

Statistical bulletin

UK House Price Index: December 2023

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



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14 February 2024

Next release:
Discontinued

Notice

14 February 2024

This release has been discontinued. The latest UK House Price Index (HPI) main insights and links to relevant tables and datasets will be included within our new, monthly "[Private rent and house prices, UK](#)" bulletin launching on 20 March 2024. The full UK HPI report and data will continue being published monthly on [HM Land Registry's website](#).

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1 . Main points

- Average UK house prices decreased by 1.4% in the 12 months to December 2023 (provisional estimate), up from a decrease of 2.3% (revised estimate) in the 12 months to November 2023.
- The average UK house price was £285,000 in December 2023, which was £4,000 lower than 12 months previous.
- Average house prices over the 12 months to December 2023 decreased in England to £302,000 (negative 2.1%), decreased in Wales to £214,000 (negative 2.5%), but increased in Scotland to £190,000 (3.3%).
- Average house prices increased by 1.4% to £178,000 in the year to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2023 in Northern Ireland.
- Within England, the North West had the highest annual percentage change in the 12 months to December 2023 (1.2%), while London saw the lowest (negative 4.8%).

These estimates are provisional and are subject to revision. All statistics are non-seasonally adjusted estimates, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Recently, the transaction volumes available to calculate UK House Price Index estimates have been considerably lower than historically. We and HM Land Registry are working to improve the balance between processing recently received and older applications. Revisions may be larger than usual in the coming months, especially for new build breakdowns.

Change to this release

The last planned release was on 14 February 2024. We remain committed to producing statistics on UK house prices with our partner government departments. We will continue to publish the latest UK House Price Index (HPI) main insights and links to relevant tables and datasets within our new, monthly "[Private rent and house prices, UK](#)" bulletin from 20 March 2024. The full UK HPI report and data will continue being published monthly on [HM Land Registry's website](#), with additional UK HPI reports available on [Registers of Scotland's](#) and [Land and Property Services Northern Ireland's](#) websites.

The decision to unify our private rental price and house price statistics into a single housing release was made as part of a wider ONS review of our outputs. Contact hpi@ons.gov.uk with any questions or feedback.

2 . UK house prices

The [latest UK House Price Index data published on GOV.UK by HM Land Registry \(HMLR\) for December 2023](#) show that average UK house price annual inflation was negative 1.4% (provisional estimate) in the 12 months to December 2023. This was up from the revised estimate of negative 2.3% in the 12 months to November 2023.

UK house price annual inflation has been generally slowing since July 2022, when annual inflation was 13.8%. The provisional estimate for the average UK house price was £285,000 in December 2023, which is £4,000 lower than 12 months previous.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affected the supply of housing transactions for a period of time, with the processing of new build properties particularly affected. To address this, in 2020 we introduced pooling for new build transactions for certain months in England and Wales, and in December 2023 we implemented a methodology improvement to the Great Britain model, which increased UK coherence and improved UK House Price Index (HPI) statistics quality. In the coming months, we intend to revise estimates for recent years by making use of price data processed outside the UK HPI's 12-month revision period.

