

## [Update on the Implementation of the Whiplash Reform Programme](#)

I would like to provide an update on next steps for the Whiplash Reform Programme.

The government remains firmly committed to implementing these measures which are intended to control the number and cost of whiplash claims. Under the Programme, we will increase the small claims track limit for road traffic accident related personal injury claims to £5,000; as well as introduce a fixed tariff of damages for pain, suffering and loss of amenity for whiplash injuries, and a ban on the making or accepting of offers to settle a whiplash claim without a medical report.

The government indicated on 27 February 2020 that after careful consideration it had decided to implement the whiplash reforms in August 2020. However, it is apparent that the current Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the medical, legal and insurance sectors. While the whiplash reform measures remain important, the government is committed to acting to ease the disruption and pressures caused by the Covid-19 outbreak where it can.

As a result, the government has considered representations from key stakeholder groups and agrees that now is not the time to press ahead with significant transformational change to the personal injury sector.

We have therefore decided to delay the implementation of the whiplash reform programme to April 2021. This will enable key sectors of this country's business to focus their energies on delivering their response to Covid-19, and will allow the government to focus on delivering key services in the justice area during this difficult time.

The government will continue to monitor developments in relation to the current pandemic and will, if necessary, make further announcements in regard to the implementation of these important reforms.

---

## [ACMD advice on administration rights for therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers](#)

Dr Owen Bowden-Jones, chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and Professor Roger Knaggs, the chair of the ACMD's Technical Committee, write to ministers to provide the ACMD's advice on the

administration rights of morphine by injection for therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers.

The [government's response](#) to this letter is now available.

---

## [Fatal accident near Roade](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

---

## [COVID-19: CMA approach to merger assessments](#)



Following its [statement about working practices](#) issued on 18 March, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has set out more detail on its approach to merger investigations during the Coronavirus pandemic.

It has produced [guidance on Merger assessments during the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#) to provide further information on key aspects of its practice, including information-gathering, the timing of investigations and the conduct of meetings and hearings, as well as its approach to interim measures and substantive assessment. As an Annex to the guidance, the CMA has also issued a 'refresher' on [how it is likely to approach 'failing firm' claims in merger investigations](#).

The CMA is conscious of the challenges that Coronavirus brings for businesses involved in CMA investigations and will seek to take these into account where it can. All merger investigations follow established processes and are subject to legally binding deadlines, however, and these timescales have not changed as a result of Coronavirus.

The CMA's overall approach to assessing the circumstances in which a merger causes competition concerns remains unchanged. The CMA will continue to assess deals and will take the appropriate action where necessary to protect UK consumers. It will, however, carefully consider the available evidence in relation to the possible impacts of Coronavirus on competition in each case.

Today's guidance follows the publication of CMA's [approach to essential business cooperation](#) during the current crisis.

Published 22 April 2020

Last updated 22 April 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 22 April 2020

First published.

---

## [UK House Price Index for February 2020](#)

The February data shows:

- on average, house prices have fallen by 0.6% since January 2020
- there has been an annual price rise of 1.1%, which makes the average property in the UK valued at £230,332

### **England**

In England the February data shows, on average, house prices have fallen by 0.6% since January 2020. The annual price rise of 0.8% takes the average property value to £246,341.

The regional data for England indicates that:

- the South West experienced the greatest monthly price rise, up by 0.5%
- the East Midlands saw the most significant monthly price fall, down by 1%
- London experienced the greatest annual price rise, up by 2.3%
- the East of England saw the lowest annual price growth, down by 1%

## Price change by region for England

Region	Average price February 2020	Monthly change % since January 2020
East Midlands	£192,244	-1.5
East of England	£286,869	-0.7
London	£476,972	0.2
North East	£125,053	-1.3
North West	£163,602	-0.5
South East	£321,329	-0.4
South West	£258,044	0.5
West Midlands	£198,658	-1.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	£162,334	-1.0

## Repossession sales by volume for England

The lowest number of repossession sales in December 2019 was in the East of England.

The highest number of repossession sales in December 2019 was in the North West.

