

# House Price Index - January 2009

17 March 2009

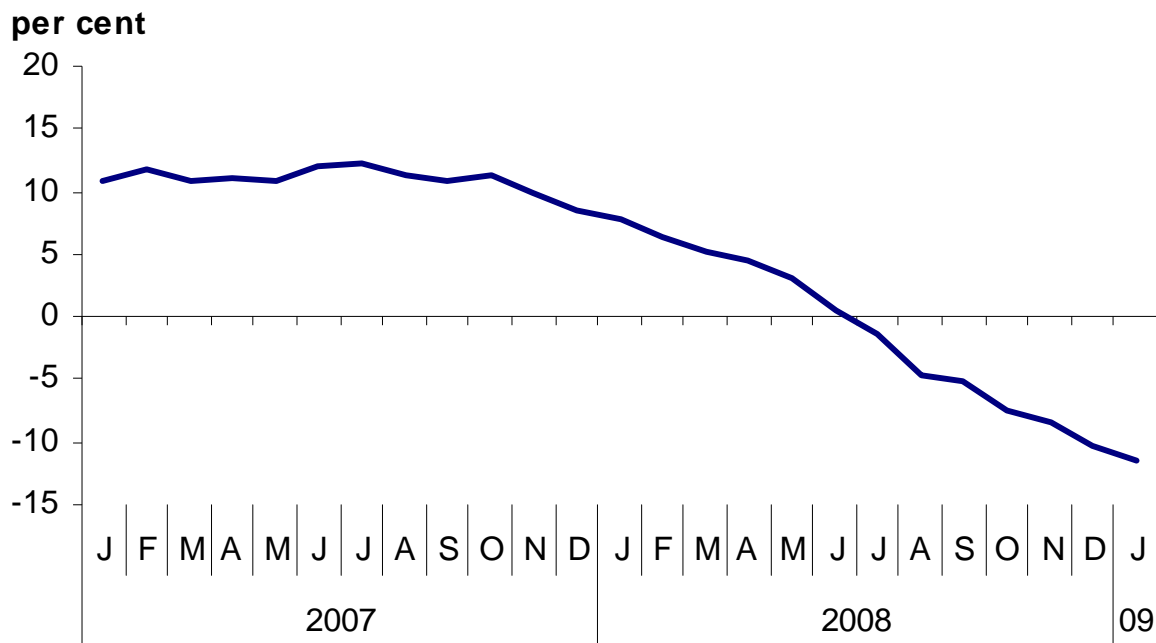
- UK house prices were 11.5 per cent lower than in January 2008.
- The mix-adjusted average house price in the UK stood at £195,724 in January 2009 (not seasonally adjusted).
- UK house prices fell by 3.9 per cent in the quarter ending January 2009. This compares with a fall of 5.2 per cent for the quarter ending October 2008.
- Annual average house prices fell in England (-11.8 per cent), Wales (-10.4 per cent), Scotland (-6.3 per cent) and Northern Ireland (-14.3 per cent).
- Annual average house prices paid by first time buyers in January 2009 were 15.4 per cent lower than a year ago. By comparison average house prices paid by former owner occupiers were 10.0 per cent lower.

Headlines.....	1
House price index data:	
UK.....	2
Country.....	3
Region.....	4
Countries and Region...	5
Type of buyer.....	6
Tables.....	7
Background notes.....	8
Further Information.....	9

# housing

# House Price Index: UK

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



		UK		UK	
		All dwellings		All dwellings	
		Index Feb 02 = 100	% change over 12 months	£	
		Not seasonally adjusted			
2008	Aug	175.2	-4.6	208,892	
	Sep	175.0	-5.1	208,583	
	Oct	170.8	-7.4	203,580	
	Nov	167.7	-8.5	199,933	
	Dec	163.8	-10.2	195,317	
2009	Jan	164.2	-11.5	195,724	