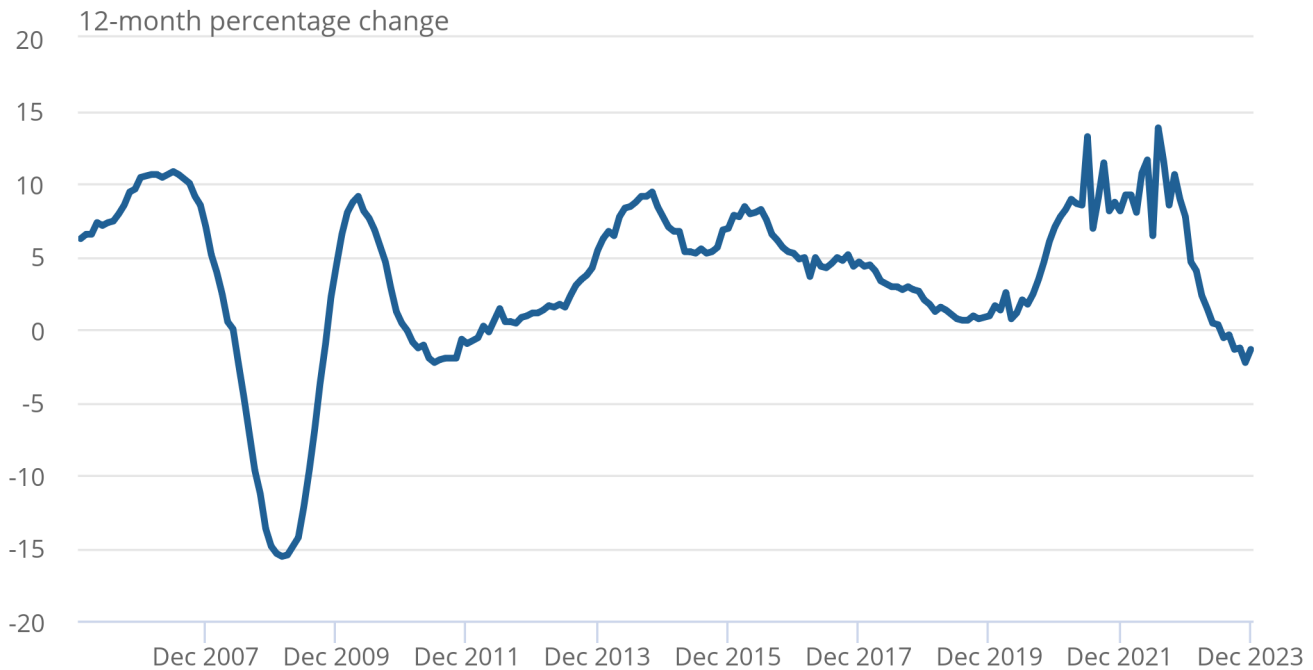
While transaction volumes remain affected, revisions may be larger than usual and users are advised to note the substantially greater uncertainty around new build prices. More information is available in [Section 7: Measuring the data](#) and the [UK HPI Quality and Methodology Information](#).

Figure 1: Average UK house prices fell in the 12 months to December 2023 (provisional estimate)

Annual house price rates of change for all dwellings, UK, January 2006 to December 2023

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Annual house price rates of change for all dwellings, UK, January 2006 to December 2023



Source: UK House Price Index from the HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land and Property Services Northern Ireland, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
2. The [HMLR's UK House Price Index \(HPI\) release on GOV.UK](#) is available to download.
3. Volatility in 2021 and 2022 reflects house price movements around changes in Stamp Duty Land Tax in 2021.

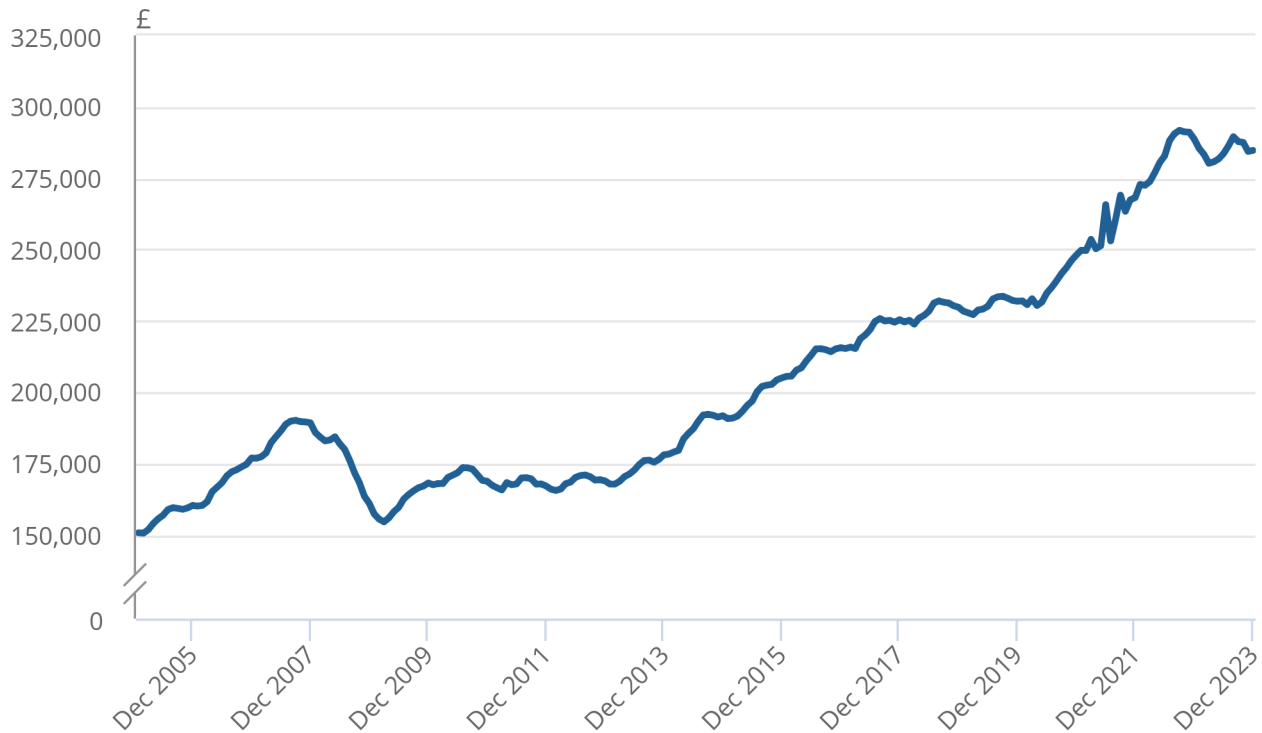
The provisional seasonally-adjusted estimate for UK residential transactions in December 2023 was 80,420, reported in [HM Revenue and Customs' \(HMRC's\) Monthly property transactions statistics](#). This provisional volume estimate for December 2023 is 18% lower than the revised estimate for December 2022 and 1% lower than the provisional estimate for November 2023.

