

Statistical bulletin

# Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: August 2023

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

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# 1 . Main points

- Private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK rose by 5.5% in the 12 months to August 2023, up from 5.3% in the 12 months to July 2023.
- Annual private rental prices increased by 5.4% in England, 6.5% in Wales, and 6.0% in Scotland in the 12 months to August 2023.
- Within England, London had the highest annual percentage change in private rental prices in the 12 months to August 2023 at 5.9%, while the North East and South West saw the lowest (4.8%).
- London's annual percentage change in private rental prices was at its highest annual rate since the London data series began in January 2006.

## 2 . UK private rental prices

Private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK increased by 5.5% in the 12 months to August 2023 (provisional estimate), representing the largest annual percentage change since this UK data series began in January 2016.

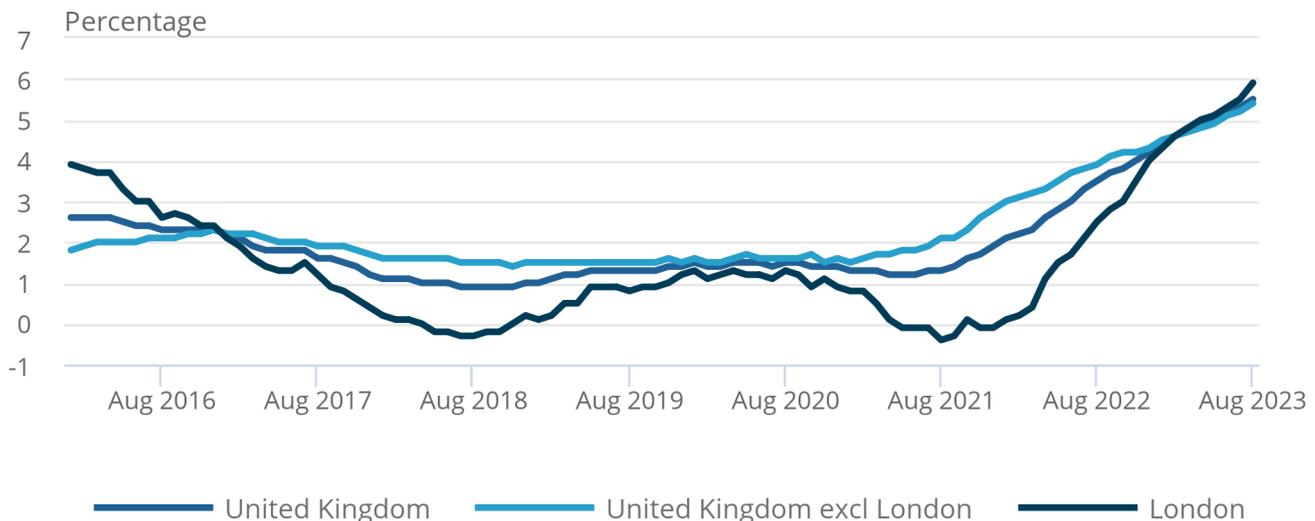
The UK estimates have a two-month revision period (see [Section 7: Measuring the data](#)) so the UK-level estimates for July 2023 and August 2023 are provisional and are subject to revision. All statistics are non-seasonally adjusted estimates, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

### Figure 1: The UK annual private rental price percentage change rose to 5.5% in the 12 months to August 2023

Private rental price percentage change over 12 months, UK and London, January 2016 to August 2023

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Private rental price percentage change over 12 months, UK and London, January 2016 to August 2023



Source: Index of Private Housing Rental Prices from the Office for National Statistics

#### Notes:

1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted. More information is available in [Section 8: Strengths and Limitations](#).
2. Northern Ireland data is currently available up to June 2023. To estimate UK figures up to August 2023, Northern Ireland's June 2023 index has been carried forward. Updated Northern Ireland data will be available for publication on 18 October 2023 and will be used to revise UK estimates for July 2023 and August 2023.

The annual inflation rate of private rental prices in the UK began to increase in the second half of 2021 (Figure 1). Annual growth was seen across all regions except London, where prices decreased. The annual percentage change in rents increased across all regions in 2022, including in London, and this has continued during 2023.

