# Sentiment Survey Q3 2020

**Preview Results for Known Participants** 

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**July 2020** 

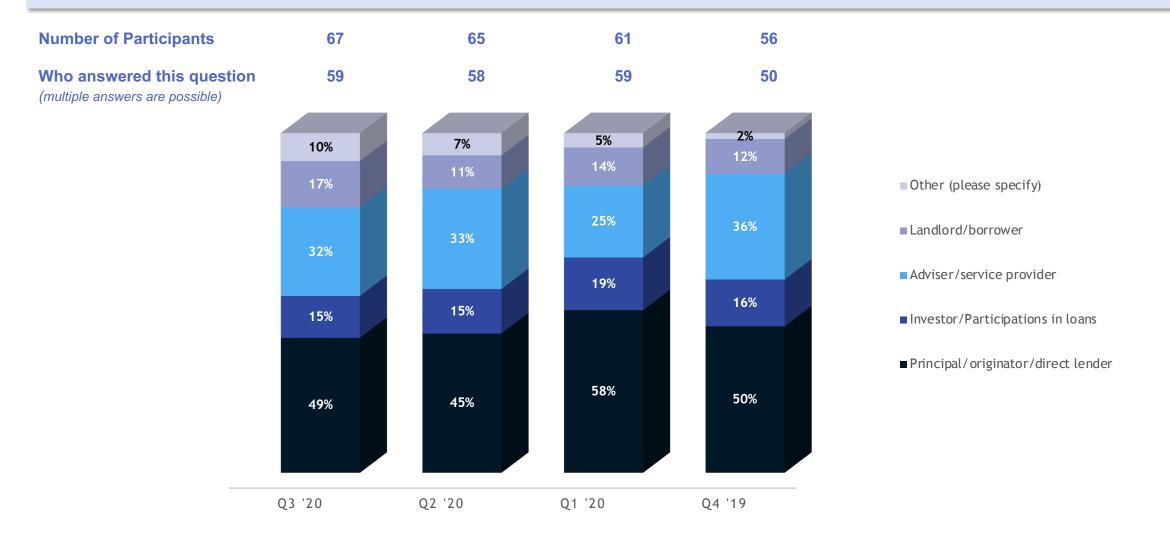


#### **Key messages**

- ▶ The Q3 survey had 67 participants and was live between 26 June and 15 July.
- The survey was running whilst most of Europe was emerging from lockdown and there was a better understanding of the potential longer-term impact of Covid-19 on the economy and real estate. Views on market conditions show diversity of opinion, partly driven by the breadth of types of participants and partly by weight placed on different drivers. More negative views on market conditions are driven more by views on the economic environment and real estate fundamentals, whereas more positive views on market conditions seem to be driven more by views on lenders' margins and lending terms.
- Differences of opinion extend to views on the real estate debt market, with a minority (27% in UK and 28% in Europe) all either direct lenders or advisers expressing positive views on the availability of debt. However, all borrowers in the survey across UK and Europe expect that there will be less debt available.
- This quarter the survey reveals a continued trend towards tightening of financial covenants. In the UK, 71% believe them to be tighter (vs. 46% in Q2) and in Europe 60% believe them to be tighter (vs. 39% in Q2).
- Compared with Q2, views this quarter are similar. The noteworthy changes are the perception of a continued improvement in lenders' margins and lending terms more than 50% of respondents view these as better vs. c. 28% in Q2 and c.13% in Q1.
- Not surprisingly, participants are most pessimistic about hospitality (81%), retail (80%) and to a lesser extent offices (63%) and student accommodation (49%). Already strong throughout 2019, industrial/logistics is emerging as the clear winning sector out of the crisis (67% are optimistic about the sector). PRS shows strong resilience.
- Perceptions of growth prospects for banks, especially commercial banks, continue to be negative, whereas there is an improvement in views about growth prospects for debt funds.
- Perhaps as an indication that there is a degree of cautious optimism, albeit still small at this time, for opportunities arising out of the crisis, this quarter shows a slight uptick in perception of attractiveness of riskier assets and lending strategies. 51% see medium-to-high risk assets and 46% see medium-to-high risk lending types as most attractive (vs. 34% and 30% respectively in Q2).