Figure 2: The average UK house price was £285,000 in December 2023 (provisional estimate)

Average house price, UK, January 2005 to December 2023

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Average house price, UK, January 2005 to December 2023



Source: UK House Price Index from the HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land and Property Services Northern Ireland, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
2. The [HMLR's UK House Price Index \(HPI\) release on GOV.UK](#) is available to download.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the average UK house price increased by 0.3% in December 2023, following a month-on-month decrease of 0.7% in November 2023.

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, the average UK house price increased by 0.1% in December 2023, following a month-on-month decrease of 1.1% in November 2023.

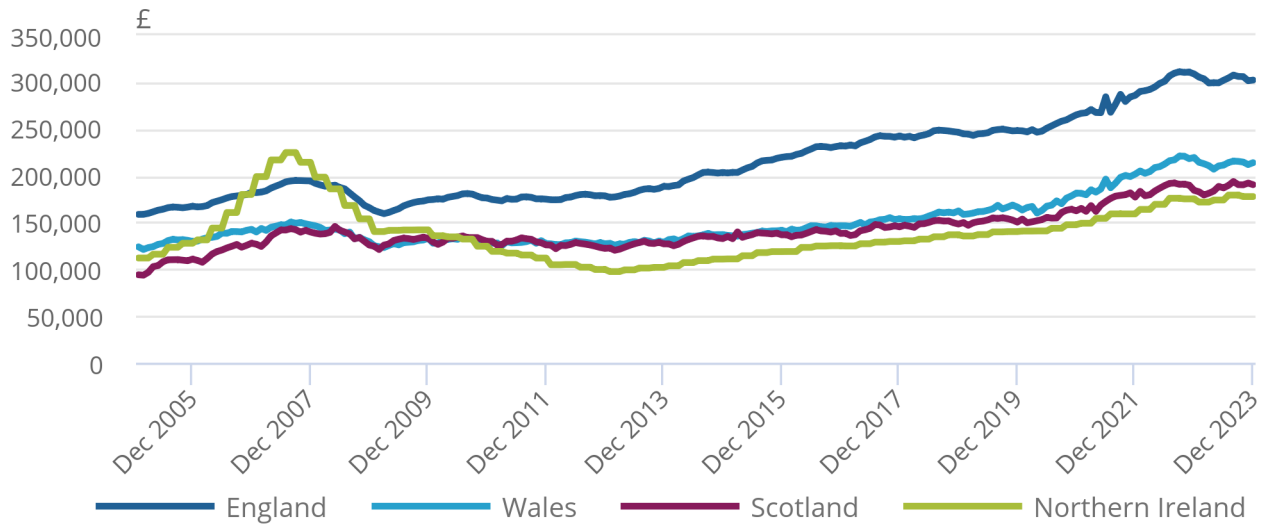
3 . House prices by country

Figure 3: England house prices remain the highest in the UK

Average house price by country, UK, January 2005 to December 2023

Figure 3: England house prices remain the highest in the UK

Average house price by country, UK, January 2005 to December 2023



Source: UK House Price Index from the HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land and Property Services Northern Ireland, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
2. The [HMLR's UK House Price Index \(HPI\) release on GOV.UK](#) is available to download.
3. Northern Ireland (NI) data are only available on a quarterly basis; Northern Ireland data will be copied forward until next quarter's data are available, which will be in the March 2024 bulletin released 22 May 2024 on [HM Land Registry's website](#).