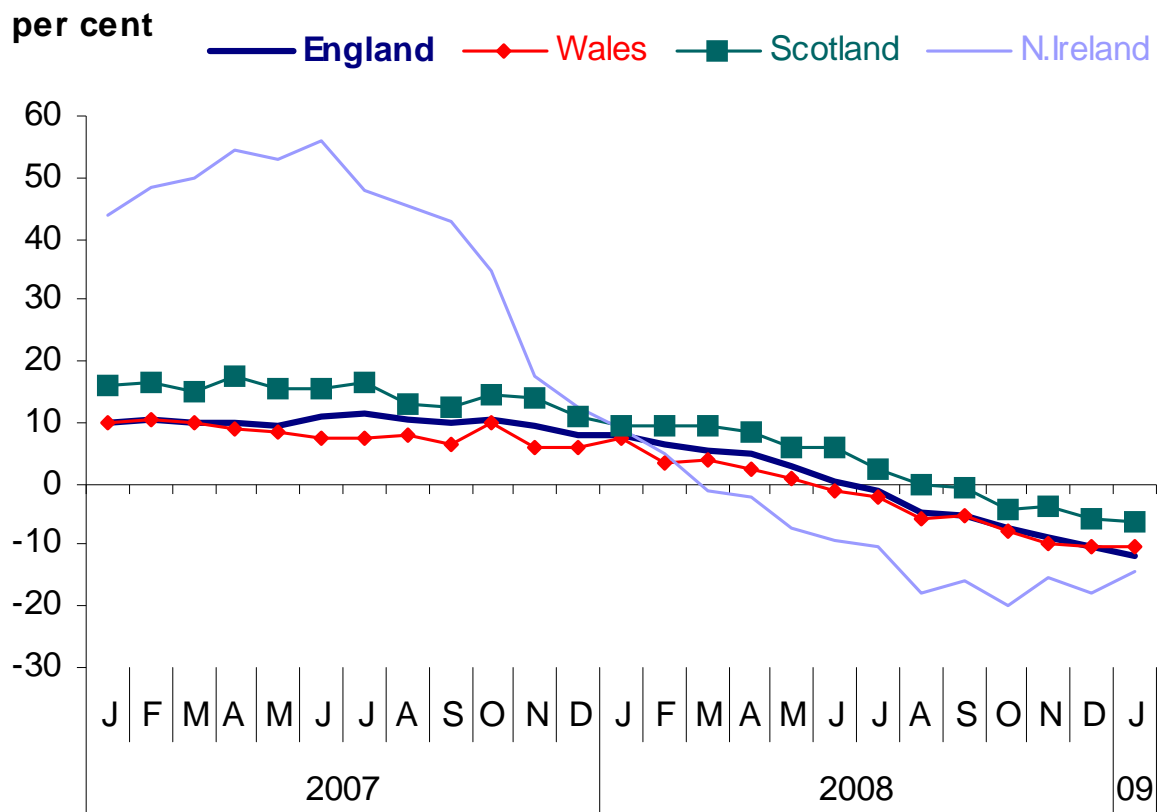
The UK average house price fell by 11.5 per cent in the year to January 2009, compared with a fall of 10.2 per cent in the year to December 2008. Between December and January there was a rise of 0.2 per cent in the prices index of properties bought compared with a larger rise of 1.6 per cent over the same period last year, resulting in a decrease in the annual rate.

The rise in UK prices between December 2008 and January 2009 can be attributed to an increase in average prices for detached houses (4.9 per cent). It is offset by falls in the average prices of terraced houses (2.3 per cent), flats (1.8 per cent), bungalows (0.9 per cent) and semi-detached houses (0.4 per cent).

## House Price Index: Country

Annual house prices fell in all UK countries in the year to January 2009. Annual house price growth was -11.8 per cent in England, was -10.4 per cent in Wales, was -6.3 per cent in Scotland and was -14.3 per cent in Northern Ireland in January.

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



## House Price Index: Region

Average house prices fell in five of the nine English regions during January.

The annual house price growth ranged from -9.3 per cent in the West Midlands to -14.1 in the East Midlands. The annual growth rates in the other regions were -9.8 per cent in the North East, -10.0 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber, -10.5 per cent in the North West, -11.3 in the East, -11.6 per cent in the South East, -11.7 per cent in the South West and -13.9 per cent in London.