In the 12 months to August 2023, rental prices for the UK (excluding London) increased by 5.4% (provisional estimate). This is up from an increase of 5.2% (revised estimate) in the 12 months to July 2023. Private rental prices in London account for almost a third of UK rental expenditure, as shown in our [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: annual weights analysis dataset](#). Private rental prices in London increased by 5.9% in the 12 months to August 2023, up from an increase of 5.5% in the 12 months to July 2023. This is the highest annual percentage change since the London data series began in January 2006.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) reported in their [August 2023 UK Residential Market Survey](#) that tenant demand continued to rise. All UK regions and countries have seen a sustained uplift in the demand for rented accommodation in recent months. They also reported a decline in landlord instructions once again. With rising demand and declining supply, RICS noted that rental prices are expected to increase over the upcoming three months.

Supply and demand pressures can take time to be reflected in the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP). This is because the index reflects price changes for all private rental properties, rather than only newly advertised rental properties. Our [Measuring rents: stock vs flow blog post](#) explains how we measure price change in the IPHRP.

## 3 . Annual UK private rental price percentage change by country

### England

In England, private rental prices increased by 5.4% in the 12 months to August 2023, up from 5.2% in the 12 months to July 2023. When London is excluded from England, private rental prices increased by 5.2% in the 12 months to August 2023. The figures are the highest annual percentage changes since these data series began in January 2006.

### Wales

Private rental prices in Wales increased by 6.5% in the 12 months to August 2023. This was the highest of all the countries in Great Britain and little changed from the price increase in the 12 months to July 2023.

The stock measure for the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) remains substantially below private sector measures of inflation for new tenancies. For example, [HomeLet's annual inflation for new tenancies in Wales](#) was 8.2% in the 12 months to August 2023. On a monthly basis, HomeLet reported an increase of 0.5% in August 2023. The recent rise in the IPHRP's annual inflation for Wales likely reflects the increase in annual inflation for new lets over the past year.

### Scotland

Private rental prices in Scotland increased by 6.0% in the 12 months to August 2023, up from 5.7% in the 12 months to July 2023. This is the highest annual percentage change since the Scotland data series began in January 2012. The [Cost of Living \(Tenant Protection\) Scotland Bill](#) has capped in-tenancy rental price increases in Scotland since late 2022 (described in [Section 7: Measuring the data](#)).

The IPHRP's stock measure was 6.0% in the 12 months to August 2023. This remains substantially below [HomeLet's annual inflation of 14.4% for new tenancies in Scotland](#). The continued rise in the IPHRP's annual inflation for Scotland since this bill was passed likely reflects the high annual inflation for new lets (which are not subject to the price cap) over the past year. This is because it feeds into IPHRP's stock measure.

Scotland rents data (underlying the IPHRP's stock measure) is mainly for advertised new lets, which are not subject to the price cap. We advise users to bear this in mind when interpreting estimates for Scotland and comparing with other UK countries.

## Northern Ireland

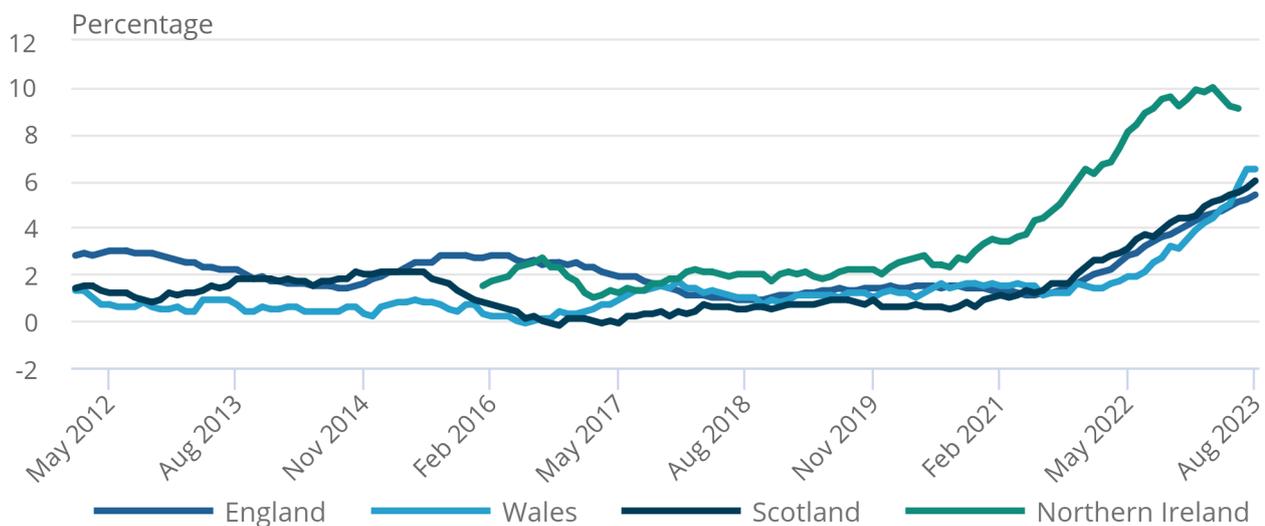
Private rental prices in Northern Ireland increased by 9.1% in the 12 months to June 2023. The annual rate for Northern Ireland has slowed since the recent peak of 10.0% in the 12 months to March 2023. However, it still remains higher than for other UK countries. Northern Ireland data lag behind the rest of the UK and will be updated in our next [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK bulletin](#), due to be published on 18 October 2023.