Repossession sales	December 2019
East Midlands	33
East of England	16
London	44
North East	65
North West	149
South East	53
South West	32
West Midlands	61
Yorkshire and The Humber	87
England	540

## Average price by property type for England

Property type	February 2020	February 2019	Difference %
Detached	£374,490	£373,299	0.3
Semi-detached	£231,431	£228,633	1.2
Terraced	£199,631	£196,809	1.4
Flat/maisonette	£223,299	£223,812	-0.2
All	£246,341	£244,427	0.8

## Funding and buyer status for England

Transaction type	Average price February 2020	Annual price change % since February 2019	Monthly price change % since January 2020
------------------	-----------------------------	---	---

Transaction type	Average price February 2020	Annual price change % since February 2019	Monthly price change % since January 2020
Cash	£232,030	0.9	-0.2
Mortgage	£253,585	0.8	-0.8
First-time buyer	£206,214	0.5	-0.6
Former owner occupier	£280,173	1.0	-0.6

### Building status for England

Building status*	Average price December 2019	Annual price change % since December 2018	Monthly price change % since November 2019
New build	£304,479	0.9	3.2
Existing resold property	£245,312	1.0	0.0

\*Figures for the 2 most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

## London

London shows, on average, house prices have risen by 0.2% since January 2020. An annual price rise of 2.3% takes the average property value to £476,972.

### Average price by property type for London

Property type	February 2020	February 2019	Difference %
Detached	£920,395	£897,130	2.6
Semi-detached	£588,578	£571,003	3.1
Terraced	£500,852	£484,811	3.3
Flat/maisonette	£414,307	£407,751	1.6
All	£476,972	£466,068	2.3

### Funding and buyer status for London

Transaction type	Average price February 2020	Annual price change % since February 2019	Monthly price change % since January 2020
Cash	£498,164	2.0	0.2
Mortgage	£470,403	2.4	0.1
First-time buyer	£415,833	1.9	0.1
Former owner occupier	£540,714	2.9	0.2

### Building status for London

Building status*	Average price December 2019	Annual price change % since December 2018	Monthly price change % since November 2019
------------------	--------------------------------	---	--

Building status*	Average price December 2019	Annual price change % since December 2018	Monthly price change % since November 2019
New build	£488,122	0.0	5.5
Existing resold property	£479,474	1.5	1.9

\*Figures for the 2 most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

## Wales

Wales shows, on average, house prices have risen by 1.2% since January 2020. An annual price rise of 3.4% takes the average property value to £164,435.

There were 46 repossession sales for Wales in December 2019.

### Average price by property type for Wales

Property type	February 2020	February 2019	Difference %
Detached	£247,282	£240,555	2.8
Semi-detached	£158,811	£153,069	3.8
Terraced	£128,518	£122,989	4.5
Flat/maisonette	£113,397	£113,459	-0.1
All	£164,435	£159,018	3.4

### Funding and buyer status for Wales

Transaction type	Average price February 2020	Annual price change % since February 2019	Monthly price change % since January 2020
Cash	£159,685	3.4	1.6
Mortgage	£167,277	3.5	0.9
First-time buyer	£142,019	3.4	1.4
Former owner occupier	£190,543	3.4	0.9

### Building status for Wales

Building status*	Average price December 2019	Annual price change % since December 2018	Monthly price change % since November 2019
New build	£217,423	1.7	0.5
Existing resold property	£163,423	2.7	-1.7

\*Figures for the 2 most recent months are not being published because there are not enough new build transactions to give a meaningful result.

[Access the full UK HPI](#)

Please note: The heatmaps that are usually published in the full report will be unavailable this month due to the impact the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had on operational services.

Please note: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole data for 2018 to 2020 is missing from the February UK HPI report (published 22 April) due to data issues. The full dataset will be available in the March UK HPI report (published 20 May).

## UK house prices

UK house prices increased by 1.1% in the year to February 2020, down from 1.5% in January 2020. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, average house prices in the UK decreased by 0.6% between January 2020 and February 2020, compared with a fall of 0.3% during the same period a year earlier (January 2019 and February 2019).

The [UK Property Transactions Statistics](#) for February 2020 showed that on a seasonally adjusted basis, the estimated number of transactions of residential properties with a value of £40,000 or greater was 103,870. This is 6% higher than a year ago. Between January 2020 and February 2020, transactions increased by 4.5%.