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



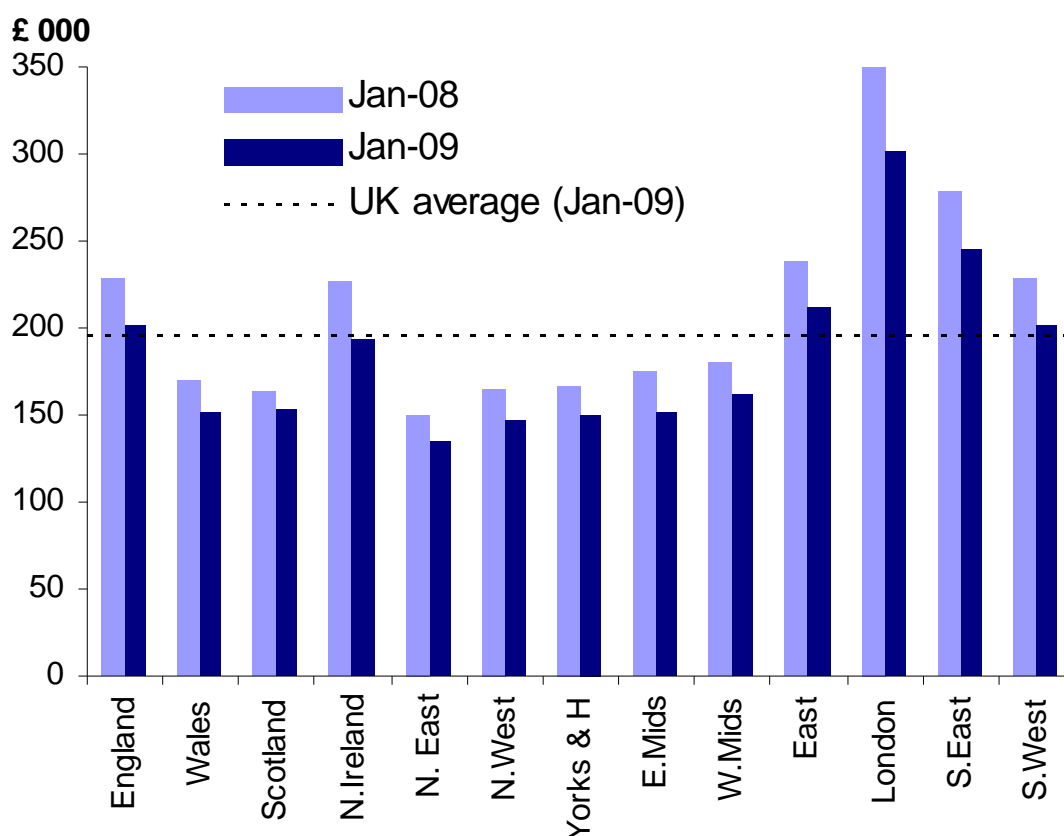
## House Prices: Countries and Regions

Mix-adjusted average house prices in January 2009 were £201,769 in England, £152,375 in Wales, £152,559 in Scotland and £193,574 in Northern Ireland.

The English region with the highest average house price in January remains London at £301,383. The lowest average price was in the North East at £135,589.

