

# Tbilisi Residential Real Estate

June 2023 overview

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## June 2023 overview

#### Number of transactions

In Jun-23, the number of apartments sold in Tbilisi reached 3,940 units, showing 1.4% y/y and 8.0% m/m increase. This growth was solely attributed to a significant rise in primary sales, which surged by 18.8% y/y, reaching a record high of 1,830 apartments (excluding Dec-21). In contrast, the secondary market experienced a decline in both new and old apartment sales, with decreases of 5.7% y/y and 12.8% y/y, respectively.

In Jun-23, the main contributors to sales growth were Samgori (+23.6% y/y), Didi Dighomi (+25.2% y/y) and Didube (+28.0% y/y). Importantly, Saburtalo and Vake had a significant reduction in apartment sales in Jun-23, decreasing by 21.6% y/y and 27.1% y/y, respectively. Other notable features of the market remained consistent, including the prevalence of medium-sized apartments (51-80 m²) and the midscale/upscale segments (801-1,800\$).

#### **Prices**

In Jun-23, prices increased the most on a primary market in projects sold directly by developers (+28.0% y/y), indicating growth potential in secondary market prices as well. The biggest price growth was detected in Didube (+41.0% y/y) and Nadzaladevi (+31.8% y/y).



#### Market size

In Jun-23, total market size of apartments sold in Tbilisi stood at US\$ 253.6mn, up by 7.2% y/y and 4.2% m/m. Primary market size increased the most (+18.2% y/y).

#### Rent

In Jun-23, real estate rents remained elevated (+43.3% y/y), however, the rate of growth has been steadily declining since Apr-23, indicating a trend towards stabilization.

#### Construction permits

Construction permits increased by 124.5% y/y in 5M23, in line with the ongoing upward trend observed since 2020. If this trajectory persists, it is expected to have a downward pressure on real estate prices and rental rates in the medium term.

Notably, residential construction permits were distributed equally in 5M23 between central, wide center and suburban districts of Tbilisi (34%/33%/33%). Markedly, average permit size increased by 37.5% y/y, indicating preference for larger residential projects.

Most construction permits were issued for Saburtalo, followed by Didi Dighomi and Isani in 5M23.



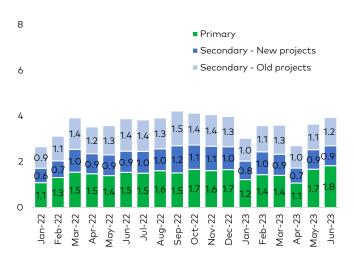
### Residential sales

**Methodological note** - we divide real estate sales in three categories:

- 1) Primary sales real estate sold directly by construction companies/developers
- 2) Secondary sales in new projects real estate sold by an individual owner in projects built by construction permits issued after 2013
- **3) Secondary sales in old projects** real estate sold by an individual owner in projects built by construction permits issued before 2013

Figure 1: Monthly real estate sales, '000 units

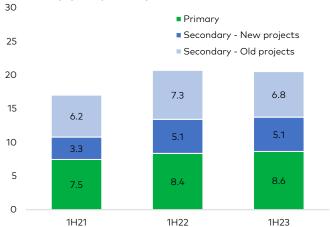
Real estate sales were up by 1.4% y/y (or 8.0% m/m) in Jun-23



Source: NAPR, Galt & Taggart Research

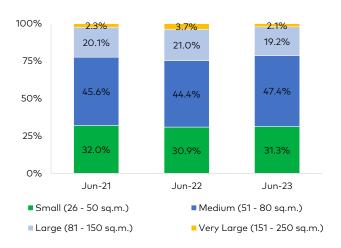
#### Figure 2: Cumulative real estate sales, '000 units

Reduced sales in 1H23 (-0.9% y/y) was driven by reduction in sales of secondary old projects (-7.1% y/y) while secondary new and primary projects grew by 0.8% and 3.4% y/y, respectively



#### Figure 3: Real estate sales by size, units

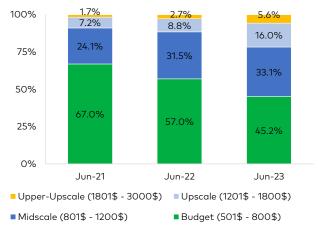
Medium-sized (51-80  $\mathrm{m}^2$ ) apartment stayed the most prevalent



