

# House Price Index - October 2008

9 December 2008

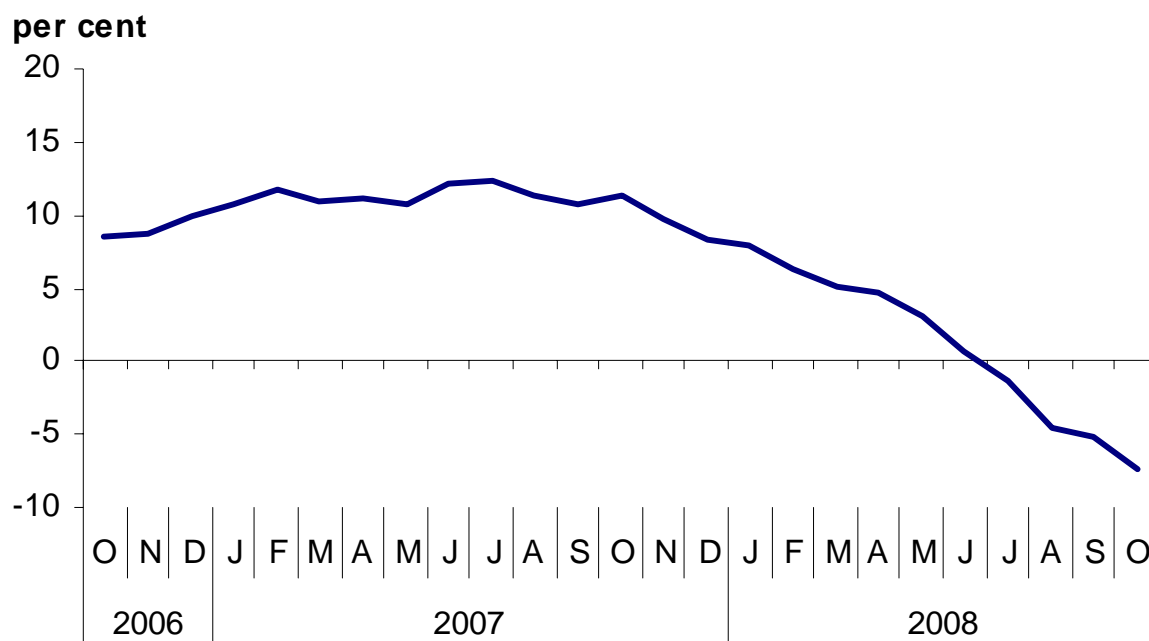
Headlines.....	1
House price index data:	
UK.....	2
Country.....	3
Region.....	4
Countries and Region.....	5
Type of buyer.....	6
Tables.....	7
Background notes.....	7
Further Information.....	8

- UK house prices were 7.4 per cent lower than in October 2007.
- The mix-adjusted average house price in the UK stood at £203,539 in October 2008 (not seasonally adjusted).
- UK house prices fell by 5.3 per cent in the quarter ending October 2008. This compares with a fall of 1.6 per cent for the quarter ending July 2008.
- Annual average house prices fell in England (-7.3 per cent), Wales (-7.8 per cent), Scotland (-4.5 per cent) and Northern Ireland (-20.5 per cent).
- Annual average house prices paid by first time buyers in October 2008 were 9.7 per cent lower than a year ago. By comparison average house prices paid by former owner occupiers were 6.6 per cent lower.

# housing

# House Price Index: UK

Figure 1: UK annual house price rates of change (all dwellings)



		UK		UK	
		All dwellings		All dwellings	
		Index	% change	£	
		Feb 02 = 100	over 12 months		
		Not seasonally adjusted			
2008	May	181.7	3.0		216,625
	Jun	180.4	0.6		215,029
	Jul	180.2	-1.4		214,867
	Aug	175.2	-4.6		208,892
	Sep	175.0	-5.1		208,583
	Oct	170.7	-7.4		203,539

