

Statistical bulletin

# Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: December 2021

An experimental price index tracking the prices paid for renting property from private landlords in the UK. Includes measures of owner occupiers' housing costs.

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# 1 . Main points

- Private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK rose by 1.8% in the 12 months to December 2021, up from 1.7% in the 12 months to November 2021.
- Private rental prices grew by 1.8% in England, 1.5% in Wales and 2.3% in Scotland in the 12 months to December 2021.
- The East Midlands saw the highest annual growth in private rental prices (3.3%), while London saw the lowest (negative 0.1%).

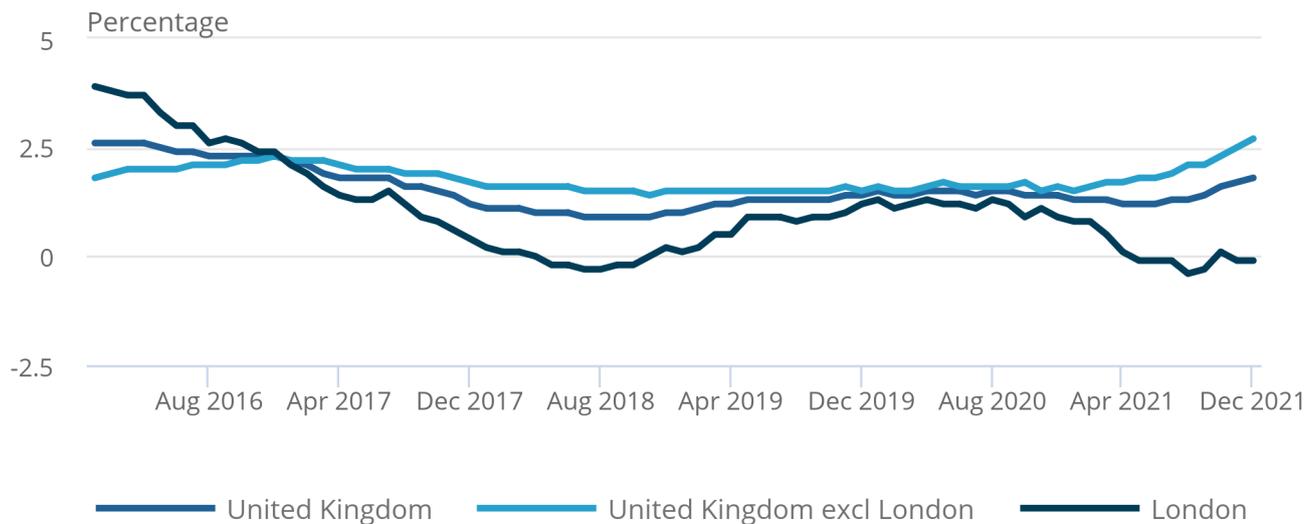
## 2 . UK private rental prices

**Figure 1: The UK annual private rental price growth rose by 1.8% in the 12 months to December 2021**

Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over 12 months, UK and Great Britain, January 2016 to December 2021

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Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over 12 months, UK and Great Britain, January 2016 to December 2021



**Source: Office for National Statistics – Index of Private Housing Rental Prices**

**Notes:**

1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. More information can be found in [Section 8: Strengths and Limitations](#).

Private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK increased by 1.8% in the 12 months to December 2021.

Growth in private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK remained broadly flat between November 2019 and the end of 2020. The beginning of 2021 saw a slight slowdown in rental price growth, which was driven by prices in London.

In the 12 months to December 2021, rental prices for the UK excluding London increased by 2.7%, up from an increase of 2.5% in November 2021. London private rental prices decreased by 0.1% in the 12 months to December 2021, unchanged from the previous month.

London's rental price growth in December 2021 (negative 0.1%) remains the lowest of any of the English regions. This reflects a decrease in demand, such as remote working shifting housing preferences, meaning workers no longer need to be close to offices. It also reflects an increase in supply, as an excess supply of rental properties as short-term lets change to long-term lets. Further commentary on these movements can be found in Section 4 of our [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: March 2021 bulletin](#).

The Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) reported in their [Private Rented Sector Report, November 2021](#) that the average number of new prospective tenants per member branch rose significantly from October to November. The number of tenants experiencing rent increases fell for a third month in a row, from 68% in October to 58% in November.