4. Further information is available on [Northern Ireland HPI publications and future release schedules](#).

The average house price in England decreased by 2.1% over the 12 months to December 2023 (provisional estimate). This is up from a decrease of 3.0% (revised estimate) in the 12 months to November 2023. The average house price in England was £302,000 in December 2023, which was £7,000 lower than 12 months ago.

The average house price in Scotland increased by 3.3% (provisional estimate) over the 12 months to December 2023, up from an increase of 1.1% (revised estimate) in the 12 months to November 2023. The average house price in Scotland was £190,000 in December 2023, which was £6,000 higher than 12 months ago.

The average house price in Wales decreased by 2.5% (provisional estimate) over the 12 months to December 2023, up from a decrease of 2.9% (revised estimate) in the 12 months to November 2023. The average house price in Wales was £214,000 in December 2023, which was £5,000 lower than 12 months ago.

The average house price in Northern Ireland increased by 1.4% (provisional estimate) over the year to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2023. Northern Ireland remains the cheapest country in the UK in which to purchase a property, with the average house price at £178,000.

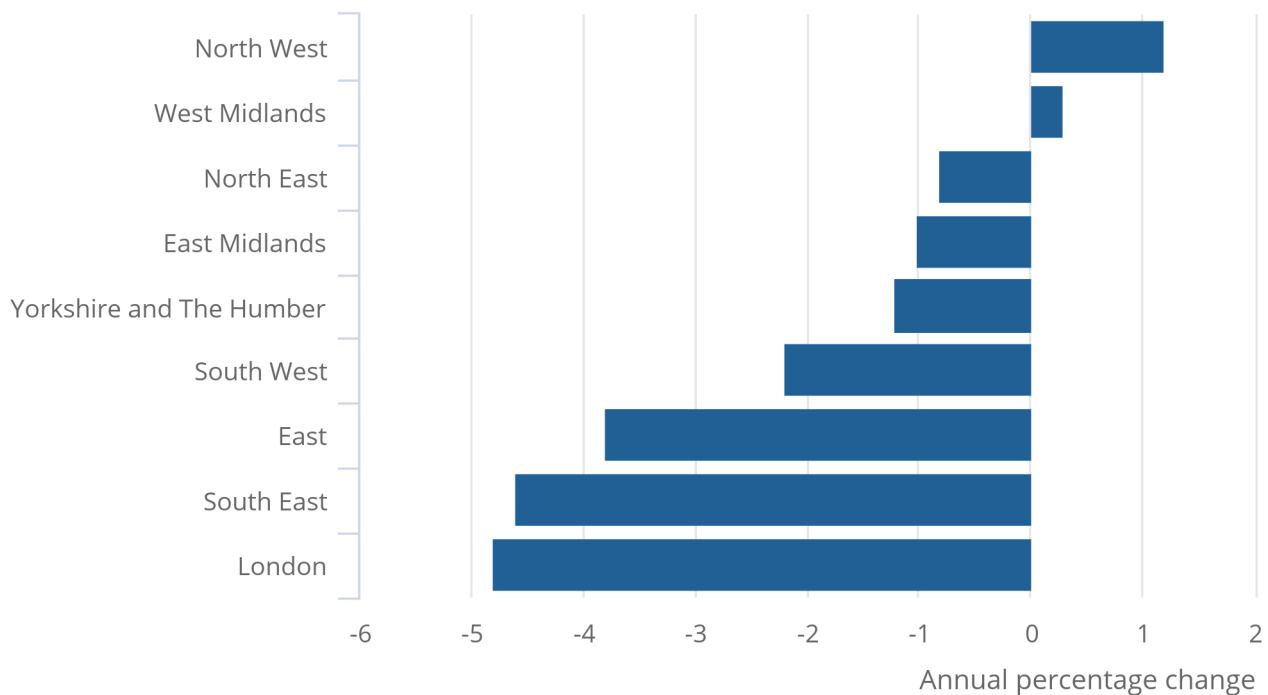
4 . House prices by region in England

Figure 4: Only the North West and West Midlands saw an annual price rise

All dwellings annual house price percentage change, by English region, 12 months to December 2023