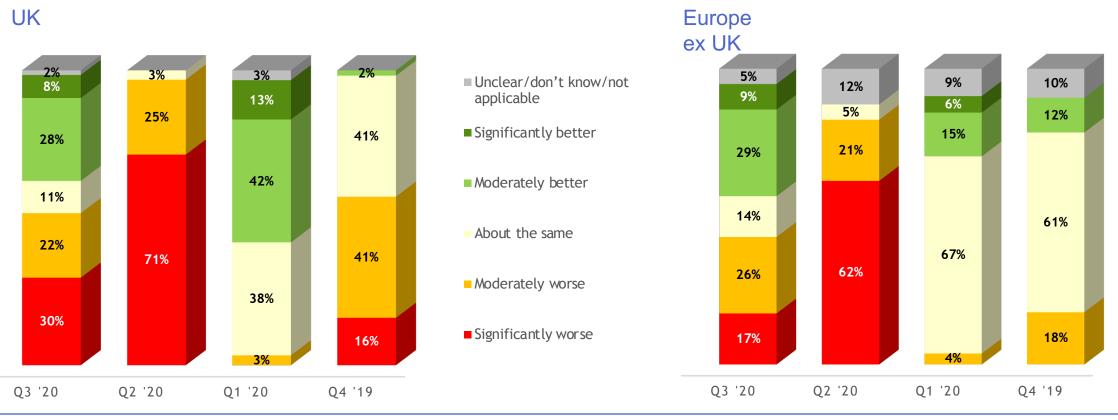
Participation remains disappointing in light of number of individuals (200+) invited to respond. However, as with previous quarters, there is good breadth of types of participants.





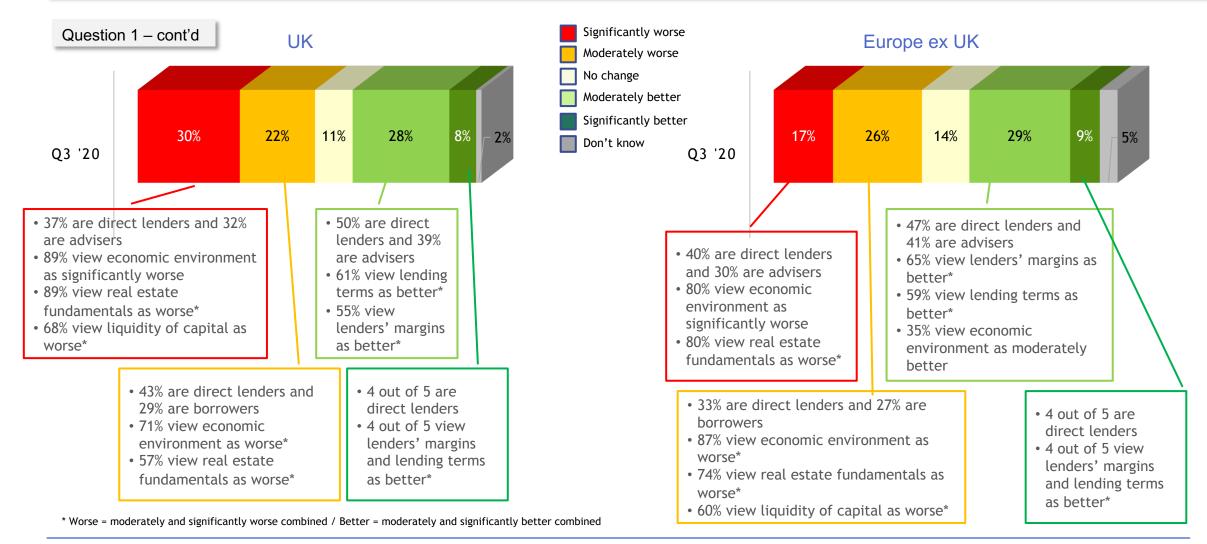
The survey was running whilst most of Europe was emerging from lockdown and there was a better understanding of the potential longer-term impact of Covid-19 on the economy and real estate. **Views on market conditions show diversity of opinion**, partly driven by the breadth of types of participants and partly by weight placed on different drivers.

Question 1
From the perspective of your business or the business area in which you operate, how would you assess market conditions today compared with those of 3 months ago?