[The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' \(RICS'\) November 2021 Residential Market Survey](#) reported that tenant demand saw another solid monthly increase in November with a net balance of 48% of respondents citing a rise.

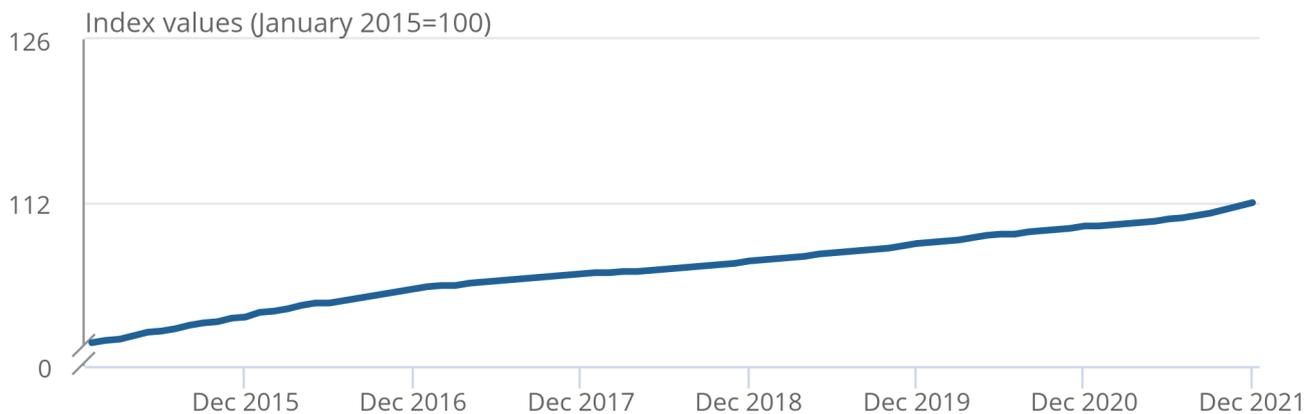
These supply and demand pressures can take time to feed through to the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP), which reflects price changes for all private rental properties rather than only newly advertised rental properties.

## Figure 2: UK rental prices have increased by 12.0% since January 2015

Index of Private Housing Rental Prices indices, UK, January 2015 to December 2021

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Index of Private Housing Rental Prices indices, UK, January 2015 to December 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Index of Private Housing Rental Prices

#### Notes:

1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. More information is available in [Section 8: Strengths and limitations](#).

### 3 . UK private rental growth rates by country

In England, private rental prices grew by 1.8% in the 12 months to December 2021, representing the highest 12-month growth rate since July 2017. When London is excluded from England, private rental prices increased by 2.8% in the 12 months to December 2021, up from an increase of 2.6% in November 2021.

Private rental prices in Wales grew by 1.5% in the 12 months to December 2021, down from an increase of 1.6% in November 2021.

Rental growth in Scotland grew by 2.3% in the 12 months to December 2021, up from an increase of 2.0% in November 2021, and the highest annual growth rate since records began in 2012.

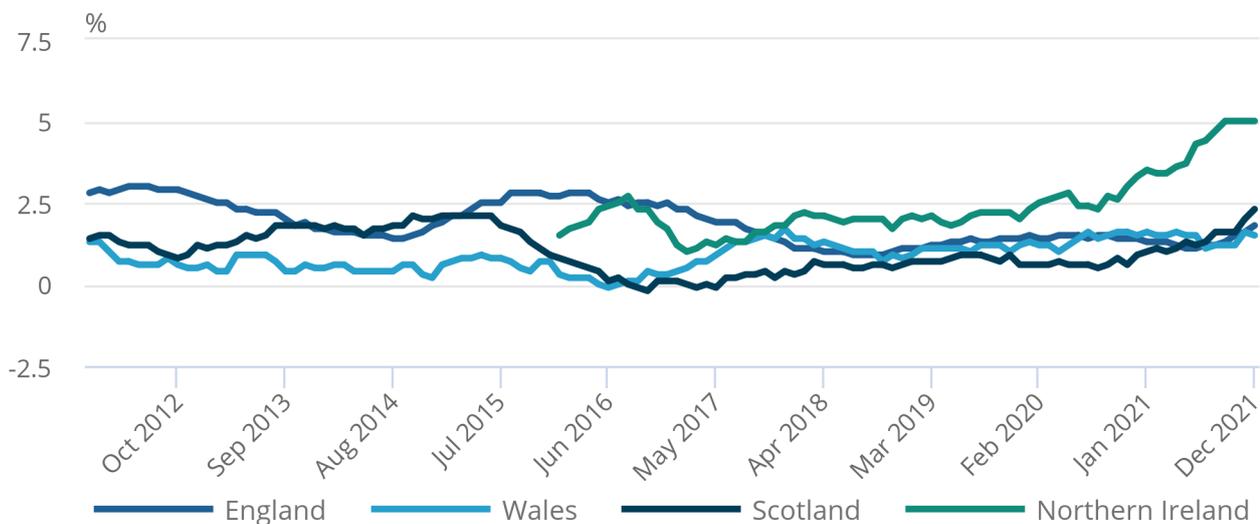
The annual rate of change for Northern Ireland in December 2021 (5.0%) was higher than the other countries of the UK. Northern Ireland data have been copied forward since September 2021; the next update to Northern Ireland data will be in the release published on 23 March 2022.