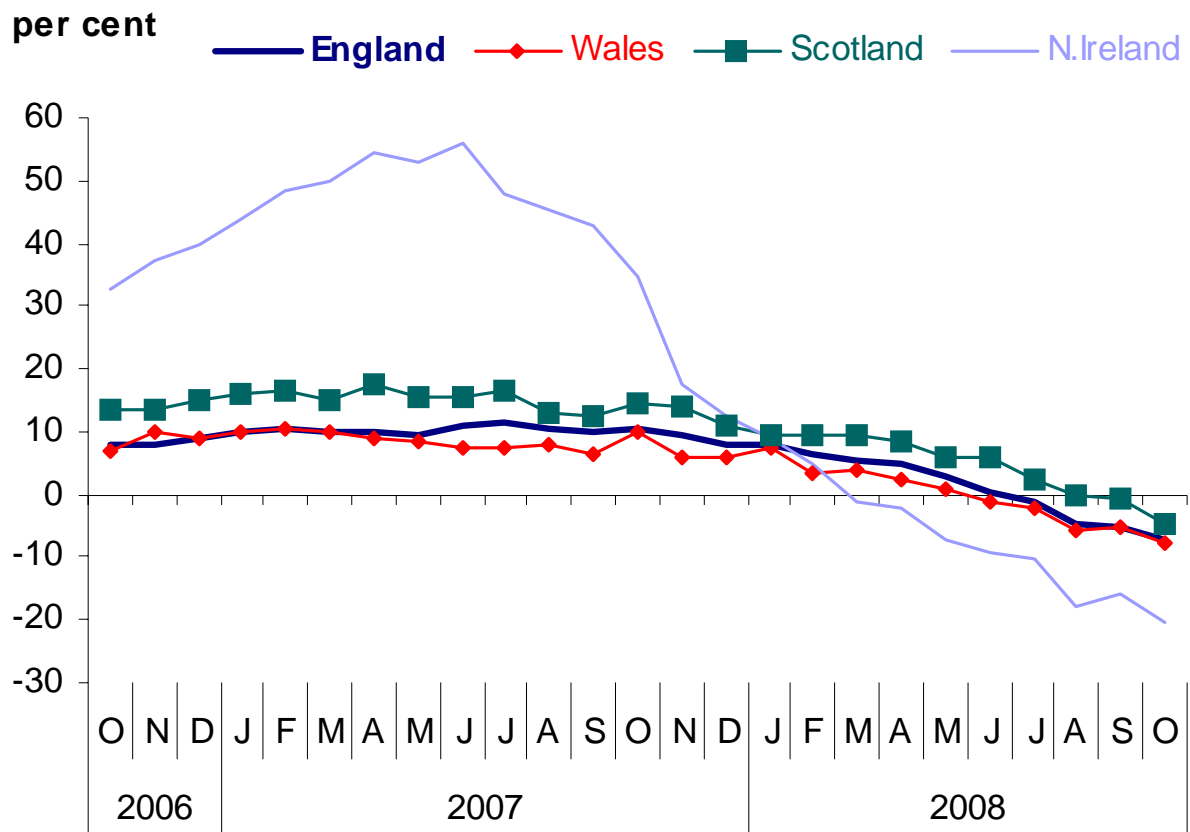
The UK average house price fell by 7.4 per cent in the year to October 2008, compared with a fall of 5.1 per cent in the year to September 2008. Between September and October there was a fall of 2.5 per cent in the prices index of properties bought compared with a rise of 0.1 per cent over the same period last year, resulting in a decrease in the annual rate.

The fall in UK prices between September and October 2008 can be attributed to decreases in average prices for flats (3.3 per cent), detached houses (3.1 per cent), bungalows (2.7 per cent), semi-detached houses (2.4 per cent) and terraced houses (1.1 per cent).

# House Price Index: Country

Annual house prices fell in all UK countries in the year to October 2008. Annual house price growth was -7.3 per cent in England, was -4.5 per cent in Scotland, was -7.8 per cent in Wales and was -20.5 per cent in Northern Ireland in October.

**Figure 2: House price rates of change by country**  
*12-month percentage change*



## House Price Index: Region

House price annual rates of change fell between September and October in all nine of the English regions.

The annual house price growth ranged from -5.6 per cent in the North West to -9.5 in the East Midlands and the South West. The annual growth rates in the other regions were -6.2 per cent in each of the North East and East, -6.6 per cent in the South East, -7.1 per cent in London, -7.7 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber and -8.7 per cent in the West Midlands.