Source: NAPR, Galt & Taggart Research

Figure 4: Real estate sales by segments, units

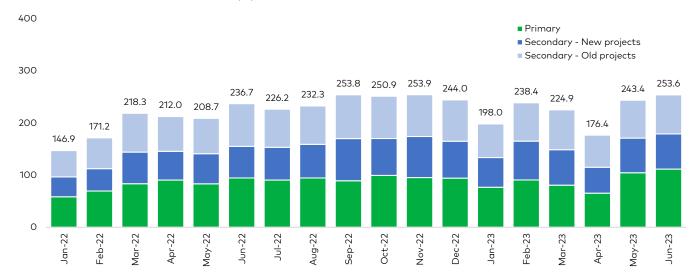
Increased prices lifted up share of midscale/upscale segments significantly





#### Figure 5: Monthly real estate market size, US\$ mn

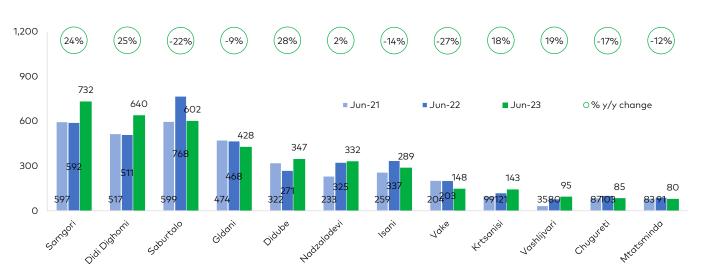
In Jun-23 total market size of apartments sold in Tbilisi stood at US\$ 253.6mn, up 7.2% y/y and 4.2% m/m. Primary market size increased the most (+18.2% y/y)



Source: NAPR, Galt & Taggart Research

#### Figure 6: Real estate sales by districts, units

In Jun-23 **Samgori**, **Didi Dighomi** and **Didube** contributed the most to sales growth while utmost reduction in sales was detected in **Saburtalo** and **Vake** 

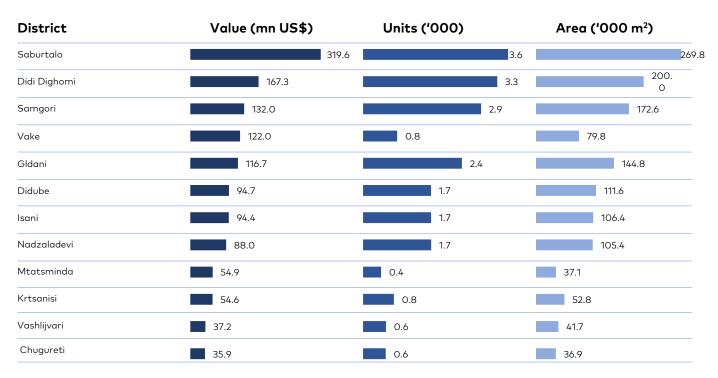


Source: NAPR, Galt & Taggart Research



#### Table 1: Real estate sales by districts – value, units and area, 1H23

Saburtalo remained the most attractive residential district, with US\$ 319.6mn (24.3% of total) market size in 1H23



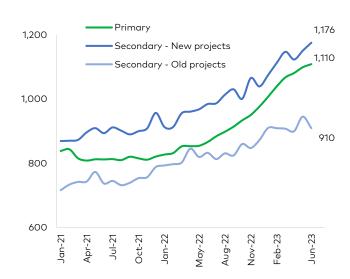
Source: NAPR, Galt & Taggart Research

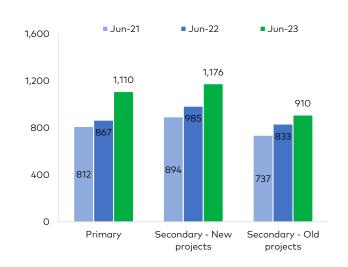


# Residential prices

#### Figure 7: Real estate weighted average prices by type, US\$/m²

In Jun-23 prices increased the most on a primary market in projects sold directly by developers ( $\pm$ 28.0% y/y), signaling growth in secondary market prices as well