**Figure 3: The annual rental growth in Scotland continues to surpass England and Wales**

Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over 12 months for countries of the UK, January 2012 to December 2021

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Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over 12 months for countries of the UK, January 2012 to December 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Index of Private Housing Rental Prices

Notes:

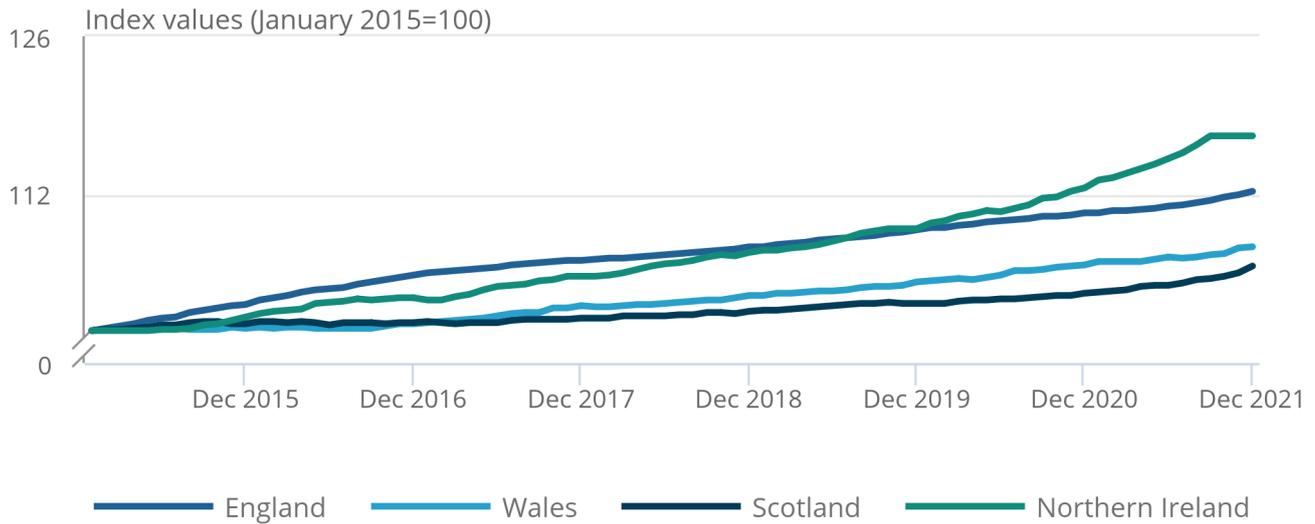
1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. More information is available in [Section 8: Strengths and limitations](#).
2. Northern Ireland data are only available every three months. Northern Ireland data are copied forward until the next data are obtainable, which will be released on 23 March 2022.

**Figure 4: Rental prices have increased more in England and Northern Ireland than in Wales and Scotland since 2015**

Index of Private Housing Rental Prices indices for countries of the UK, January 2015 to December 2021

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Index of Private Housing Rental Prices indices for countries of the UK, January 2015 to December 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Index of Private Housing Rental Prices

Notes:

1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. More information is available in [Section 8: Strengths and limitations](#).
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## 4 . UK private rental growth by English region

Focusing on the English regions, the largest annual rental price increase in the 12 months to December 2021 was in the East Midlands at 3.3%.