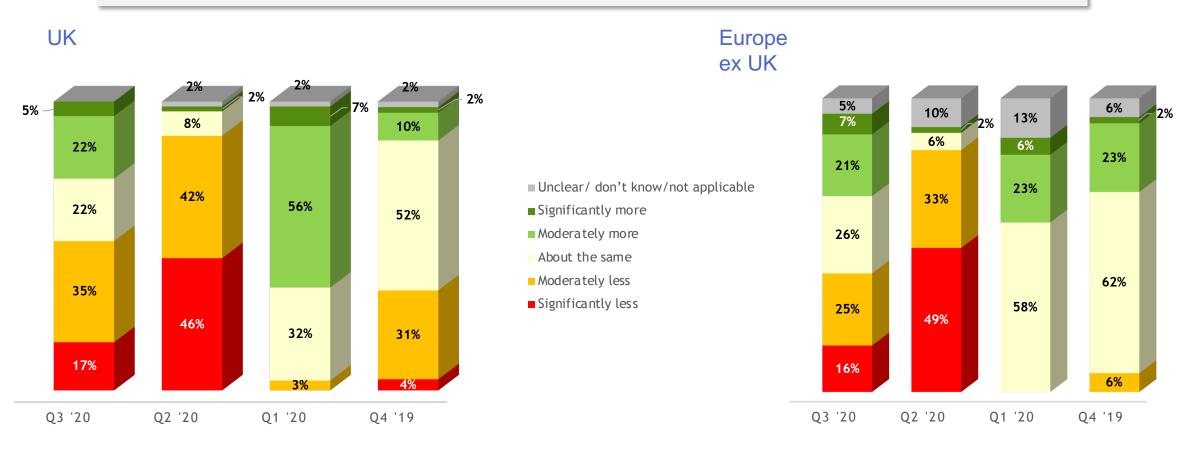
Respondents' views are shaped by the importance they place on different drivers. More negative views on market conditions are driven more by views on the economic environment and real estate fundamentals, whereas more positive views on market conditions seem to be driven more by views on lenders' margins and lending terms. (See correlation analysis in appendix)





Differences of opinion extend to views on the real estate debt market, with a minority (27% in UK and 28% in Europe) – all either direct lenders or advisers –expressing positive views on the availability of debt. However, **all borrowers** in the survey across UK and Europe **expect that there will be less debt available**.

Question 5 What is your outlook for the availability of real estate debt over the next year, compared with the past 12 months?

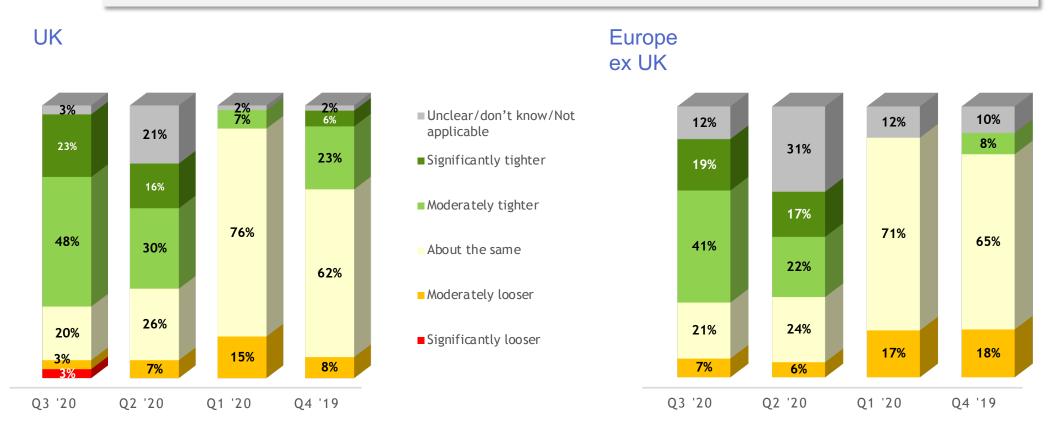




This quarter the survey reveals a **continued trend towards tightening of financial covenants**. In the UK, 71% believe them to be tighter (vs. 46% in Q2) and in Europe 60% believe them to be tighter (vs. 39% in Q2).

#### Question 2

From the perspective of your business or the business area in which you operate, how would you assess financial covenants (LTVs and ICRs) today compared with those of 3 months ago?