### Figure 2: Annual rental price inflation was higher in Wales than in England and Scotland

Private rental price percentage change over 12 months for countries of the UK, January 2012 to August 2023

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Private rental price percentage change over 12 months for countries of the UK, January 2012 to August 2023



Source: Index of Private Housing Rental Prices from the Office for National Statistics

#### Notes:

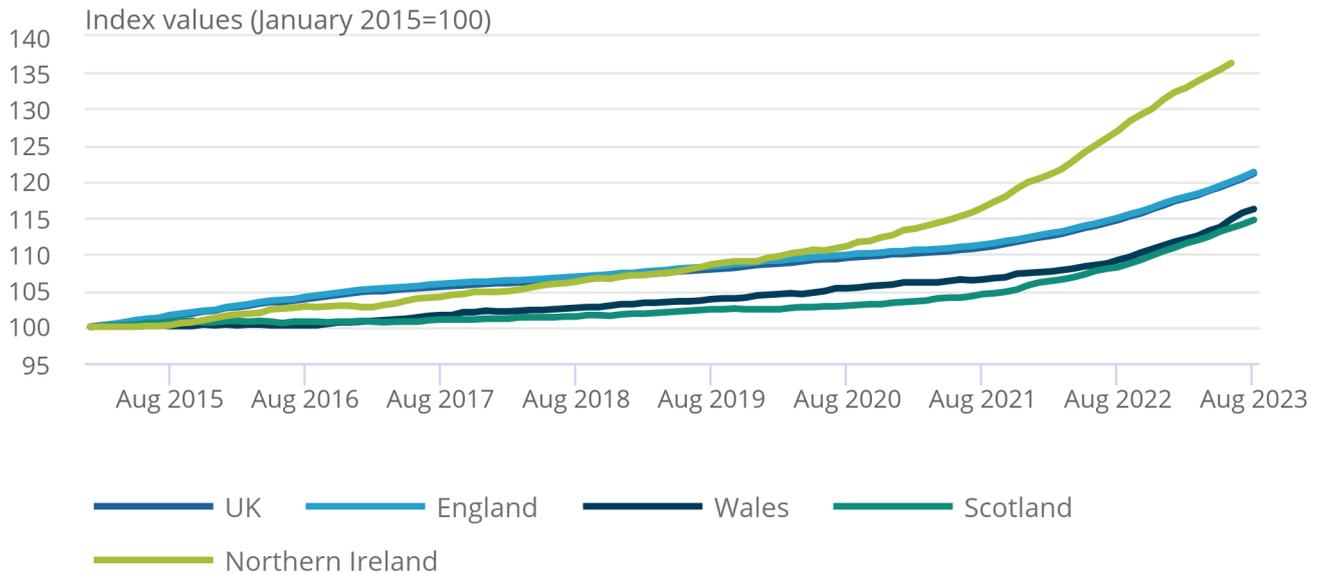
1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted. More information is available in [Section 8: Strengths and Limitations](#).
2. Northern Ireland data are currently available up to June 2023. Updated data will be available for publication on 18 October 2023.
3. The [Cost of Living \(Tenant Protection\) Scotland Bill](#) passed on 6 October 2022, introducing a temporary rent cap in the private rented sector in Scotland. This cap, which applies to in-tenancy rent increases, was initially set at 0% for rent-increase notices served from 6 September 2022 until 31 March 2023. Private landlords could alternatively apply for a rent increase of up to 3% to help cover certain increases in costs in defined and limited circumstances. The bill has since been extended to 30 September 2023, with a mid-tenancy rent-increase cap of 3% from 1 April 2023. Private landlords are able to apply for a rent increase of up to 6% to help cover certain increases in costs in defined and limited circumstances.