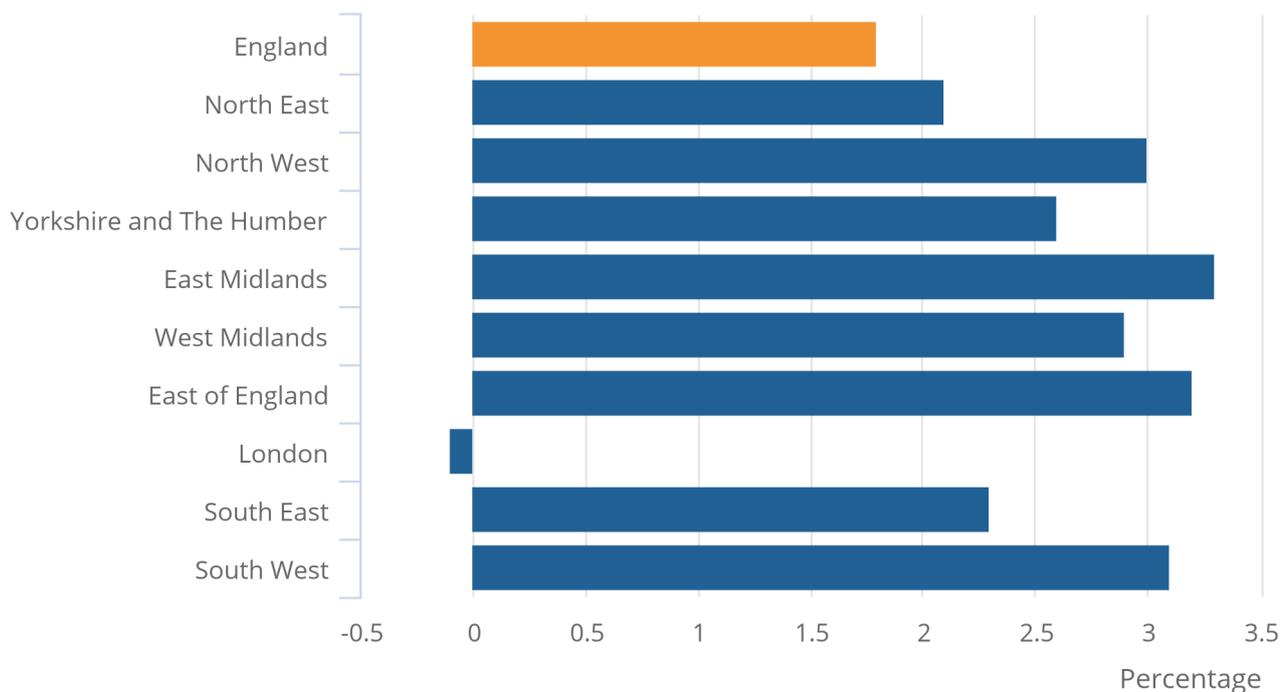
The lowest annual rental price growth was in London, where rental prices decreased by 0.1% in the 12 months to December 2021.

### Figure 5: Weakest annual rental price growth is in London

Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over the 12 months to December 2021, by English region

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Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over the 12 months to December 2021, by English region



Source: Office for National Statistics – Index of Private Housing Rental Prices

### Figure 6: London rental prices experienced larger peaks and troughs than other regions

Index of Private Housing Rental Prices percentage change over 12 months by English region, January 2007 to December 2021

#### Notes:

1. The light blue line shows England's 12-month average private rental price growth.

Download the data

[.xlsx](#)

## 5 . Private rental data

### [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: monthly estimates](#)

Dataset | Released 19 January 2022

Rental price index historical data time series (index values and annual percentage change).

### [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: annual weights analysis](#)

Dataset | Released 24 March 2021

Aggregate weights information used in the experimental Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP).

### [Measures of owner occupiers' housing costs](#)

Dataset | Released 24 March 2021

Monthly historical time series for all three approaches to measuring owner occupiers' housing costs – payments, rental equivalence and net acquisitions – including contributions to growth from the different approaches, UK.

### [Measures of owner occupiers' housing costs: weights analysis](#)

Dataset | Released 24 March 2021

Aggregate inflation measure for owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH). Includes monthly time series and weights for all three approaches of measuring OOH – payments, rental equivalence and net acquisitions – aggregated with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), UK.

