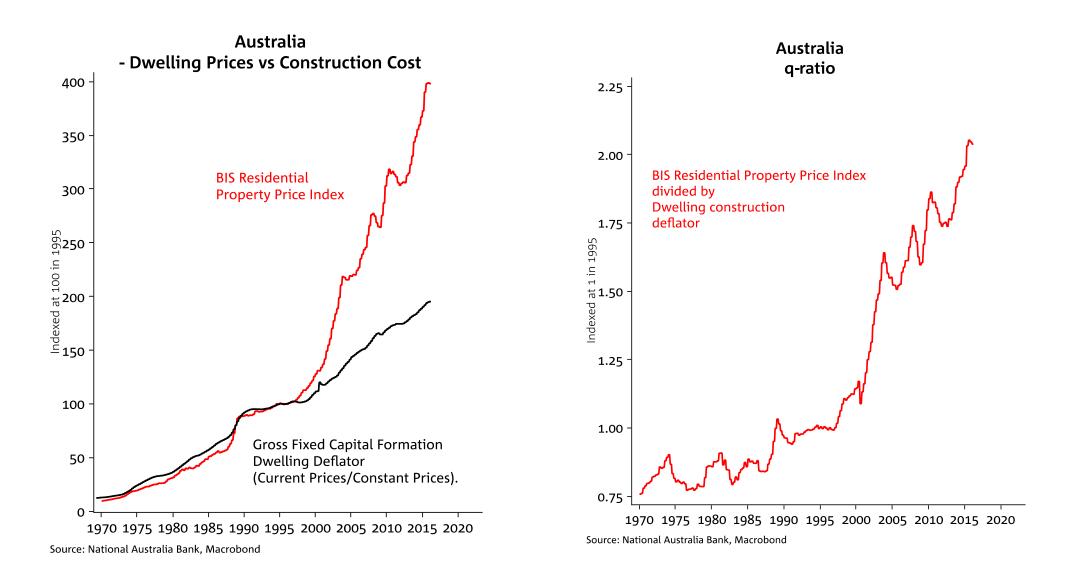
- Compare dwelling prices to dwelling construction costs from national accounts





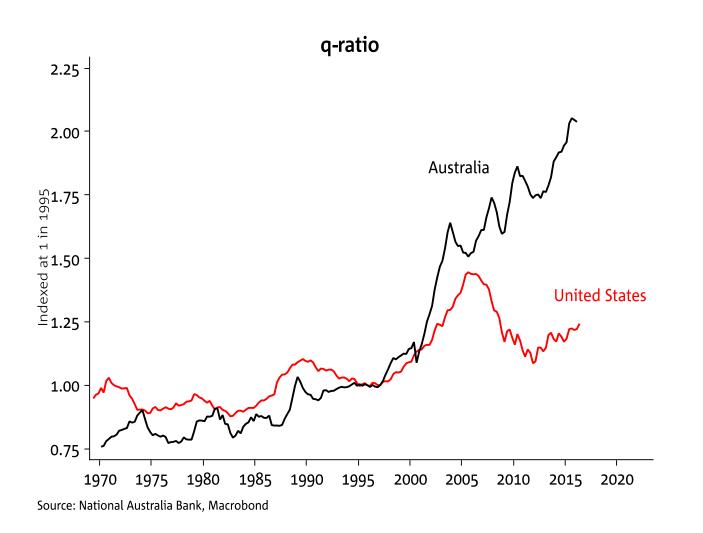
## Shiller's simple q for Australia

- Compare dwelling prices to dwelling construction costs from national accounts





# Shiller's simple q for the United States and Australia



#### lssues:

Why q's have an upward slope?

Why has Australia gone up much more than the US?

