

Statistical bulletin

Private rental market summary statistics in England: April 2022 to March 2023

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

Contact:
Aimee North
hpi@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 456400

Release date:
21 June 2023

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Rent prices in England](#)
3. [Rent prices by region](#)
4. [Local authority analysis](#)
5. [Private rental market, England data](#)
6. [Glossary](#)
7. [Measuring the data](#)
8. [Strengths and limitations](#)
9. [Related links](#)
10. [Cite this statistical bulletin](#)

1 . Main points

- The median monthly rent recorded between April 2022 and March 2023 was £825 for England; this is the highest ever recorded.
- London had the highest median monthly rent at £1,500; this is nearly double the median monthly rent for England.
- The North East had the lowest median monthly rent at £550.
- The difference in monthly rental price between the most and least expensive local authorities was £2,050.

2 . Rent prices in England

Figure 1: Median monthly private rental prices increase with number of bedrooms

Median and interquartile range of monthly rents by bedroom categories, England, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Download the data

[.xlsx](#)

Private rental prices increased with property size

The median monthly rent in England was £825. The property size with the highest monthly rent was for properties with four or more bedrooms (£1,500). Single rooms had the lowest monthly rent of all property sizes, at £460.

The difference in median monthly rents between studios (£625) and single rooms (£460) could have been driven by high volumes of data in the sample of studios located in London and the South East (representing just under half of the sample size).

The interquartile range increased with property size. The spread of rents was greatest for the "four or more bedrooms" category because of the inclusion of very large properties. The correspondingly higher rents of these large properties drove the sharp increase in both median rent and spread of rents in this category compared with three-bedroom properties.

3 . Rent prices by region

Figure 2: Median monthly private rental price was highest in London

Median and interquartile range of monthly rents for all bedroom categories, by region, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Download the data

[.xlsx](#)

Private rental prices were higher in London than any other region

Rental prices and the spread of rents tended to be higher in the southern regions of England than in the Midlands and northern regions.

The median monthly rent was highest in London at £1,500, which is £502 higher than the next largest median rent, which was £998 in the South East. The median monthly rent for the North East was £550; this is the lowest of all regions.

London rents had the greatest range of prices of all regions. This is because rent prices in Inner London tend to be higher than for Outer London. The median monthly rent for Inner London was £1,797 compared with £1,375 for Outer London.

4 . Local authority analysis

Figure 3: The difference in monthly rental price between the most and least expensive local authorities was £2,050

Median monthly private rental price in England, by local authorities and bedroom category, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Download the data

[.xlsx](#)

There was a varied distribution in the prices that tenants paid for private housing across local authorities.

Warning: Users should note that samples at local authority level, even for the "all" bedroom category, can be small. Therefore, the average monthly rents may be less reliable because of the sample size (for more information, see the Sampling subsection of Section 8).

Most expensive local authority: Kensington and Chelsea

The highest median monthly rent in England was within Inner London in Kensington and Chelsea (£2,500). The lowest median monthly rent within Inner London was in Lewisham (£1,350).

For Outer London, the highest median monthly rent was in Richmond upon Thames (£1,625) and the lowest median monthly rent was in Sutton (£1,175).

Least expensive local authority: Kingston upon Hull

The lowest median monthly rent in England was £450 in Kingston upon Hull in Yorkshire and The Humber.

For comparison, the region with the lowest median monthly rent in England was the North East, where the median monthly rent was £550. The local authority with the highest median monthly rent in the North East was in Newcastle upon Tyne (£750). The lowest median monthly rent was County Durham and Hartlepool (£495).

5 . Private rental market, England data

[Private rental market summary statistics in England](#)

Dataset | Released 21 June 2023

Median monthly rental prices for the private rental market in England by bedroom category, region and local authority, calculated using data from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

6 . Glossary

Bedroom category

There are six bedroom categories:

- room – this is a non-self-contained single room with shared facilities, including bedsits, single rooms in a house or flat shared with other tenants, and single rooms rented from a resident landlord
- studio – this is a self-contained single-roomed property with own kitchen and bath, shower or WC facilities
- one to four or more bedrooms – these are self-contained properties with one to four or more bedrooms, including houses, bungalows, flats and maisonettes

Interquartile range

The interquartile range is the difference between the lower and upper quartile, representing the middle 50% of values.

Local authorities

Shires, metropolitan districts, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, unitary authorities, London boroughs and the City of London are local authorities.