## 6 . Glossary

### Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP)

IPHRP measures the change in the price tenants face when renting residential property from private landlords.

### Administrative data

Administrative data are data that people have already provided to the government through day-to-day activities, for example, health records, social security payments or educational attainment information.

## 7 . Measuring the data

### Coronavirus

We are working to ensure that the UK has the vital information needed to respond to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on our economy and society. This includes how we measure the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP). The price collection for this publication has not been affected.

## Economic statistics governance after EU exit

Following the UK's exit from the EU, new governance arrangements are being put in place that will support the adoption and implementation of high-quality standards for UK economic statistics. These governance arrangements will promote international comparability and add to the credibility and independence of the UK's statistical system.

At the centre of this new governance framework will be the new National Statistician's Committee for Advice on Standards for Economic Statistics (NSCASE). NSCASE will support the UK by ensuring its processes for influencing and adopting international statistical standards are world leading. The advice NSCASE provides to the National Statistician will span the full range of domains in economic statistics, including the National Accounts, fiscal statistics, prices, trade and the balance of payments and labour market statistics.

## Future developments

Following the Digital Economy Act 2017, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) gained access to Valuation Office Agency (VOA) private rental microdata. We aim to redevelop the IPHRP and private rental market summary statistics (PRMS) to produce mix-adjusted average rental prices that are comparable over time. We also aim to refine geography to lower geographic levels, to better meet user needs.

While we have been working hard to finalise the methodology, we will now need to spend more time ensuring the production system is developed on a strategic platform and is sustainable. This has resulted in our initial timetable being out of date. More information and an updated timetable for these developments is available in the [Private rental prices development plan: January 2021](#). If you have any queries or feedback on these developments, please email [hpi@ons.gov.uk](mailto:hpi@ons.gov.uk).

## Sources

The IPHRP is constructed using administrative data. This means that the index makes use of data that are already collected for other purposes to estimate rental prices. The sources of private rental prices are the VOA, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Data for Northern Ireland also include data provided by [Propertynews.com](#). Estimates are based on a known sample rather than a census.

The sources of the annually updated [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: annual weights analysis dataset](#) are the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, NIHE and VOA.

The IPHRP's indices are updated on a monthly basis with the new monthly estimate. Data are indexed with January 2015 as a base year. Data for England are provided from January 2005, data for Wales from January 2009 and data for Scotland from January 2011. UK data are from January 2015.

## Quality

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices QMI](#).

# 8 . Strengths and limitations

## Strengths

The Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) is constructed using large administrative sources, specified in [Section 7: Measuring the data](#). Annually, over 450,000 private rental prices are collected in England, 30,000 in Wales, 25,000 in Scotland and 15,000 in Northern Ireland.

The index not only measures the change in newly advertised rental prices but reflects price changes for all private rental properties.

## Limitations

The IPHRP is published as price indices, rather than average prices. It is also only published down to a country and regional level. While actual rental prices cannot currently be published in the IPHRP because of data access constraints, we are actively working to acquire the necessary data.

The IPHRP is released as an [Experimental Statistic](#), and is subject to revisions if improvements in the methodology are identified. Results should be interpreted with this in mind.

## 9 . Related links

### [UK House Price Index: November 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 19 January 2022

Monthly house price inflation in the UK, calculated using data from HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, and Land and Property Services Northern Ireland.

### [Consumer Price Inflation, UK: December 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 19 January 2022

Price indices, percentage changes and weights for the different measures of consumer price inflation.

### [Private rental growth measures, a UK comparison: January to December 2020](#)

Article | Released 20 January 2021

Compares growth in the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) with other measures of private rental growth. This article will be updated on 20 January 2022 and will compare the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) with other measures of private rental growth for the period January to December 2021.

### [Private rental prices development plan: updated January 2021](#)

Article | Released 17 September 2021

The updated proposed development plan for private rental price statistics outlines the priorities, aims and methodology under development. A broad timeline is included to provide users of private rental price statistics with a greater understanding of the planned development work.

### [Private rental market summary statistics in England: October 2020 to September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 15 December 2021

Median monthly rental prices for the private rental market in England, calculated using data from the Valuation Office Agency.

### [Measures of owner occupiers' housing costs, UK: January to March 2020](#)

Article | Released 17 June 2020

The different approaches of measuring owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH) associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home.