Figure 4: Only the North West and West Midlands saw an annual price rise

All dwellings annual house price percentage change, by English region, 12 months to December 2023



Source: UK House Price Index from the HM Land Registry and Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
2. The [HMLR's UK House Price Index \(HPI\) release on GOV.UK](#) is available to download.

London's average house prices remain the most expensive of any region in the UK, with an average price of £508,000 in December 2023.

London is also the region with the lowest annual house price inflation, with average prices decreasing by 4.8% in the 12 months to December 2023. This is up from an annual inflation rate of negative 5.5% in the 12 months to November 2023.

The North East continued to have the lowest average house price of all English regions, at £158,000 in December 2023.

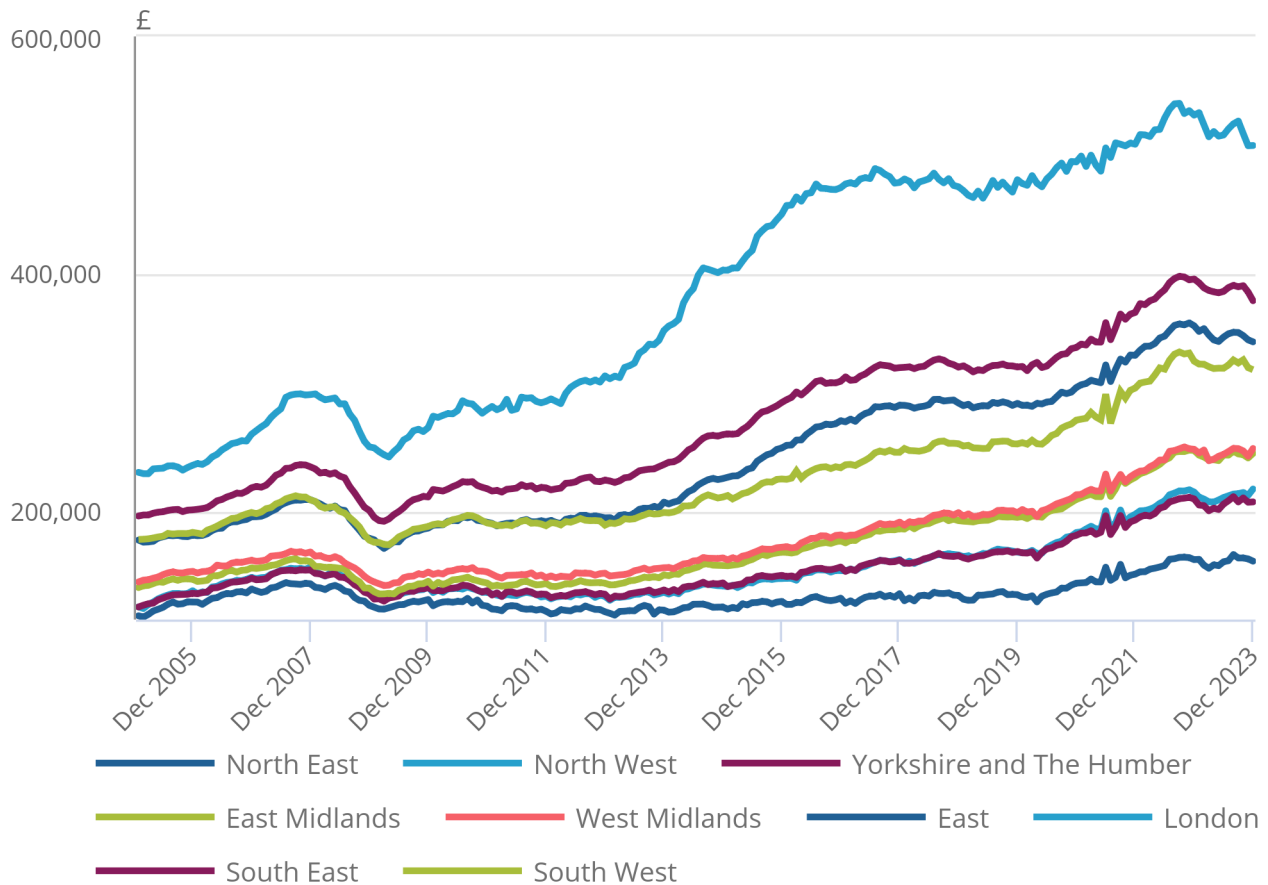
The North West is the English region with the highest annual house price inflation, with average prices increasing by 1.2% in the 12 months to December 2023.

