

CREDAÎ

## Real Estate Developers' *Sentiment Survey*

## Preface

#### Demand growth strong; rising costs remain a concern

India has set an ambitious target to grow to a USD 7 trillion economy by 2030, with infrastructure and real estate expected to play a pivotal role. As it continues to be one of the fastest growing major economies globally, India is well placed to become the third largest over the next 5-6 years. Over the last 2-3 years, the country has witnessed a strong momentum in housing sales across the major markets led by strong demand, stable interest rates and a favourable financial system. While rapid urbanisation has been one of the key reasons for rising housing demand in major cities, the demand for residential spaces has seen an uptick over the last few years due to behavioural changes and growing disposable income. With the financial budget 2024-25 on the anvil, it is an opportune time to assess the sentiment barometer of the real estate market through a detailed evaluation of developers' demand, investors' perspective and homebuyers' expectations. This edition of "Real Estate Developers' Sentiment Survey 2024" looks ahead into 2024 and provides sufficient clarity on developers' expectations and the market movers & shakers.

With accelerating demand for housing there are plethora of opportunities for developers, not only in tier I cities but in tier II cities as well. Favourable factors including availability of land and labour at relatively attractive rates, lower density of population and ease of living are driving the demand for housing in tier II cities. Moreover, improving infrastructure and connectivity are playing a key role in changing the real estate landscape of such cities. With rising demand, developers are likely to expand in these rapidly growing cities.

Overall, in 2024, developers are expected to maintain a strategic and a cautious approach while launching newer projects in line with market demand. However, developers expect specific reforms and government intervention in the sector that would accelerate activity in the sector. The survey highlights that rationalisation of taxes and government charges sops for affordable housing and setting up a single window clearance mechanism as the top priorities for developers in the country.

Boman Irani

President CREDAI India

## Preface

## Developers well aligned to create a sustainable built environment

Residential real estate in the country has been on an upswing over the last two years. With strong fundamentals in place, the bull run in the housing market is likely to continue in 2024 as well. "Real Estate Developers' Sentiment Survey 2024" confirms the positive sentiments prevailing in the Indian housing market. The report is based on a survey conducted during April-May 2024 for developers across tier I and II cities of the country.

Affordability, continued inclination for home ownership and stable interest rates have been the key demand drivers for Indian housing market in recent years. Amidst strong demand, housing prices have maintained an upward trajectory and are expected to remain buoyant throughout 2024. At the same time, developers have infused quality new supply to meet the growing demand. The southern and western belts have witnessed a notable rise in new launches in the last few years and the trend is likely to continue. Going ahead, new supply is likely to mirror the demand trajectory and support healthy demand-supply dynamics across major housing markets of the country.

2024 is likely to witness heightened environmental awareness and homebuyers are likely to increasingly gravitate towards owning eco-friendly homes, which are energy efficient and have low carbon footprint. Homebuyers will continue to prefer projects with amenities focussed on enhancing the overall health and wellness of residents. Developers meanwhile are likely to explore options like branded residences and plotted developments to cater to the changing lifestyle patterns and evolving preferences of the homebuyer.

#### **Badal Yagnik**

Chief Executive Officer Colliers India



# Research Methodology

## Zonal Classification

Questionnaire

National Analysis

## Research Methodology



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## Zonal Classification



## Questionnaire

01	How buyers' enquiries changed in 2023 compared to 2022?				
	Increased	Decreased	Remained the same		
02	What is your outlook for residential demand for 2024?				
		-to 25% 26-50 crease increa		More than 75% increase	A slowdown is expected
03	How did an increase in cost of construction materials impact your project cost in 2023 as compared to 2022?				
	No impact	Increased by 5-10%	Increased by 10-20%	Increased by more than 20%	
04	How do you expect the housing prices to fare in 2024?				
	Increase	Decrease	Will remain stable	Can't say anything about it	now
05	How will unsold inventory levels change in 2024 in your focus area?				
	Increase	Decrease	Will remain stable	Can't say anything about it	now
06	What new business models are you willing to explore?				
	Co-living spaces	Senior living spaces	Branded residences	Data centers	Co-working spaces
	Plotted development	Warehousing / Logistic Parks	IT Parks	Not willing to explore	
07	Led by the fact that India is being seen as a preferred investment destination, how do you see the trend in NRI demand for residential properties in India?				
	Increase	Moderate increase	No change at all	Decrease	
08	What would you like from Union budget 2024? (Choose any three)				
	Change in the definition of affordable housing	Credit linked subsidy scheme for affordable housing	Decrease in the rate of in loans/construction finan		Exemption from EC for projects up to 50,000 sq metres
	Quicker environmental clearances & faster disposal of violations	Rationalisation of GST rates	Regular interaction with all concerned Ministries	industry of	Input Tax Credit on GST
09	What reforms could provide an impetus to developers and enhance real estate activity in the long term?				
	Rationalization of taxes and government charges	Ease of doing business	Increasing the tax exemption limit for home buyers	Any other expectations (Please specify)	
				Real Estate Developers Ser	ntiment Survey 2024   <b>07</b>

## National Analysis

#### Key takeaways for 2023



Outlook for 2024



of the developers feel that residential demand would remain stable in 2024, followed by 27% who feel that the demand would increase up to 25%.



developers feel unsold inventory levels will increase in 2024.



of the developers expect housing prices to increase in 2024. Another 33% feel that the prices are likely to remain stable. <u>25</u>%

of the developers are willing to explore plotted developments as an alternative business model, followed by branded residences preferred by 21% developers.