Lower and upper quartile

When a series of numbers are arranged by size, the lower quartile (or 25th percentile) is the value that splits the lowest 25% of the data from the highest 75%. The upper quartile (or 75th percentile) is the value that splits the highest 25% of the data from the lowest 75%.

Region

A region is a geographic unit formerly referred to as Government Office Region (GOR). From 1 April 2011, the term GOR was dropped in favour of region.

7 . Measuring the data

Methodology

These statistics are based on a sample of 466,090 private rental data in the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) lettings information database, collected by Rent Officers from landlords and letting agents. Data were extracted for the 12 months to the end of March 2023. Only cases with sufficient evidence of a transaction taking place were included in the sample. A small proportion of data that was unconfirmed or had limited evidence was not included.

The data were broken down by administrative area and by bedroom or room category. Statistics were calculated on the total monthly rents, which may include some service charges such as fuel and water. For Local Housing Allowance purposes, service charges were not included as they were ineligible for the calculation of Housing Benefit.

The rental value ranges displayed in Figure 3 are produced using "Jenks natural breaks"; this is a method that separates values into groups that are naturally present in the data. Similar values are grouped in such a way that the differences between groups are maximised.

Economic statistics governance after EU exit

More information regarding the new governance following UK's exit from the EU is available in our [Private rental market summary statistics in England: April 2021 to March 2022 bulletin](#).

Upcoming changes

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 Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (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.

An overview of the methodology that we intend to use is available in [The redevelopment of private rental prices statistics, intended 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 our [Private rental prices development plan: February 2022 article](#). If you have any queries or feedback on these developments, please email hpi@ons.gov.uk.

Voluntary provision of data

Thank you to the landlords and estate agents who voluntarily provide the data that make this release possible.

8 . Strengths and limitations

Data interpretation and comparability

Under the current methodology, we do not publish a time series and users are advised not to infer trends in the rental market over time by comparing prices year-on-year. In addition to the Private Rental Market Statistics (PRMS), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) also produces the Index of Private Housing Rental Price (IPHRP). The PRMS estimates include data for rooms and are not comparable over time. The IPHRP excludes rooms and applies weighting and mix-adjustment to produce estimates that are representative of the UK stock and comparable over time. More information about the differences between PRMS and IPHRP is available in our [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\)](#).

These statistics are for information only and should be distinguished from Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates published on [DirectGov](#) which are used to calculate Housing Benefit for privately renting tenants.

Sampling

These statistics are based on a sample of 466,090 rents recorded between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. Rent Officers collect these letting information data for functions related to Housing Benefit and Universal Credit on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). They are responsible for ensuring collected lettings information are representative of the full range of market rents. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) provides [more information on Rent Officers](#).

The 2011 Census provides a benchmark for the population of privately rented properties. Rent Officers endeavour to collect a proportionate spread of data by property type and geographic spread. The data have not been drawn from a statistically designed sample, so these statistics should be considered as only indicative of the private rental market.

Results are not adjusted to produce statistics that are representative of the private rental property market in England. Housing Benefit claimants are excluded, so not all privately rented properties are represented in this sample. The regional variation in sample size is published in Table 1.7 of the [Private rental market summary statistics dataset](#).

Landlords and letting agents provide Rent Officers with data about the properties they let on the open market. This information is captured electronically in the lettings information database. Checks are carried out at the point of entry to ensure that any Housing Benefit-funded tenancies are excluded from this database.

To avoid disclosure of personal information, statistics derived from samples containing fewer than five records have been suppressed. All rental values have been rounded to the nearest pound.

9 . Related links

[Index of Private Housing Rental Prices](#)

Article | Released 21 June 2023

An experimental price index tracking the prices paid for renting property from private landlords in the UK.

[Consumer price inflation, UK](#)

Article | Released 21 June 2023

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

[Private sector rent statistics, Scotland, 2010 to 2022](#)

Article | Released 29 November 2022

Private sector rent statistics in Scotland over the years 2010 to 2022.

[Private sector rents, Wales: 2019](#)

Article | Released 21 May 2020

Private sector rent statistics in Wales for the year 2019.

[Private rental growth measures, a UK comparison: January to December 2022](#)

Article | Released 25 January 2023

Comparing the methodological differences between the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices and private rental market summary statistics (PRMS) measures of private rental growth.

[Administrative geography: England](#)

Webpage | Released 15 January 2016

Detailed information on the administrative structure within England.

10 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 21 June 2023, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Private rental market summary statistics in England: April 2022 to March 2023](#)