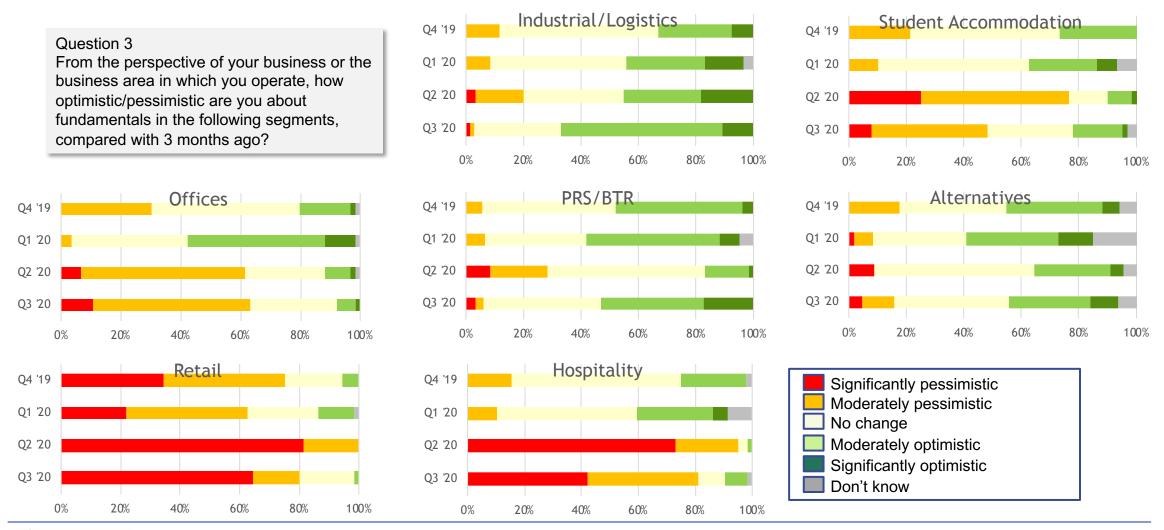


Compared with Q2, views this quarter are similar. The noteworthy changes are the **perception of a continued improvement in lenders' margins and lending terms** – more than 50% of respondents view these as better vs. c. 28% in Q2 and c.13% in Q1.





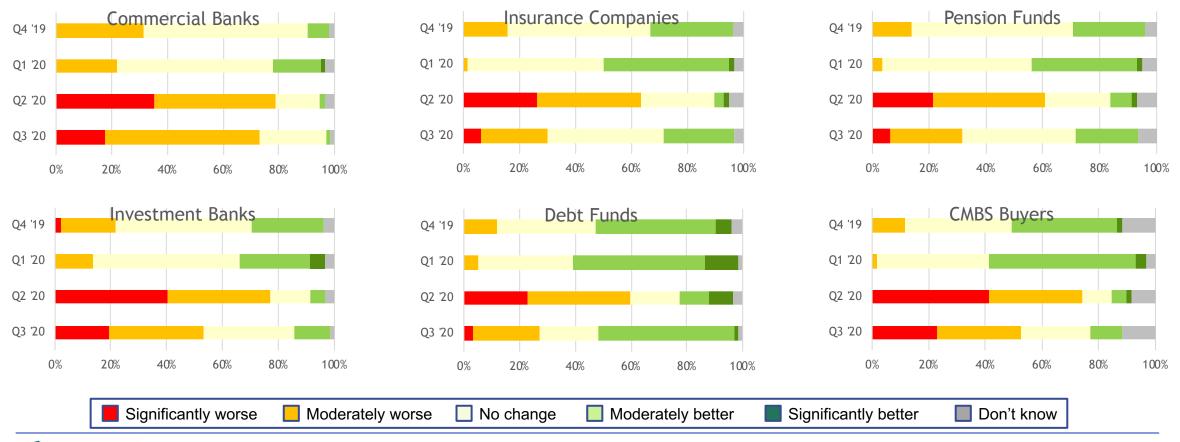
Not surprisingly, participants are most pessimistic about hospitality (81%), retail (80%) and to a lesser extent offices (63%) and student accommodation (49%). Already strong throughout 2019, industrial/logistics is emerging as the clear winning sector out of the crisis (67% are optimistic about the sector). PRS shows strong resilience.





Perceptions of growth prospects for banks, especially commercial banks, continue to be negative, whereas there is an improvement in views about growth prospects for debt funds.