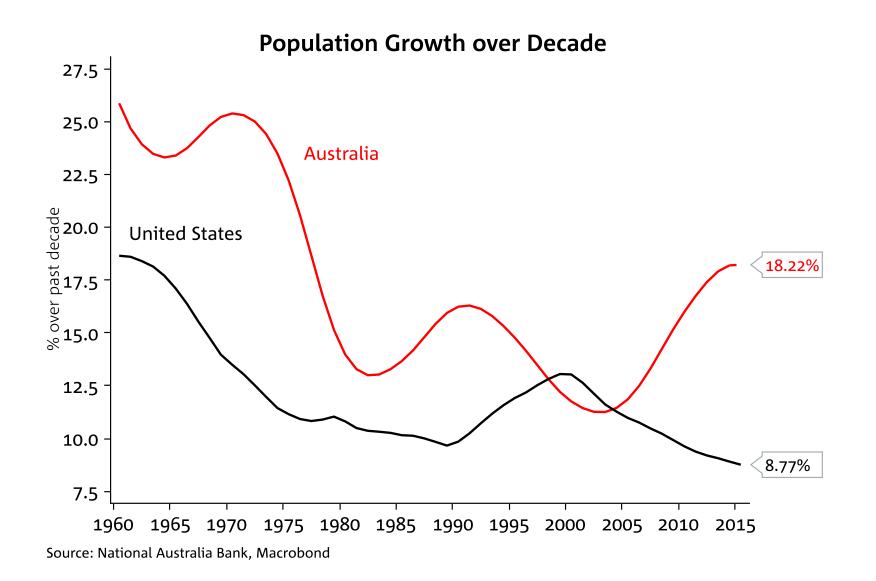
#### Potential answers:

- 1. Bubble?
- Land the numerator includes land/property but the denominator (construction costs) does not.
  - If land is partly the answer, it seems that residential land prices rise more quickly in Australian than the United States. Why are we less good at creating new residential property
- 3. Dwellings are becoming bigger?

One approach is to focus on apartments/units which should minimise the impact of rising land price