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*



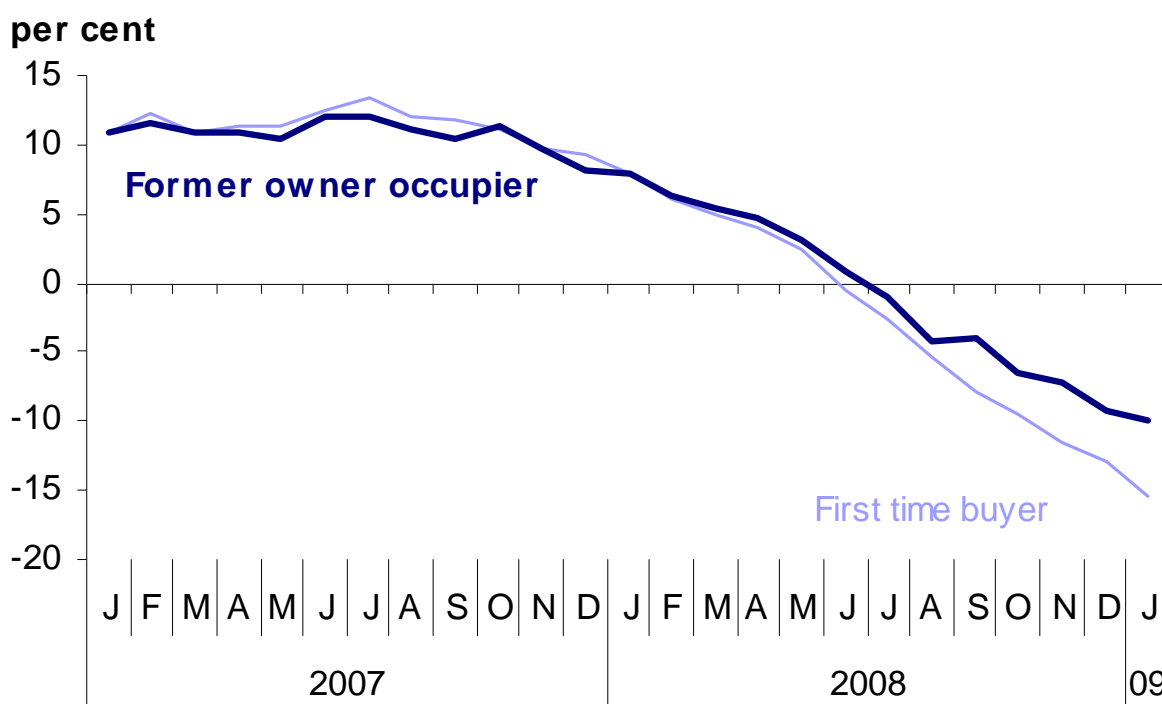
## House Price Index: Type of Buyer

The UK annual growth in house prices for first time buyers fell from -13.0 per cent in December to -15.4 per cent in January. There was a decrease of 2.0 per cent between December and January in the price of properties bought by first time buyers compared with a small rise of 0.8 per cent last year resulting in a decrease in the annual rate.

The annual house price growth rate for former owner occupiers was -10.0 per cent in January, down from -9.2 per cent in December. The prices index between December and January for properties bought by former owner occupiers rose by 1.0 per cent compared with a larger rise of 1.9 per cent at the same time last year resulting in a decrease in the annual rate.

The average price paid by first time buyers across the whole of the UK was £138,089 in January, while the average price paid by former owner occupiers was £229,924.

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



---

## Tables

Tables are from July 2006 to January 2009.

- 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:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/publications/house-price-index/>

Additional tables and earlier 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 January 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 November, say, is effectively the change in the average price from November 2007 to December 2007 (using the weights for 2007) combined with the change in the average price from January 2008 to November 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. The prices for January 2009 published in this Statistical Release use the weights for 2008 to enable a proper comparison with the prices for December 2008. Prices for January on 2009 weights will be published along with the prices for February on 15th April.

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 January. Other recent indicators have been based on asking prices in March or based on mortgages approved during February. Therefore the Communities

---

and Local Government figures are not directly comparable with these other indicators. The October and December figures presented in this release have been revised this month due to receipt of additional data from lenders that only supply data at the end of the quarter.

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/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/>.

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/statistics/pdf/hpiprereleaseaccess.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:

- Wednesday 15 April 2009
- Tuesday 12 May 2009
- Tuesday 9 June 2009

## Further Information:

**Media Enquiries:** office hours: 020 7944 5274  
020 7944 4299  
out of hours: 020 7944 5945  
e-mail: [press@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**Public enquiries:** e-mail: [housing.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:housing.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk)  
telephone: 020 7944 3303

---

Department for Communities and Local Government. © Crown Copyright, 2009

If you require this publication in an alternative format please email: [alternativeformats@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@communities.gsi.gov.uk). Please note that the nature of content means that we may not be able to provide the Statistical series of publications in all requested formats.

March 2009

ISBN: 978-1-4098-1325-5

---

Housing Statistical Release 10