Figure 5: London continues to have the highest average house price in England

Average house price, by English region, January 2005 to December 2023

Figure 5: London continues to have the highest average house price in England

Average house price, by English region, January 2005 to December 2023



Source: UK House Price Index from the HM Land Registry and Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
2. Data at the local authority level and other breakdowns can be found in the [HMLR's UK House Price Index \(HPI\) release on GOV.UK](#).

5 . House Price Index data

[UK House Price Index](#)

Dataset | Released 14 February 2024

Monthly house price movements, including average price by property type, sales and cash mortgage sales, as well as information on first-time buyers, new builds and former owner occupiers. Data are collected by HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland and Northern Ireland Land and Property Services, and published on GOV.UK.

[House price data: quarterly tables](#)

Dataset | Released 14 February 2024

Quarterly house price data based on a sub-sample of the Regulated Mortgage Survey.

[House price data: annual tables 20 to 38](#)

Dataset | Released 19 July 2023

Annual house price data based on a sub-sample of the Regulated Mortgage Survey.

6 . Glossary

House Price Index (HPI)

The House Price Index (HPI) measures the price changes of residential housing as a percentage change from a specific time period (12 months before, or a base period where the HPI in 2015 equals 100).

House price inflation

House price inflation in the UK is the rate at which the prices of residential properties purchased in the UK rise and fall.

Non-seasonally adjusted

A non-seasonally adjusted series is one that includes seasonal or calendar effects.

Seasonally adjusted

A seasonally adjusted series is one that has been subject to a widely used technique for removing seasonal or calendar effects from time series data.

7 . Measuring the data

The UK House Price Index (HPI) is a joint production by HM Land Registry (HMLR), Registers of Scotland, Land and Property Services Northern Ireland, and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). HMLR published the [UK House Price Index reports on GOV.UK](#) (at 9:30am, 14 February 2024). The reports contain full details, including commentary, historical data tables and analytical tools.

Revision policy

It takes time for property transactions to be processed following purchase completion, so transaction volumes available for use in the UK HPI build over time. Each month, as more transactions are processed and more data become available for a given month, UK HPI estimates are revised.

Therefore, caution is advised when interpreting price changes in the most recent periods, since UK HPI estimates are provisional for the most recent months and are revised for 12 months (until the 13th estimate, which is final), in line with the [UK HPI revision policy](#).

In the coming months, we intend to revise estimates for recent years by making use of price data processed outside the UK HPI's 12-month revision period.

HM Land Registry (HMLR) transactions

In recent periods, the total transaction volumes available to calculate UK HPI estimates for the latest months have been lower than historically (see [UK HPI Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) Section 2.2: Accuracy](#)). This has arisen from a combination of total transaction volumes in England and Wales falling over the past year (HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has reported a 21% fall in the 12 months to December 2023) and a reduction in the proportion of transactions processed by HMLR for the first estimate.

The sample for the latest estimate is about half of usual volumes. We and HMLR are working together to resolve this, including seeking a greater balance between processing recently received applications and those that are older to help preserve the quality of UK HPI statistics. HMLR have recently increased UK HPI processing, so the proportion of total transactions processed for the first estimate is expected to increase from 14 February 2024's release. In the meantime, users should be aware that revisions may be larger than usual in coming months.

HMLR has increased the use of automation in application processing. This means that initial transaction numbers may be lower than pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic volumes; however, in the medium to long term, this will lead to higher volumes being processed.

We have temporarily changed the date we receive the transaction data from HMLR. As a result, we receive more transactions than those immediately seen in the published [HMLR's Price Paid Data datasets](#).