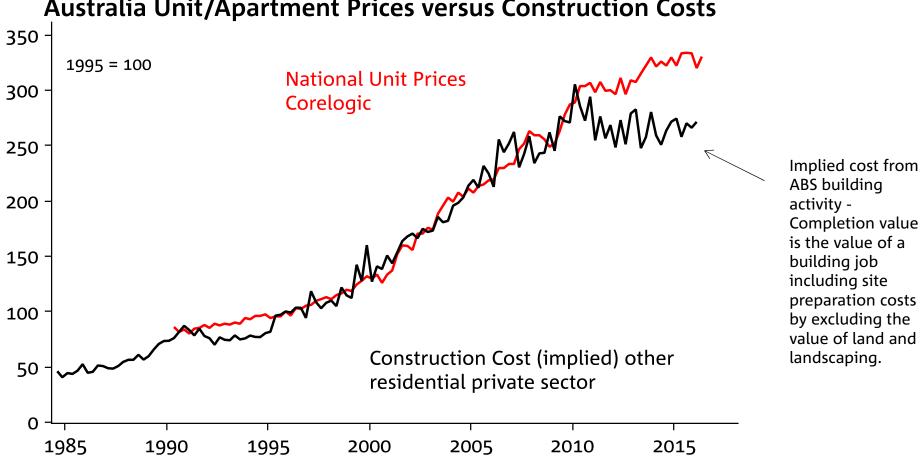


#### Australia's population has grown 18% over the past decade





# **Components of q-ratio for Units**

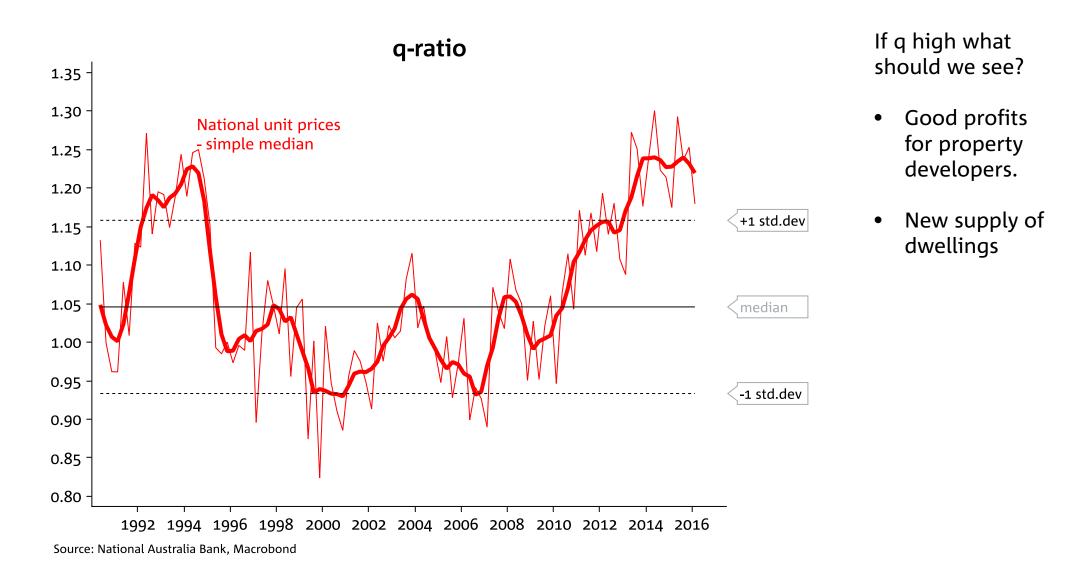


Australia Unit/Apartment Prices versus Construction Costs

Source: National Australia Bank, Macrobond

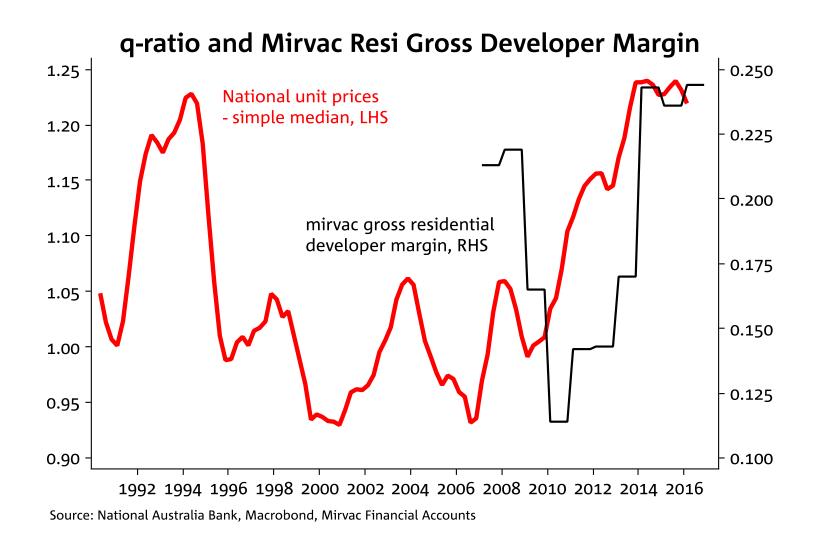


# q-ratio for apartments/units





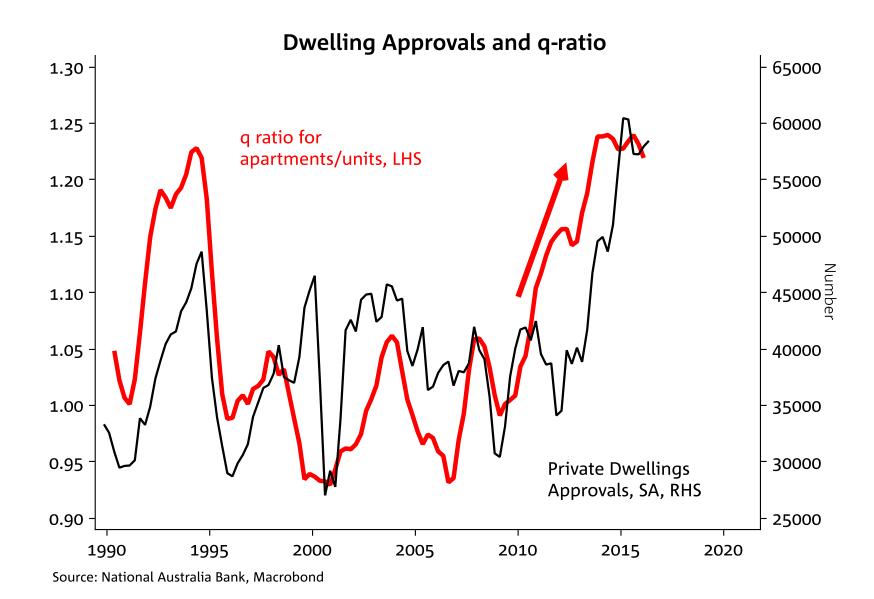
# Question 1: Did it predict a supply response? Developer margins surged.