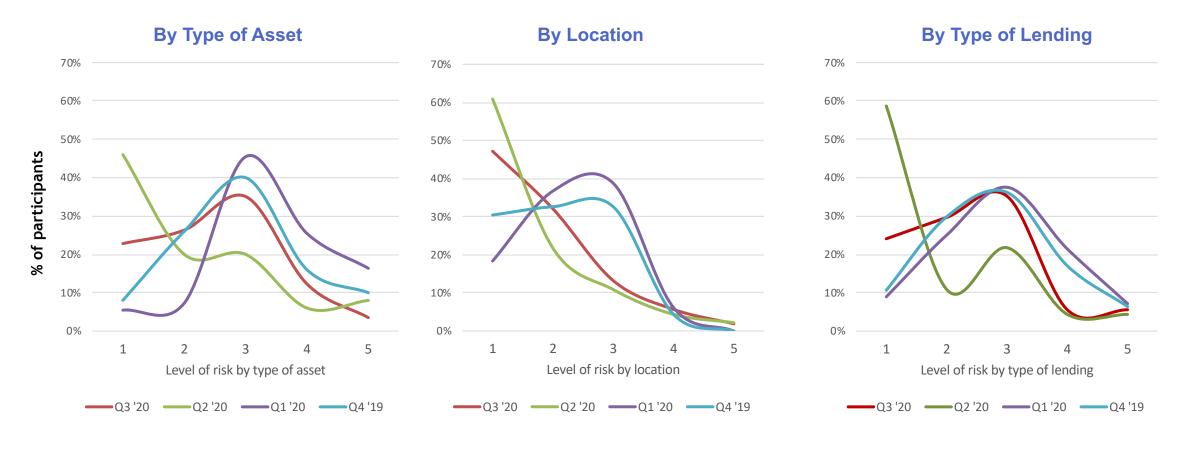
Question 6
Where you have a view, do you think that the growth prospects of the following categories of market participant are worse or better compared with 3 months ago?





Perhaps as an indication that there is a degree of cautious optimism, albeit still small at this time, for opportunities arising out of the crisis, this quarter shows a **slight uptick in perception of attractiveness of riskier assets and lending strategies**. 51% see medium-to-high risk (3-5 on scale) assets and 46% see medium-to-high risk lending types as most attractive (vs. 34% and 30% respectively in Q2).

Questions 7-9
Where do you see the most attractive risk-adjusted returns over the next 3 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = low risk and 5 = high risk?