Source: NAPR, Korter, Galt & Taggart Research

Figure 8: Real estate prices on primary market (from developers) by districts, US\$/m²

There was double-digit y/y growth in primary apartment prices in every district of Tbilisi



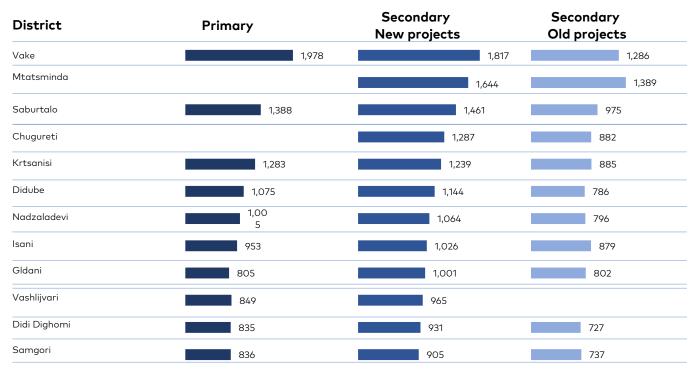
Source: Korter, Galt & Taggart Research

Note: Mtatsminda and Chugureti are excluded due to small sizes of samples (less than 5 projects in each of the districts)



#### Table 2: Real estate weighted average prices by districts in Jun-23, US\$/m²

Prices remained the highest in Mtatsminda and Vake districts due to scarcity of lands for development



Source: NAPR, Korter, Galt & Taggart Research

Note: Mtatsminda and Chugureti are excluded due to small sizes of samples (less than 5 projects in each of the districts)



## Residential rents

#### Figure 9: Real estate rent price index, Jan-21=100

Real estate rents remained elevated (+43.3% y/y), but growth pace has been on a downward trajectory since Apr-23, signaling stabilization



	y/y growth, US\$	m/m growth, US\$
Jan-23	119.0%	3.3%
Feb-23	116.4%	1.2%
Mar-23	96.9%	2.6%
Apr-23	52.3%	-1.6%
May-23	44.9%	-1.5%
Jun-23	43.3%	-0.7%

Source: NBG, Galt & Taggart Research

Figure 10: Real estate rental yield and deposit rates

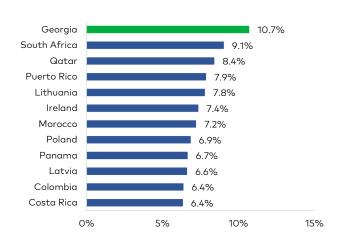
Real estate rental yield stays close to GEL deposit rate



Source: NBG

#### Figure 11: Rental yields by top countries, 2022

Georgian real estate had the highest return among countries with top rental yields



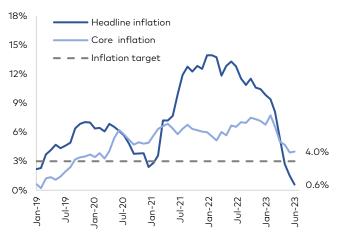
Source: Global property guide



## **Market fundamentals**

#### Figure 12: Annual inflation

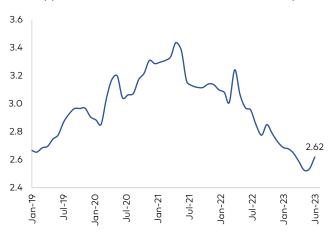
Inflation reduced below target to 0.6% in Jun-23



Source: Geostat

## Figure 13: US\$/GEL exchange rate, monthly average

US\$ appreciation resulted in reduced real estate yields



Source: NBG

#### Figure 14: Consumer confidence index

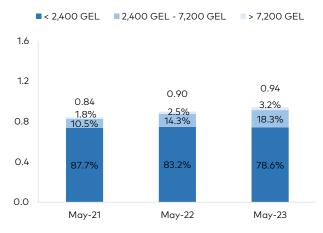
Consumer confidence index remained elevated, leaving spending expectations high



Source: ISET Policy Institute

#### Figure 15: Wage distribution in Georgia, mn people

Proportion of individuals who are eligible to apply for a mortgage has been on the rise