Gross developer margin is development revenue – cost of development & construction. Also it's just for the residential business so I've re-titled & removed the note previously attached (probably not worth including).

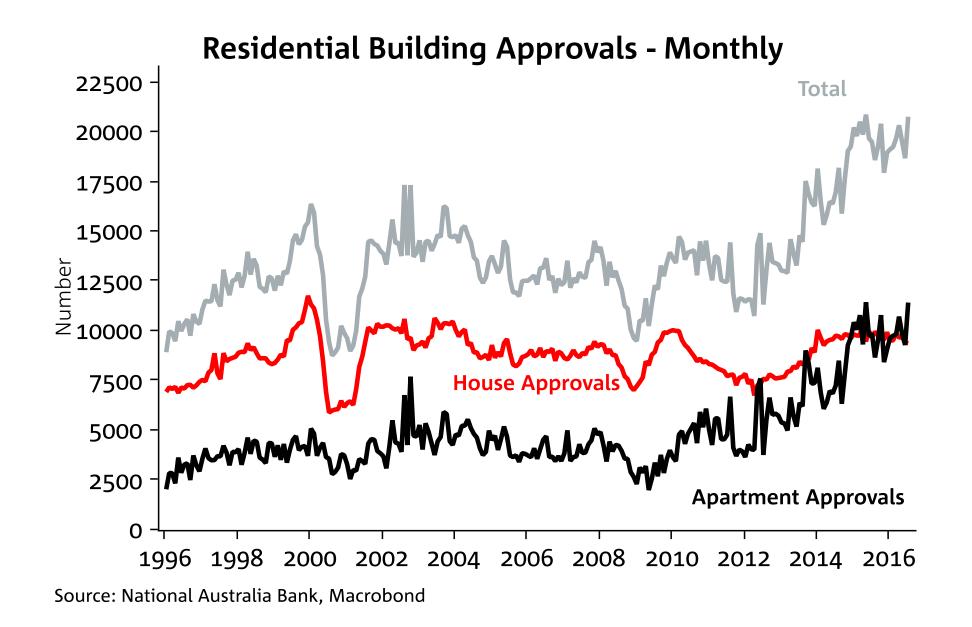


## Question 1: Did it predict a supply response - Yes. Dwelling approvals have surged!



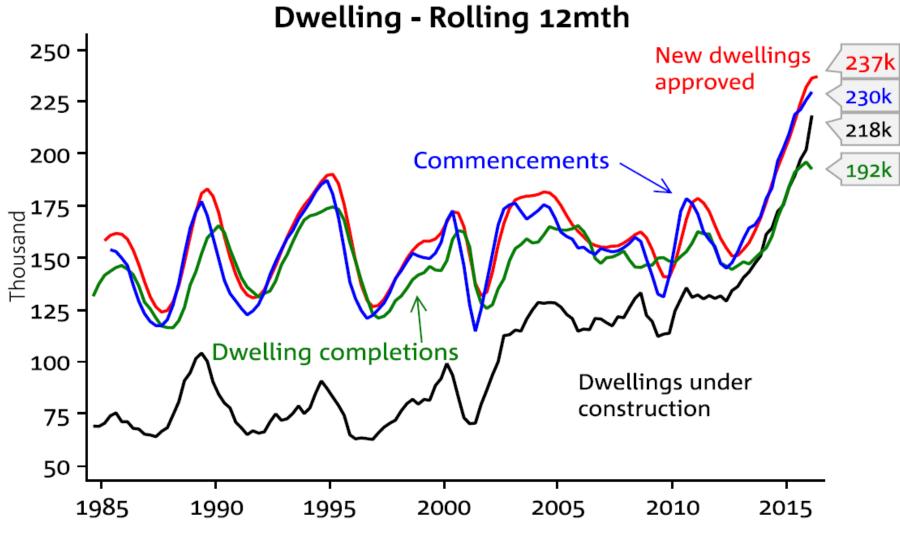


There has been a significant lift in supply of dwellings - especially of apartments.