### A few selected comments about the market and the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak





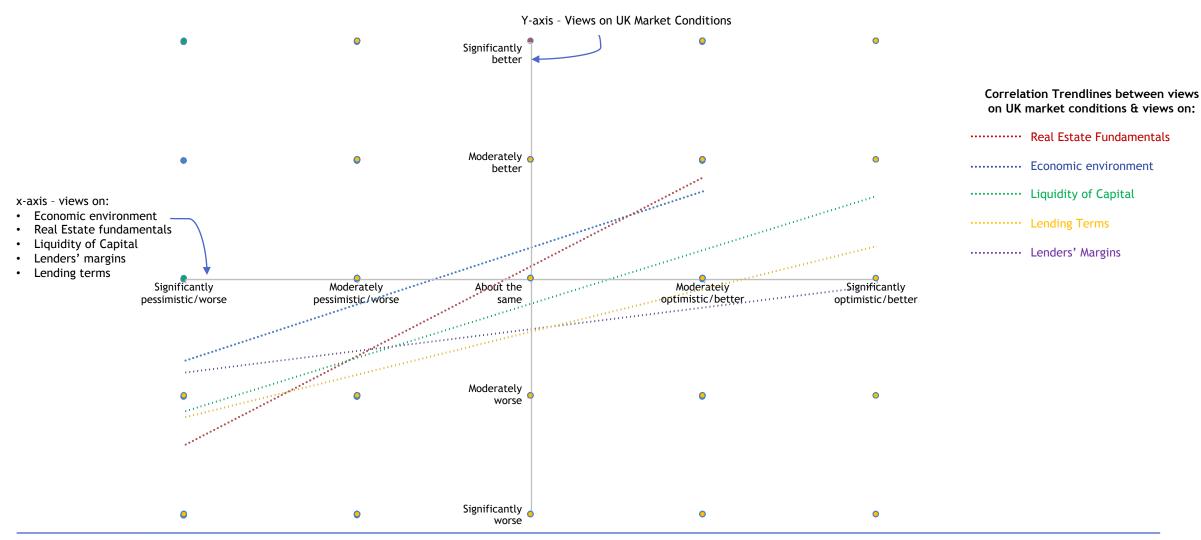
# **Appendices**

Correlation Analysis Historic Data



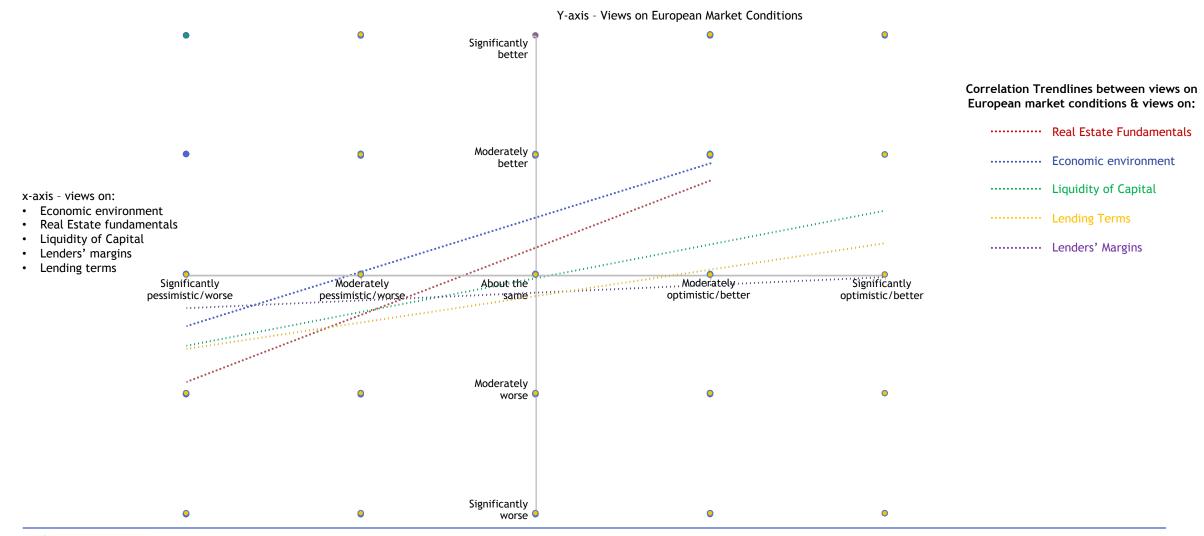
## Appendix 1

An analysis of correlation trendlines (albeit limited by the relatively small statistical sample) shows that views on market conditions are most closely correlated to views on real estate fundamentals both for the UK...





### ...and Europe.





## Appendix 2 Historic data: Views on market conditions and financial covenants in UK and Europe

From the perspective of your business or the business area in which you operate, how would you assess market conditions today compared with those of 3 months ago?

UK	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	30%	71%	0%	16%	4%	8%	3%
Moderately worse	22%	25%	3%	41%	45%	57%	51%
About the same	11%	3%	38%	41%	41%	30%	36%
Moderately better	28%	0%	42%	2%	9%	3%	6%
Significantly better	8%	0%	13%	0%	1%	2%	4%
Unclear/don't know/not applicable	2%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Europe ex UK	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Europe ex UK Significantly worse	Q3 '20 17%	Q2 '20 62%	Q1 '20 0%	Q4 '19 0%	Q3 '19 0%	Q2 '19 0%	Q1 '19 3%
					·	,	
Significantly worse	17%	62%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Significantly worse  Moderately worse	17% 26%	62% 21%	0% 4%	0% 18%	0% 12%	0% 11%	3% 51%
Significantly worse  Moderately worse  About the same	17% 26% 14%	62% 21% 5%	0% 4% 67%	0% 18% 61%	0% 12% 59%	0% 11% 64%	3% 51% 36%

From the perspective of your business or the business area in which you operate, how would you assess financial covenants (LTVs and ICRs) today compared with those of 3 months ago?

UK	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly looser	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%
Moderately looser	3%	7%	15%	8%	8%	7%	24%
About the same	20%	26%	76%	62%	72%	33%	44%
Moderately tighter	48%	30%	7%	23%	14%	42%	23%
Significantly tighter	23%	16%	0%	6%	0%	2%	0%
Unclear/don't know/Not applicable	3%	21%	2%	2%	6%	14%	3%

Europe ex UK		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significar	itly looser	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	6%
Moderat	ely looser	7%	6%	17%	18%	16%	10%	24%
About	the same	21%	24%	71%	65%	61%	68%	44%
Moderate	ely tighter	41%	22%	0%	8%	6%	3%	23%
Significan	tly tighter	19%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unclear/don't know/Not	applicable	12%	31%	12%	10%	17%	18%	3%



## Appendix 2 Historic data: Views on real estate sectors

From the perspective of your business or the business area in which you operate, how optimistic/pessimistic are you about fundamentals in the following segments, compared with 3 months ago?