**Figure 3: Regional house price indices**  
*12-month percentage change for the latest month*



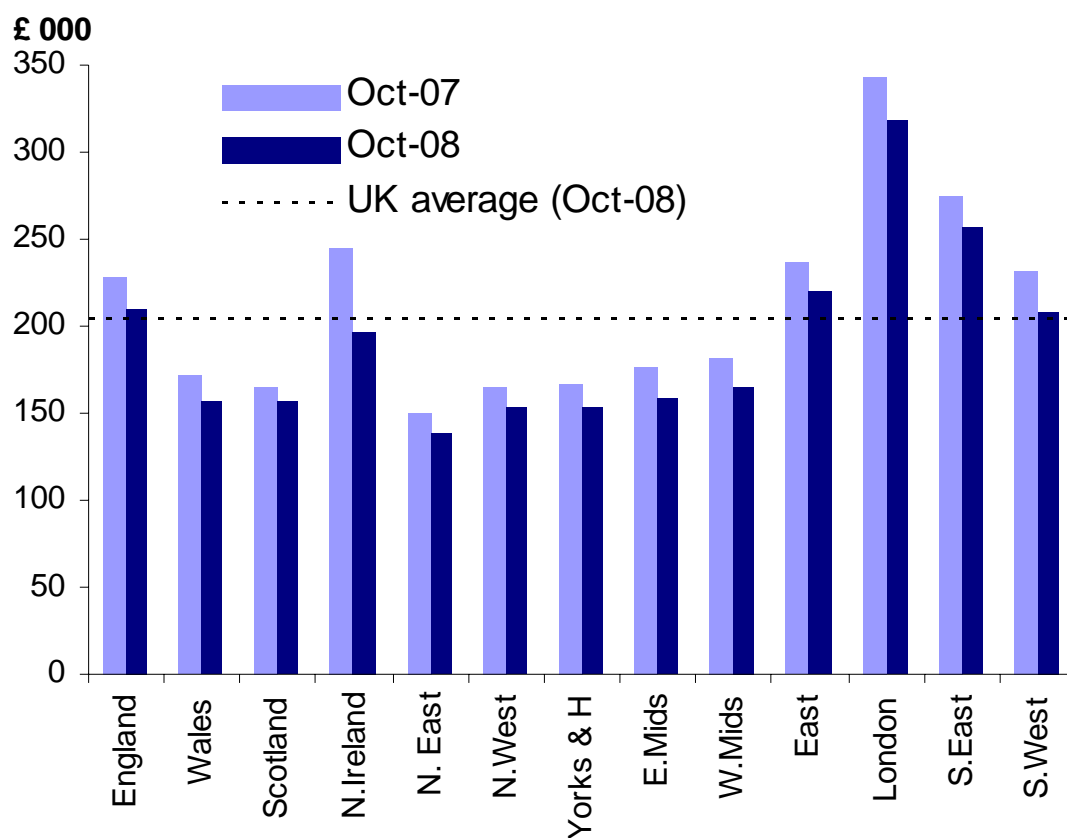
## House Prices: Countries and Regions

Mix-adjusted average house prices in October 2008 were £210,216 in England, £156,513 in Wales, £156,300 in Scotland and £197,009 in Northern Ireland.

The English region with the highest average house price in October remains London at £318,831. The lowest average price was in the North East at £138,575.

Of the English regions, only the East, London, South East and the South West had average prices above the UK average.