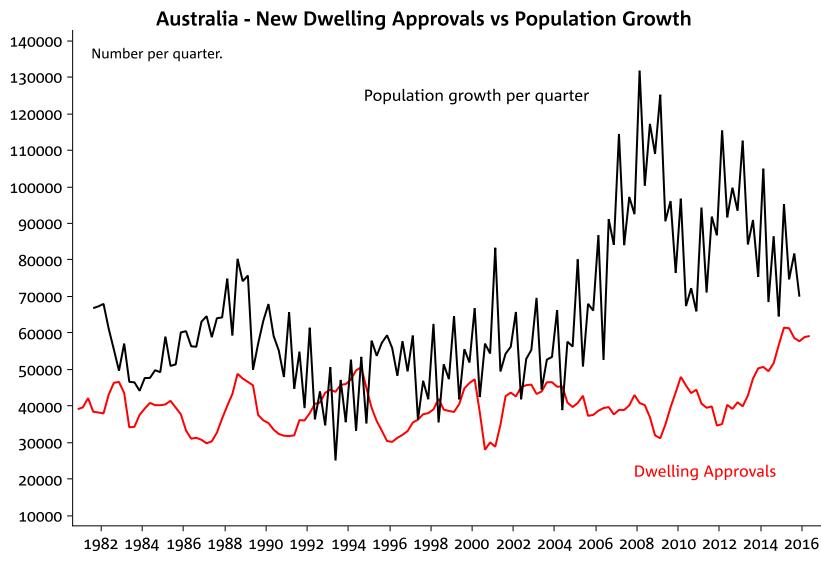
## 230,000 dwellings have been commenced.







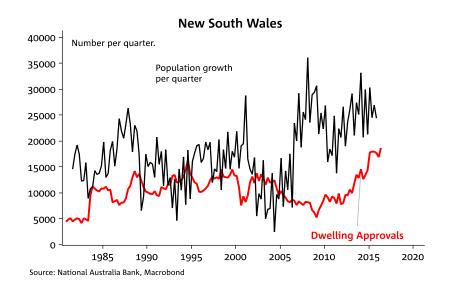
# Residential supply and demand nearing balance. Foreign demand an extra factor.