	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19	PRS/BTR/Multi-Family	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly pessimistic	11%	7%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	Significantly pessimistic	3%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Moderately pessimistic	52%	55%	3%	31%	10%	20%	24%	Moderately pessimistic	3%	20%	7%	6%	7%	6%	5%
No Change	29%	27%	39%	50%	68%	56%	60%	No Change	41%	55%	35%	46%	43%	43%	31%
Moderately optimistic	6%	8%	46%	17%	20%	24%	15%	Moderately optimistic	36%	15%	47%	44%	33%	37%	46%
Significantly Optimistic	2%	2%	10%	2%	0%	0%	2%	Significantly Optimistic	17%	2%	7%	4%	16%	10%	15%
Don't know	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	Don't know	0%	0%	5%	0%	1%	3%	2%
				•	•	•		Student Accommodation	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly pessimistic				35%	31%	30%		Significantly pessimistic	8%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Moderately pessimistic		18%		40%	52%	51%	63%	Moderately pessimistic	41%	52%	10%	21%	13%	18%	18%
No Change		0%		19%	17%	19%	5%	No Change	30%	13%		52%	51%	40%	50%
								Moderately optimistic							23%
								Significantly Optimistic	2%	2%	7%	0%	9%	6%	6%
Don't know	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	Don't know	3%	0%	7%	0%	3%	4%	2%
															Q1 '19
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, , ,															30%
<u> </u>															15% 7%
Don't know	0%	0%	3%	0%	3%	0%	0%	Don't know	6%	3%	15%	6%	7%	7%	7%
o					•										
Significantly Optimistic  Don't know	0% 2%	0% 0%	5% 8%	0% 2%	3% 4%	3% 3%	2% 3%								
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## Appendix 2 Historic data: Views on market factors

Political environment	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	01 '19	Liquidity of capital		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	19%	15%	2%	29%	20%	23%	33%	Inquitately of culpitur	Significantly worse	11%	43%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Moderately worse	36%	27%	12%	53%	51%	62%	62%		Moderately worse	38%	38%	5%	22%	17%	22%	26%
No change	36%	32%	7%	14%	24%	11%	3%		No change	28%	10%	42%	58%	69%	51%	49%
Moderately better	9%	15%	47%	4%	1%	2%	0%		Moderately better	20%	5%	49%	14%	13%	19%	21%
Significantly better	0%	10%	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%		Significantly better	2%	0%	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	2%	2%	0%	3%	3%	2%		Don't know	2%	3%	0%	2%	1%	6%	3%
Economic environment	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19	Margins		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	53%	87%	0%	4%	1%	4%	2%		Significantly worse	5%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Moderately worse	31%	12%	17%	71%	51%	58%	77%		Moderately worse	27%	25%	15%	25%	11%	16%	41%
No change	2%	2%	36%	25%	40%	30%	20%		No change	11%	19%	69%	47%	63%	45%	34%
Moderately better	14%	0%	41%	0%	6%	4%	0%		Moderately better	39%	14%	14%	27%	24%	28%	16%
Significantly better	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%		Significantly better	16%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	3%	2%		Don't know	3%	10%	2%	0%	1%	10%	7%
Regulatory environment	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19	Lending terms		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	8%	3%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%		Significantly worse	6%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Moderately worse	14%	12%	12%	14%	14%	18%	25%		Moderately worse	28%	0%	10%	25%	10%	13%	30%
No change	66%	75%	79%	82%	81%	72%	67%		No change	16%	24%	75%	55%	67%	58%	49%
Moderately better	13%	8%	5%	0%	1%	3%	3%		Moderately better	36%	17%	12%	20%	20%	21%	18%
Significantly better	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		Significantly better	14%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	0%	3%	2%	1%	6%	3%		Don't know	0%	8%	3%	0%	3%	7%	3%
Real estate fundamentals	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19									
Significantly worse	14%	35%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%									
Moderately worse	52%	48%	10%	33%	34%	33%	43%									
Moderately worse	200/	17%	68%	57%	61%	60%	48%									
No change	20%															
<u>'</u>	14%	0%	22%	6%	1%	1%	8%									
No change			22% 0%	6% 0%	1% 0%	1% 0%	8% 0% 2%									



## Appendix 2 Historic data: Views on debt availability in UK and Europe

#### What is your outlook for the availability of real estate debt over the next year, compared with how you saw it 3 months ago?