The processing of new build properties has been more affected than the processing of "old build" properties. Users are advised that estimates for new build properties may be less representative and more likely to be revised. To help address this, we have pooled new build transactions for certain months in England and Wales since 2020. Usually, new build volumes have been pooled for six months, but we have extended the pooling period because of low new build volumes to pool for 11 months. This means that:

- January 2023 includes new build transactions from December 2022 and January 2023
- February 2023 includes new build transactions from January and February 2023
- March 2023 includes new build transactions from February and March 2023
- April 2023 includes new build transactions from March and April 2023
- May 2023 includes new build transactions from April and May 2023
- June 2023 includes new build transactions from May and June 2023
- July 2023 includes new build transactions from June and July 2023
- August 2023 includes new build transactions from July and August 2023
- September 2023 includes new build transactions from August and September 2023
- October 2023 includes new build transactions from September and October 2023
- November 2023 includes new build transactions from October and November 2023

December 2023 has not been affected because the model for the first estimate does not use the new build indicator to predict property price because of the nature of their processing.

These changes might lead to larger revisions to published estimates than usual, especially for new build breakdowns. Further information on how we usually process the new build properties can be found in [HMLR's Quality and methodology guidance](#).

Sales volumes

Sales are only available for inclusion in the UK HPI after property purchases have been registered (or submitted for registration in Scotland), so are based on completed sales rather than advertised or approved prices. Registration takes time, so there can be a delay before transactions feed into UK HPI estimates. Estimates for the most recent months are provisional and likely to be revised as more data become available and are incorporated.

The provisional UK HPI estimates for December 2023 are based on approximately 13,700 records for England, which represents roughly 19% of the provisional property transactions estimate, published by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). UK HPI provisional estimates for November 2023 also include approximately 6,400 records for Scotland (86% of transactions) and approximately 900 records for Wales (23% of transactions). This represents the number of records that are available at the time of calculating the UK HPI and not the number of transactions that have taken place. As time progresses, more records will become available for December 2023 and will be used to revise the UK HPI in line with our published revision policy.

However, it should be noted that there are some coverage differences between the sales volumes used in the UK HPI dataset and the monthly property transactions statistics data. One reason for this difference is likely from misclassification between residential and non-residential transactions in HMRC data, as stated in their [Quality report](#), though HMRC take steps to reduce this measurement error. Another reason could be that residential property transactions where the buyer or seller is a corporate body, company or business, are excluded from the HMLR data in the UK HPI, but included in HMRC property transaction statistics. Because of these coverage differences, the UK HPI and HMRC property transactions volumes are not directly comparable, and sales volumes in the UK HPI are likely to be lower than transaction volume estimates published by HMRC.

Data sources

The main sources of data used in the UK are HMLR for England and Wales, Registers of Scotland, and HMRC's Stamp Duty Land Tax data for the Northern Ireland HPI.

Quality and methodology

From 20 December 2023's publication, a change was made to how property transactions for Great Britain with a missing Acorn classification are used in the regression model. This methodology improvement increases UK coherence and improves the quality of UK HPI statistics. More information is available in the [UK HPI Quality and Methodology Information](#) and in the [Acorn quality assurance information](#).

More information on quality and methodology, strengths and limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in [HMLR's UK House Price Index guidance on GOV.UK](#).

8 . Strengths and limitations

Further information on strengths and limitations of the data can be found in Section 1.4 of [HM Land Registry's \(HMLR's\) Quality and methodology guidance](#).

9 . Related links

[UK House Price Index: reports](#)

Report | Released 14 February 2024

Reports for the UK House Price Index (HPI) for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, also in CSV format. Includes commentary, historical data tables and analytical tools.

[Land Registry interactive tool](#)

Web page | Released 14 February 2024

Find access to background information on the UK HPI, help and support, and other index-linked data.

[Cost of living insights: Housing](#)

Interactive tool | Released 24 May 2023

The latest data and trends about the cost of living. Explore changes in housing costs and how this is affecting people.

[How are UK monthly mortgage repayments changing?](#)

Interactive tool | Released 8 March 2023

A personalised interactive calculator tool showing average monthly mortgage payments across the UK.

[Index of Private Housing Rental Prices](#)

Bulletin | Released 14 February 2024

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

[Consumer price inflation](#)

Bulletin | Released 14 February 2024

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

10 . Cite this statistical bulletin

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