**Figure 4: Mix-adjusted average house prices**  
*Not seasonally adjusted*



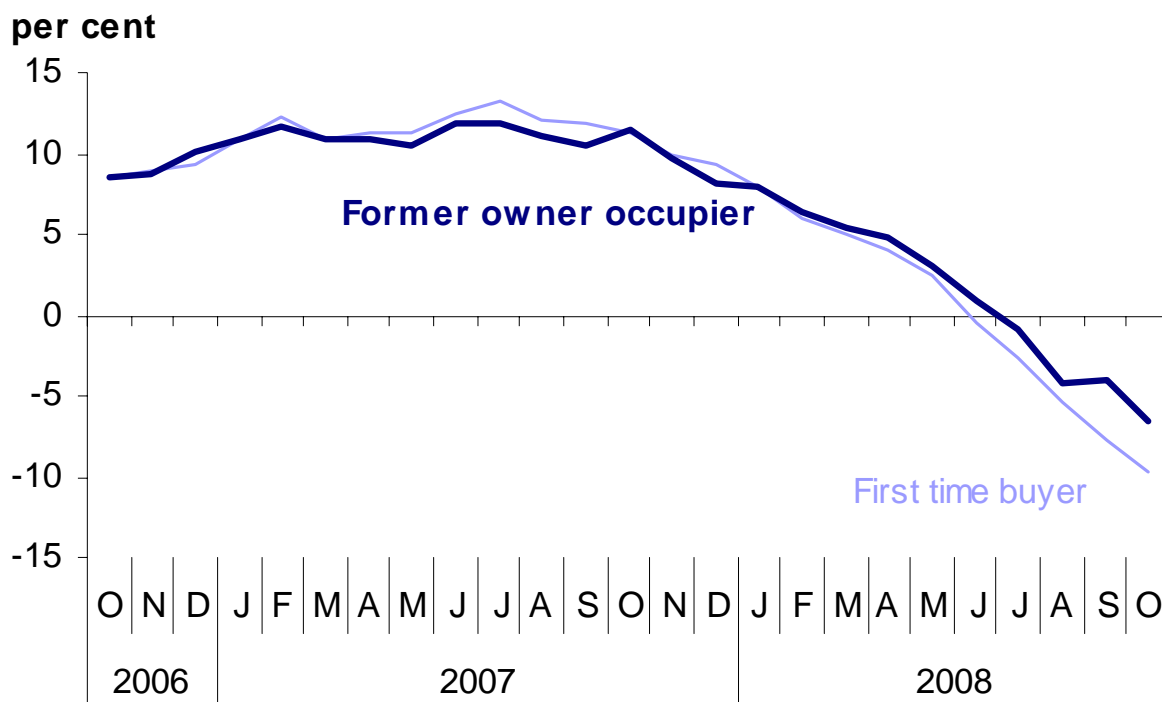
## House Price Index: Type of Buyer

The UK annual growth in house prices for first time buyers fell from -7.8 per cent in September to -9.7 per cent in October. There was a decrease of 2.3 per cent between September and October in the price of properties bought by first time buyers compared with a smaller fall of 0.2 per cent last year resulting in a decrease in the annual rate.

The annual house price growth rate for former owner occupiers was -6.6 per cent in October, down from -4.0 per cent in September. The prices index between September and October for properties bought by former owner occupiers fell by 2.4 per cent whereas there was a rise of 0.2 per cent at the same time last year resulting in an increase in the annual rate.

The average price paid by first time buyers across the whole of the UK was £146,921 in October, while the average price paid by former owner occupiers was £237,135.

**Figure 5: UK annual house price rates of change by type of buyer**  
*12-month percentage change*



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## Tables

Tables are from April 2006 to October 2008.

- A1: Mix-adjusted house price index and annual rates of change by region.
- A2: Mix-adjusted average house prices by region.
- A3: Mix-adjusted house price index and annual rates of change by type of buyer, UK
- A4: Mix-adjusted average house prices by type of buyer, UK.

These tables are available at [www.communities.gov.uk/housepriceindex](http://www.communities.gov.uk/housepriceindex)

Additional tables and earlier monthly data can be accessed in the 'Live tables' section (housing market and house prices) at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/>

## Background Notes

1. The mix-adjusted house price series are produced by Communities and Local Government and are being published as official statistics. Development of the methodology underpinning the indices has been undertaken in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics. In light of the recent Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 we will seek advice from the UK Statistics Authority, at the most appropriate time, to gain accreditation for the index as a 'National Statistic'.

2. Since October 2005 the new mix-adjusted house price index is based on an enlarged sample of completions data (about 50,000 per month during 2007) from about 60 mortgage lenders who supply data through the Regulated Mortgage Survey (RMS) of the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML)/BankSearch. Prior to this date the index was based on the Survey of Mortgage Lenders (SML) (about 25,000 completions per month). The number of cases received will also be affected by the total number of mortgages that have been completed.

3. In January of each year the index weights are revised to reflect the pattern of property transactions during the previous 3 years. The mix-adjusted average prices for the rest of the year are then determined using these new weights. Consequently whilst house prices **within** the year are comparable – they are all based on the same weights - house prices **between** years cannot be compared because last year's weights and this year's weights are different. The index itself is constructed on a chain-linked basis, which enables year-on-year comparisons to be made. This means that the year-on-year change in the index for October, say, is effectively the change in the average price from October 2007 to January 2008 (using the weights for 2007) combined with the change in the average price from January 2008 to October 2008 using the weights for 2008. Therefore, the year-on-year change in the index is not the same as the year-on-year change in the mix-adjusted average price.

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4. The Communities and Local Government index is currently showing a similar trend in annual house price rates to other indices available from commercial sources. Differences will be affected by differences in weighting. The Communities and Local Government index uses expenditure weights, whereas other indices use transaction weights. Consequently, the Communities and Local Government index is influenced by house price growth rates in the higher priced areas (which are currently in the South) where house prices - and therefore total expenditure on house buying - is highest. Similarly, regional rates of change in house prices determined by the Communities and Local Government are more influenced by the market for the higher priced properties (i.e. the demand for detached houses).

5. The Communities and Local Government house price index figures in this issue are based on completions during the month of October. Other recent indicators have been based on asking prices in November or based on mortgages approved during November. Therefore the Communities and Local Government figures are not directly comparable with these other indicators.

6. A month on month comparison of the Communities and Local Government index and price is not advised, as the series are not seasonally adjusted and comparisons over periods of less than a year could be affected by seasonal fluctuations.

7. Further details on the methodology of the index can be found in the "housing statistics by topic" section of Housing Statistics website, at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housingstatistics>.

8. Details of officials who receive pre-release access to the Communities and Local Government House Price Index up to 24 hours before release can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/prereleaseaccesslist.pdf>

9. Further quarterly and annual house price data can be found on the Communities and Local Government website in Housing Market Live tables 507, 508 and tables 590 to 594.

10. The next three release dates are:

- Tuesday 13 January 2009
- Tuesday 17 February 2009
- Tuesday 17 March 2009

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