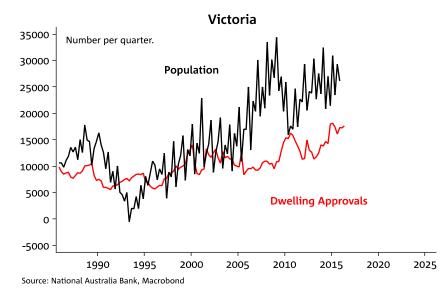


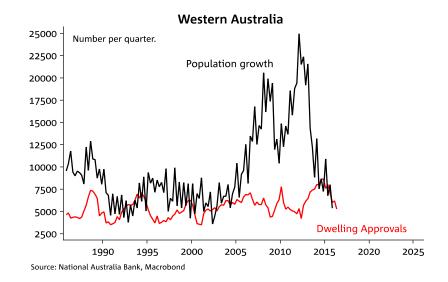


Source: National Australia Bank, Macrobond

### Supply-demand gap by State – NSW and Victoria OK. Over-supply in WA and QLD.



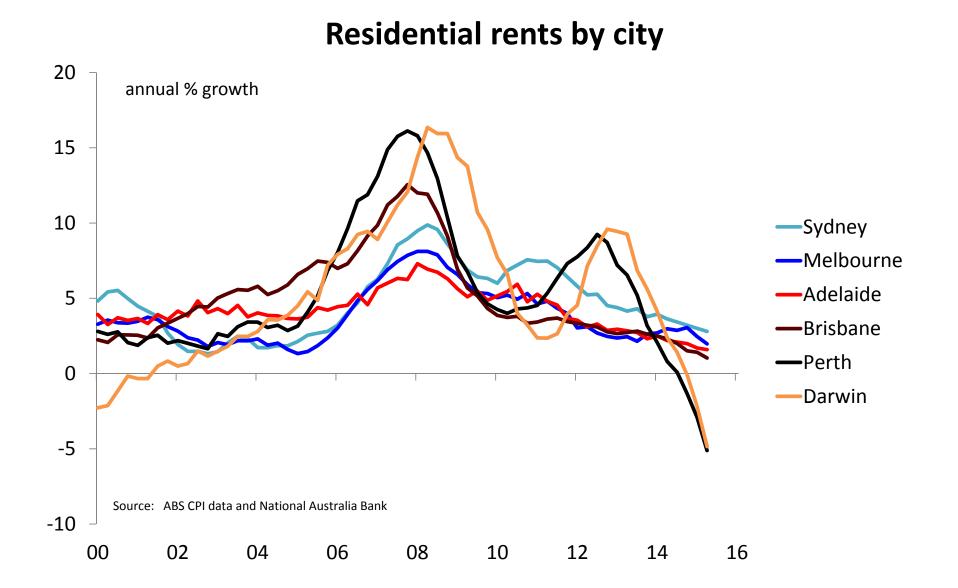




Queensland Number per quarter. Population growth **Dwellings** Approvals Source: National Australia Bank, Macrobond