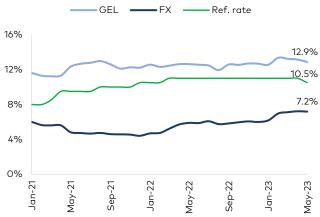


Source: Revenue Service



#### Figure 16: Mortgage interest rates, %

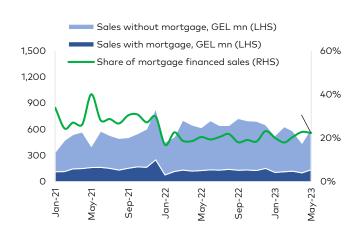
Despite reduced refinancing rate by 50 bps, mortgage financing still remains costly



Source: NBG, Galt & Taggart Research

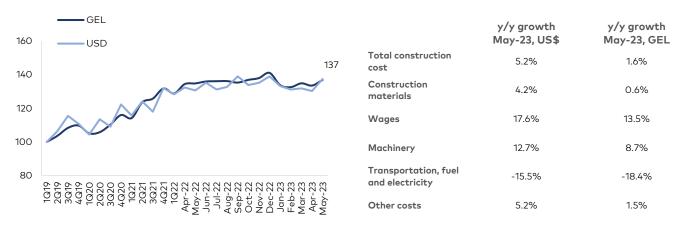
#### Figure 17: Share of mortgages in total sales value

Mortgages financed only 22.3% of sales in May-23



#### Figure 18: Construction cost index, 1Q19=100

In May-23 construction costs increased by 5.2% in US\$ and 1.6% in GEL, wages and machinery costs being the main contributors to growth



Source: Geostat, Galt & Taggart Research

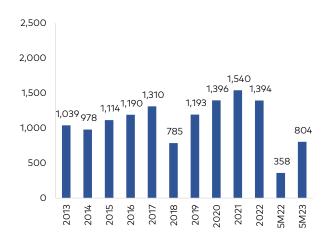
Note: Construction cost index was published quarterly over 2019-22, but was discontinued and shifted to monthly reporting since Mar-22



# **Annex 1 - Construction permits in Tbilisi**

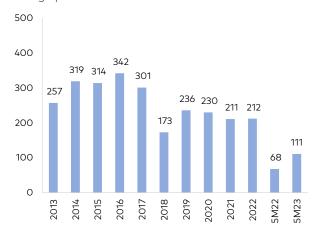
## Figure 19: Construction permits issued for residential real estate in Tbilisi, '000 m<sup>2</sup>

Permits issued for residential area under construction increased by 124.5%



## Figure 20: Number of construction permits issued for residential real estate in Tbilisi

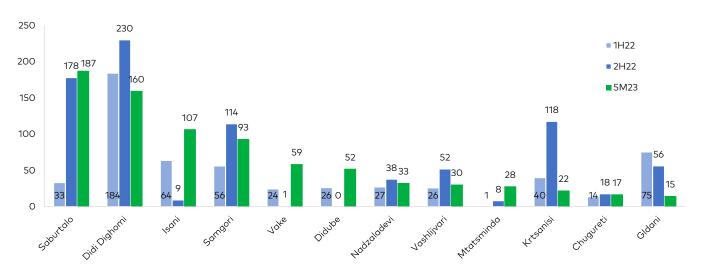
Permitted area has been increasing faster than the number of construction permits, suggesting larger average permit sizes



Source: TAS, Galt & Taggart Research
Note: 1) Only sellable area, including balcony and office areas (as office areas are usually sold as residential spaces)
2) Only III and IV class multiapartment/multifunctional buildings

#### Figure 21: Construction permits issued for residential real estate by Tbilisi districts, '000 m<sup>2</sup>

Residential construction permits were distributed equally in 5M23 between central, wide centre and suburban districts of Tbilisi (34% / 33% / 33%). Most construction permits were issued for Saburtalo, followed by Didi Dighomi and Isani.



Source: TAS, Galt & Taggart Research
Note: 1) Only sellable area, including balcony and office areas (as office areas are usually sold as residential spaces)
2) Only III and IV class multiapartment/multifunctional buildings



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