House price growth was strongest in Wales where prices increased by 3.4% over the year to February 2020, up from 2.5% in January 2020. The highest annual growth within the English regions was in London, where average house prices grew by 2.3%, this was due to a decrease in average house price between January 2019 and February 2019. The lowest, and only negative, annual growth was in the East of England, where prices decreased by 1% over the year to February 2020.

See the [economic statement](#).

## Background

1. The UK House Price Index (HPI) is published on the second or third Wednesday of each month with Northern Ireland figures updated quarterly. The March 2020 UK HPI will be published at 9.30am on Wednesday 20 May 2020. See [calendar of release dates](#).
2. We have made some changes to improve the accuracy of the UK HPI. We are not publishing average price and percentage change for new builds and existing resold property as done previously because there are not currently enough new build transactions to provide a reliable result. This means that in this month's UK HPI reports, new builds and existing resold property are reported in line with the sales volumes currently available.

3. The UK HPI revision period has been extended to 13 months, following a review of the revision policy (see [calculating the UK HPI](#) section 4.4). This ensures the data used is more comprehensive.
4. Sales volume data is also available by property status (new build and existing property) and funding status (cash and mortgage) in our [downloadable data tables](#). Transactions involving the creation of a new register, such as new builds, are more complex and require more time to process. Read [revisions to the UK HPI data](#).
5. Revision tables have been introduced for England and Wales within the downloadable data. Tables will be available in csv format. See [about the UK HPI](#) for more information.
6. Data for the UK HPI is provided by HM Land Registry, Registers of Scotland, Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Valuation Office Agency.
7. The UK HPI is calculated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Land & Property Services/Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. It applies a hedonic regression model that uses the various sources of data on property price, in particular HM Land Registry's Price Paid Dataset, and attributes to produce estimates of the change in house prices each month. Find out more about the methodology used from the [ONS](#) and [Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency](#).
8. The [UK Property Transaction statistics](#) are taken from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) monthly estimates of the number of residential and non-residential property transactions in the UK and its constituent countries. The number of property transactions in the UK is highly seasonal, with more activity in the summer months and less in the winter. This regular annual pattern can sometimes mask the underlying movements and trends in the data series so HMRC also presents the UK aggregate transaction figures on a seasonally adjusted basis. Adjustments are made for both the time of year and the construction of the calendar, including corrections for the position of Easter and the number of trading days in a particular month.
9. UK HPI seasonally adjusted series are calculated at regional and national levels only. See [data tables](#).
10. The first estimate for new build average price (April 2016 report) was based on a small sample which can cause volatility. A three-month moving average has been applied to the latest estimate to remove some of this volatility.

11. Work has been taking place since 2014 to develop a single, official HPI that reflects the final transaction price for sales of residential property in the UK. Using the geometric mean, it covers purchases at market value for owner-occupation and buy-to-let, excluding those purchases not at market value (such as re-mortgages), where the 'price' represents a valuation.
12. Information on residential property transactions for England and Wales, collected as part of the official registration process, is provided by HM Land Registry for properties that are sold for full market value.
13. The HM Land Registry dataset contains the sale price of the property, the date when the sale was completed, full address details, the type of property (detached, semi-detached, terraced or flat), if it is a newly built property or an established residential building and a variable to indicate if the property has been purchased as a financed transaction (using a mortgage) or as a non-financed transaction (cash purchase).
14. Repossession sales data is based on the number of transactions lodged with HM Land Registry by lenders exercising their power of sale.
15. For England, this is shown as volumes of repossession sales recorded by Government Office Region. For Wales, there is a headline figure for the number of repossession sales recorded in Wales.
16. The data can be downloaded as a .csv file. Repossession sales data prior to April 2016 is not available. Find out more information about [repossession sales](#).
17. Background tables of the raw and cleansed aggregated data, in Excel and CSV formats, are also published monthly although Northern Ireland is on a quarterly basis. They are available for free use and re-use under the Open Government Licence.
18. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.
19. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.
20. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth in excess of £7 trillion, including over £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land

Register contains more than 25 million titles showing evidence of ownership for some 87% of the land mass of England and Wales.

21. For further information about HM Land Registry visit [www.gov.uk/land-registry](http://www.gov.uk/land-registry)
22. Follow us on [Twitter](#), our [blog](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).