### Figure 3: Rental prices have increased more in England and Northern Ireland than in Wales and Scotland since 2015

Private rental price indices for countries of the UK, January 2015 to August 2023

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Private rental price indices for countries of the UK, January 2015 to August 2023



Source: Index of Private Housing Rental Prices from the Office for National Statistics

#### Notes:

1. Data presented are classified as Experimental Statistics. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted. More information is available in [Section 8: Strengths and limitations](#).
2. Northern Ireland data are currently available up to June 2023. Updated data will be available for publication on 18 October 2023.
3. See Footnote 3 below Figure 2.

## 4 . Annual UK private rental price percentage change by English region

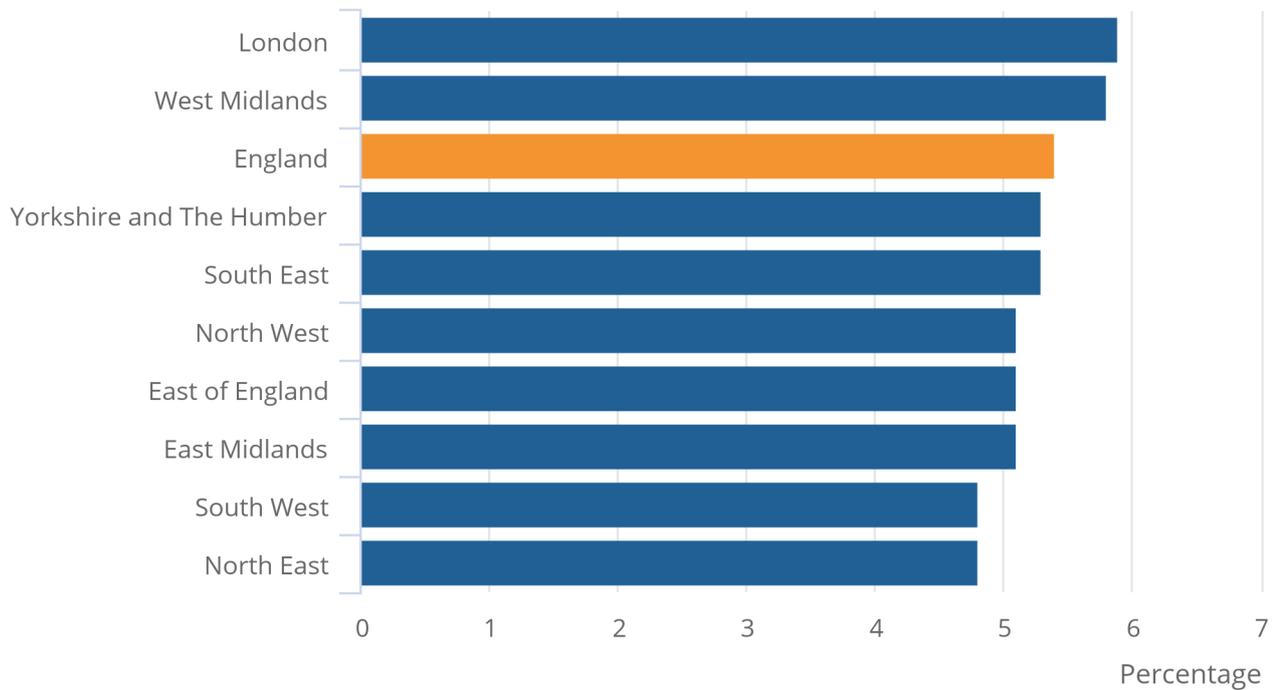
London's annual rents inflation was 5.9% in the 12 months to August 2023. This was the highest out of all the English regions. The lowest was in the North East and the South West, at 4.8% in the 12 months to August 2023.