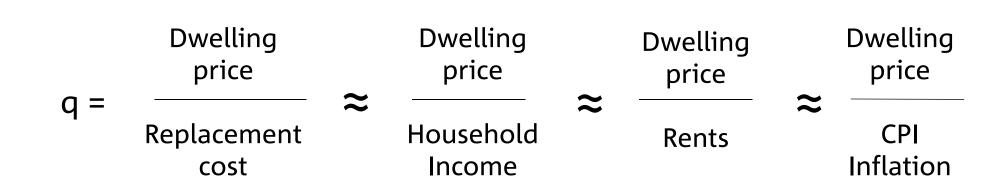


# Rental growth slowing most places – a clear sign that supply has caught demand.



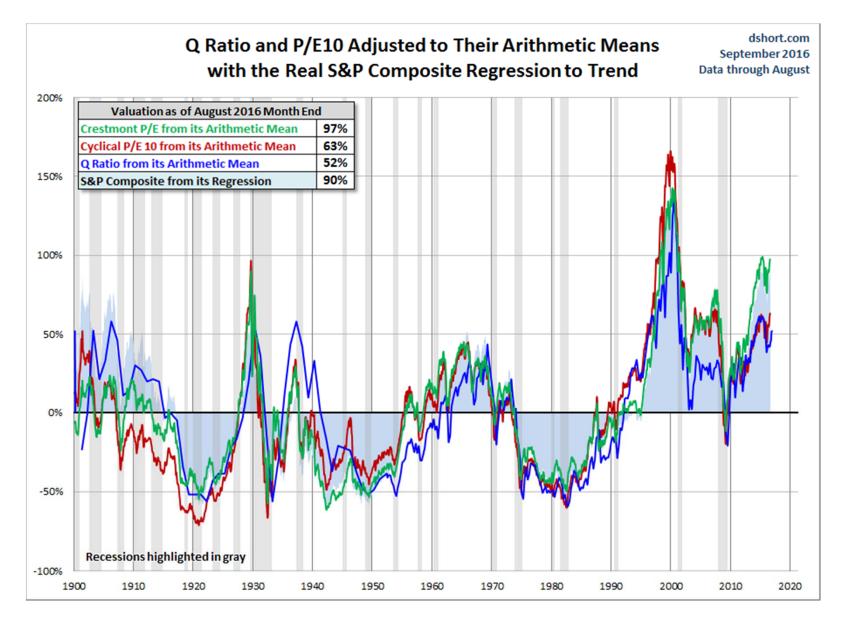


# **Question 2:** Is q a useful indicator of over/under pricing of housing?





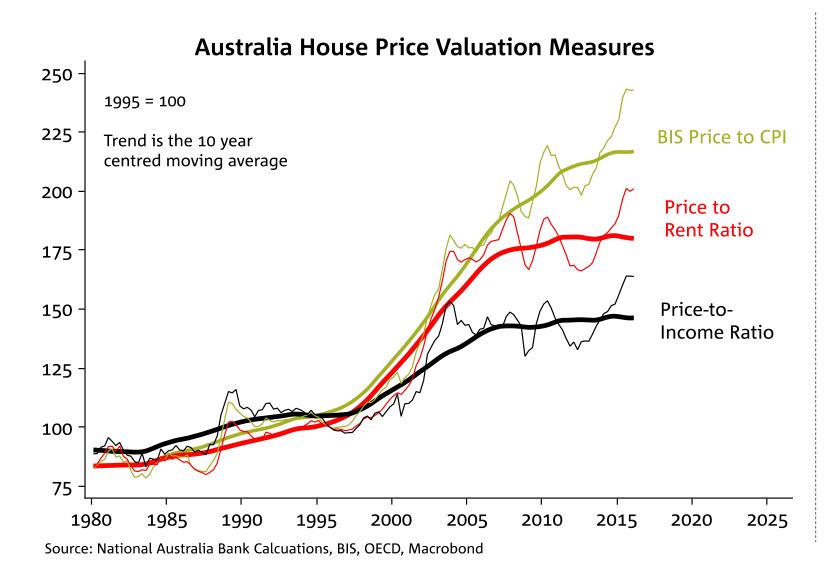
## United States stockmarket - the *q-ratio* and other valuation metrics





http://www.advisorperspectives.com/dshort/updates/Market-Valuation-Overview

# Other measures of Australian house price valuation



# Reasons why house prices have surged.

- Lower interest rates and improved affordability
- Population growth
- Foreign demand
- Slow supply side response of construction sector

#### Bubble?

Possible - but for now being supported by low interest rates and low unemployment rate.