More than 80% developers believe that NRI demand for residential properties will increase. How buyers' enquiries changed in 2023 compared to 2022?

**53%** of the developers witnessed a rise in buyers' enquiries in 2023, as compared to 2022



#### Key Insights

#### Enquiries for new homes witnessed an uptick in 2023

On similar lines of 2022, developers witnessed an increase in enquiries for new homes in 2023, led by stable interest rates and continued inclination towards home ownership. Moreover, with rising disposable income, homebuyers are also preferring to purchase spacious homes with ample green spaces, replete with amenities within housing complexes. The rise in demand can also be attributed to a stable and strong macro economic environment in the country, encouraging homebuyers to own a property. What is your outlook for residential demand for 2024?



#### Key Insights

#### Residential demand expected to remain upbeat in 2024

About 75% of the surveyed developers feel housing demand would either remain stable or rise by up-to 25% in 2024, indicating a positive outlook for the year. The year 2023 saw sustained momentum of demand, which is further likely to continue in 2024. An anticipated rate hike in second half of 2024, is expected to provide a major fillip for housing demand.

#### How did an increase in cost of construction materials impact your project cost in 2023 as compared to 2022?



#### Key Insights

#### Over 90% developers witnessed a rise in project cost with rising cost of construction

Post Covid-19, cost of key construction materials like cement, steel, aluminum etc. rose due to inflationary pressures and supply chain disruption. With escalated input costs, about 65% of the surveyed developers noted an increase in project costs by more than 10%. However, advanced construction technologies like 3D- printing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and usage of robotics have the potential to reduce impact of spiraling construction costs.

#### How do you expect housing prices to fare in 2024?



#### **Key Insights**

#### Robust demand to push housing prices northwards

About 52% of the developers feel housing prices are likely to see an uptick during 2024. This is largely led by robust housing sales particularly for luxury housing. During 2023, housing prices across the major eight cities of the country saw a 9% YoY rise. The momentum continued in Q1 2024 with a 10% YoY rise and likely to sustain for the rest of the year. Interestingly, only a minuscule number of developers (about 4%) feel that housing prices might drop during the year.

## How will unsold inventory levels change in 2024 in your focus area?

## **35%** of the developers expect unsold inventory levels to increase during 2023; however about 30% expect a drop



#### > Key Insights

#### Unsold inventory levels can fluctuate in 2024

Over the last two years, there has been significant activity in the housing market, leading to a spurt of new launches. Resultantly, about 35% of the developers expect an increase in unsold inventory levels in 2024. Going ahead developers will continue to be more strategic while launching new projects and would largely hinge upon the market trends for their decisions. Conversely, about 30% developers feel that unsold inventory levels could see a dip led by healthy demand for housing.

#### What new business models are you willing to explore?

**25%** of the developers are willing to explore plotted developments as an alternative business model, followed by branded residences preferred by 21% developers



#### > Key Insights

#### Plotted developments and branded residences on developers' cards

With evolving demand trends and lifestyle patterns, developers are likely to explore new business models like plotted developments and branded residences to stay ahead of the curve. Factors such as privacy, outdoor living spaces and spacious dwellings have accelerated demand for plotted developments in urban areas, especially in tier II cities. Consequently, branded residences are picking up pace across the major metros of the country led by increased affinity for unique living experiences, aesthetics and luxurious amenities. About 30% of the developers are also open to explore and diversify into non-residential based developments like warehousing/logistics parks and data centres.

#### Led by the fact that India is being seen as a preferred investment destination, how do you see the trend in NRI demand for residential properties in India?



#### Key Insights

### NRI demand for housing to remain strong

More than 80% of the developers are confident of an increase in housing demand from NRIs during 2024, led by the country's attractive investment landscape and a favorable regulatory environment. Factors such as easing investment regulations, tax exemptions, lucrative returns and attractive schemes are driving NRI investments in the country. To cater to this growing demand, developers are launching high-end luxury projects in relevant micro-markets.

#### What are your expectations from Union budget 2024?

Almost **50%** of the developers expect significant reduction in costs either through tax rationalization or dip in interest rates



## What reforms could provide an impetus to developers and enhance real estate activity in the long term?

#### About **45%** of the developers hope for rationalization of taxes and government charges in 2024



#### > Key Insights

#### Rationalization of taxes and Ease of Doing Business are the key asks of the developers

About 45% of the developers feel rationalization of taxes and government charges could provide financial relief to developers and improve financial viability of projects, which could encourage them to take up more new projects. Further, about 30% developers expect enhancements in 'Ease of doing business' encompassing an improved regulatory framework, supportive government policies and streamlined approvals that could further improve the investment landscape of the country and attract NRI demand. At the same time, sops for homebuyers could provide a thrust to housing demand.



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