UK	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly less	17%	46%	0%	4%	0%	6%	2%
Moderately less	35%	42%	3%	31%	39%	48%	32%
About the same	22%	8%	32%	52%	49%	32%	42%
Moderately more	22%	0%	56%	10%	10%	10%	24%
Significantly more	5%	2%	7%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Unclear/ don't know/not							
applicable	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%	5%	0%

Europe ex UK	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly less	16%	49%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Moderately less	25%	33%	0%	6%	3%	7%	32%
About the same	26%	6%	58%	62%	63%	43%	42%
Moderately more	21%	0%	23%	23%	22%	37%	24%
Significantly more	7%	2%	6%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Unclear/ don't know/not							
applicable	5%	10%	13%	6%	11%	11%	0%



# Appendix 2 Historic data: Views on growth prospects

Where you have a view, do you think that the growth prospects of the following categories of market participant are worse or better compared with 3 months ago?

are worse or better compared with 3 mg	onths ago:															
Commercial banks	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19	Debt funds		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	17%	35%	0%	0%	3%	3%	2%		Significantly worse	3%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Moderately Worse	56%	44%	22%	31%	42%	39%	43%		Moderately Worse	24%	37%	5%	12%	14%	11%	14%
No change	24%	16%	56%	59%	44%	48%	43%		No change	21%	18%	34%	35%	34%	29%	24%
Moderately Better	2%	2%	17%	8%	5%	3%	7%		Moderately Better	48%	11%	47%	43%	43%	46%	59%
Significantly better	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%		Significantly better	2%	9%	12%	6%	6%	8%	2%
Don't know	2%	4%	3%	2%	6%	6%	5%		Don't know	2%	4%	2%	4%	3%	6%	2%
Investment banks	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19	Pension funds		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	19%	40%	0%	2%	2%	0%	2%		Significantly worse	6%	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Moderately Worse	34%	37%	14%	20%	29%	31%	24%		Moderately Worse	25%	39%	3%	14%	12%	11%	12%
No change	32%	14%	53%	49%	50%	48%	41%		No change	40%	23%	53%	57%	46%	46%	42%
Moderately Better	13%	5%	25%	25%	11%	14%	25%		Moderately Better	22%	7%	37%	25%	34%	32%	35%
Significantly better	0%	0%	5%	0%	3%	0%	2%		Significantly better	0%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	5%
Don't know	2%	4%	3%	4%	6%	8%	7%		Don't know	6%	7%	5%	4%	6%	9%	7%
Insurance companies	Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19	CMBS buyers		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
Significantly worse	6%	26%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	ĺ	Significantly worse	23%	41%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%
Moderately Worse	24%	37%	2%	16%	9%	8%	12%		Moderately Worse	30%	33%	2%	12%	14%	8%	25%
No change	41%	26%	48%	51%	44%	42%	39%		No change	25%	10%	40%	37%	40%	35%	37%
Moderately Better	25%	4%	45%	29%	38%	38%	42%		Moderately Better	11%	5%	52%	37%	28%	29%	28%
Significantly better	0%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	0%		Significantly better	0%	2%	3%	2%	3%	6%	2%
Don't know	3%	5%	3%	4%	8%	8%	7%		Don't know	11%	9%	3%	12%	15%	17%	8%



# Appendix 2

# Historic data: Views on risk-adjusted return expectations

Where do you see the most attractive risk-adjusted returns over the next 3 months, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = low risk and 5 = high risk?

#### By type of asset

UK		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
	1	23%	46%	5%	8%	5%	11%	2%
	2	26%	20%	7%	26%	20%	13%	14%
	3	35%	20%	45%	40%	48%	56%	46%
	4	12%	6%	25%	16%	16%	14%	25%
	5	4%	8%	16%	10%	11%	6%	13%

#### By location of asset

UK		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
	1	47%	61%	18%	30%	10%	19%	9%
	2	32%	22%	37%	33%	42%	37%	39%
	3	13%	11%	39%	33%	37%	32%	35%
	4	6%	4%	6%	4%	10%	10%	11%
	5	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%	6%

#### By type of lending

UK		Q3 '20	Q2 '20	Q1 '20	Q4 '19	Q3 '19	Q2 '19	Q1 '19
	1	24%	59%	9%	11%	13%	16%	13%
	2	30%	11%	25%	30%	23%	30%	17%
	3	35%	22%	38%	36%	43%	33%	45%
	4	6%	4%	21%	17%	16%	16%	17%
	5	6%	4%	7%	6%	5%	5%	8%





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