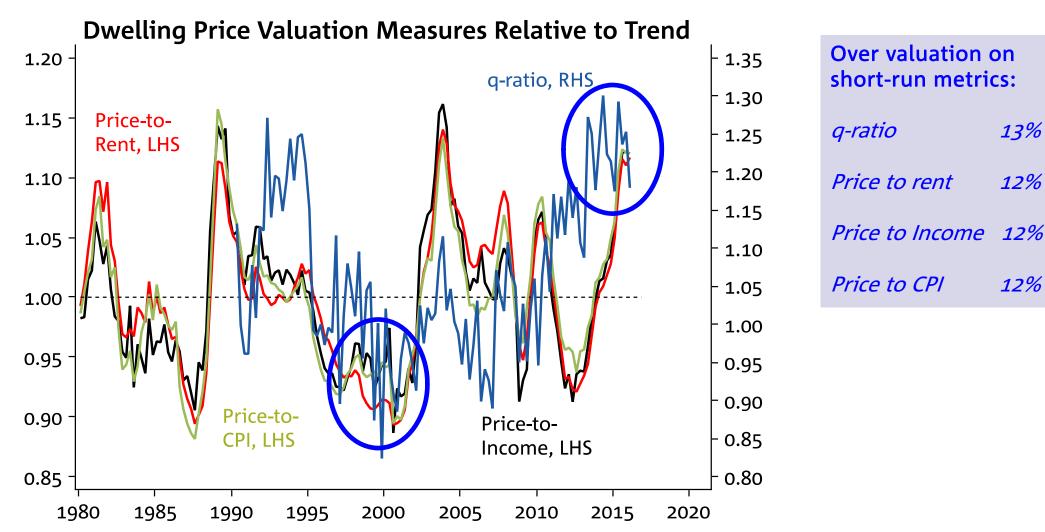
#### Short-term

Look at deviation from long-run trend



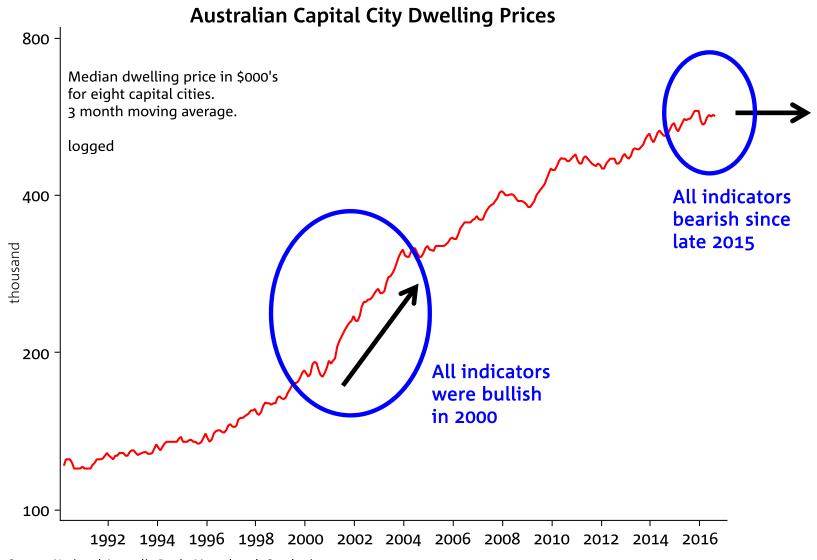
## Dwellings/apartments around 10-15% overvalued on all valuation tools.

- for the first time since 2000, all valuation metrics are saying the same thing.



Source: National Australia Bank Calculations, BIS, OECD, Macrobond. q is for apartments/units as calculated and other measures are deviation from 10 year centred moving avera







Source: National Australia Bank, Macrobond, Corelogic.

# NAB's view: Housing to cool appreciably and some units to fall in price

- Low mortgage rates, foreign demand and a slow supply-side response all have supported higher dwelling prices in some Australian cities in recent years
- Some of those supports have weakened:
  - prices/valuations are higher
  - The under-supply of dwellings particularly units/apartments has closed and some some postcodes are already in over-supply. Peak supply still 12-24 months away.
- At the same time, mortgage lending standards have tightened.

#### NAB's view on housing

- Our expectation is that the housing market will cool appreciably
- National house price growth of 0.5% is expected in 2017.
- Unit prices are expected to decline by nearly 2% over 2017 more where over-supply is acute.
- We continue to hold the view that residential property prices are unlikely to experience a severe 'correction' without a trigger from a shock.



# NAB House/Unit Price Forecasts – y/y%.

	Hedonic House Prices									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016f	2017f			
Capital City Average	-4.0	-0.5	9.9	8.4	7.8	5.1	0.5			
Sydney	-2.6	1.3	15.2	13.4	11.5	8.6	0.2			
Melbourne	-4.4	-2.9	8.5	8.4	11.7	6.1	0.4			
Brisbane	-7.0	-0.5	5.3	5.2	4.3	4.0	1.9			
Adelaide	-3.8	-0.8	3.0	4.5	-0.3	3.5	1.7			
Perth	-3.4	0.6	10.2	2.1	-3.8	-5.5	-3.5			
Hobart	-8.8	-0.5	2.9	3.3	-1.6	8.5	1.7			

	Hedonic Unit Prices								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016f	2017f		
Capital City Average	-2.6	0.5	9.0	5.1	7.9	3.6	-1.9		
Sydney	-1.3	2.3	11.6	8.3	11.3	7.2	-1.5		
Melbourne	-3.2	-2.5	8.7	1.1	6.9	0.6	-3.5		
Brisbane	-2.0	-3.5	3.5	1.2	1.8	1.7	-1.8		
Adelaide	-8.0	-0.5	0.6	2.5	1.4	0.2	0.5		
Perth	-5.4	3.3	6.3	1.9	-3.5	-7.2	-5.0		
Hobart	-5.6	4.2	-5.1	5.9	8.6	9.0	0.6		

SOURCE: CoreLogic; NAB Economics



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