**Figure 4: Highest annual rents inflation was in London**

Private rental price percentage change over the 12 months to August 2023, by English region

### Figure 4: Highest annual rents inflation was in London

Private rental price percentage change over the 12 months to August 2023, by English region



Source: Index of Private Housing Rental Prices from the Office for National Statistics

**Figure 5: London rental prices experienced larger peaks and troughs than other regions**

Private rental price percentage change over 12 months, by English region, January 2007 to August 2023

Notes:

1. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted.
2. The grey line shows England's 12-month average rental price percentage change.

Download the data

[.xlsx](#)

## 5 . Private rental data

[Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: monthly estimates](#)

Dataset | Released 20 September 2023

Rental price statistics historical data time series (indices and annual percentage change).

[Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: annual weights analysis](#)

Dataset | Released 22 March 2023

Aggregate weights information used in the experimental Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP).

See our [Guide to experimental statistics article](#) for more information.

## 6 . Glossary

### Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP)

The IPHRP measures the change in the price that tenants face when renting residential property from private landlords.

### Administrative data

Administrative data are data that people have already provided to the government through day-to-day activities. Examples include health records, social security payments, and educational attainment information.

## 7 . Measuring the data

### Sources

The Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) is created using administrative data. This means that the index makes use of data that are already collected for other purposes to estimate rental prices. The sources of private rental prices are the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Data for Northern Ireland also include data provided by [Propertynews](#).

The sources of the annually updated [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: annual weights analysis dataset](#) are the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, NIHE and VOA.

The IPHRP's indices are updated on a monthly basis with the new monthly estimate. Data are indexed with January 2015 as a base year. Data are provided for:

- England from January 2005
- Wales from January 2009
- Scotland from January 2011
- UK from January 2015

## Revision Policy

Northern Ireland rental data are not available for the latest two months. To produce provisional estimates of the IPHRP and annual percentage change for the latest two months, Northern Ireland's index has been carried forward. For instance, rental price inflation has been assumed to be 0% for the latest two months. Each subsequent month, updated Northern Ireland data are used to revise estimates for the UK. This means that there is a two-month revision period for the UK series and UK (excluding London) series in the IPHRP.

## Data collection

In England and Wales, data for achieved rents are collected for both new tenancies and existing tenancies. When 12 months have passed following a property's last update, rent officers receive a notification, which supports rent officer aims to revisit previous properties.

In Northern Ireland, rents data are for advertised new lets.

In Scotland, rents data are predominantly for advertised new lets. Data collection procedures do not involve actively seeking to re-collect data for previously collected properties.

In the IPHRP, assumptions on average periods between rent price increases are used to measure price inflation for the stock of rents. IPHRP methodology assumes that rental price remains constant for up to 14 months if updated rental data for that property are not available, and replaces records more than 14 months old.

Since Scotland data are predominantly advertised new lets data, only a small proportion of Scotland data collected are based on existing lets data. This means that replacement data will be predominantly based on newly advertised rents, which are not subject to the price cap. Therefore, price changes for existing tenancies are largely estimated for Scotland.

## Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) Scotland Bill

The [Cost of Living \(Tenant Protection\) Scotland Bill](#) capped in-tenancy rental price increases at 0% (and up to 3% in certain circumstances) until 31 March 2023. On 1 April 2023, this [rental price increase cap was increased to 3%](#) (and up to 6% in certain circumstances), as reported on the Scottish Government website. This rental price cap only applies to in-tenancy rent increases, with no restriction on rent increases for new lets.

## Quality

More information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in our [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\)](#).

## Future developments

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 IPHRP and private rental market summary statistics (PRMS) to produce mix-adjusted average rental prices that are comparable over time. We also plan 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 our [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 a timetable for these developments (updated 6 July 2023) are available in our [Private rental prices development plan: updated February 2022](#). If you have any queries or feedback on these developments, please email [hpi@ons.gov.uk](mailto:hpi@ons.gov.uk).

## 8 . Strengths and limitations

## Strengths

The Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) is constructed using large administrative sources, specified in [Section 7: Measuring the data](#). Annually, over 450,000 private rental prices are collected in England, 30,000 in Wales, 25,000 in Scotland, and 15,000 in Northern Ireland. The index not only measures the change in newly advertised rental prices, but reflects price changes for all private rental properties, including for existing tenancies.

## Limitations

Where collected rents data is predominantly for new lets, compositional differences between rents data and the rental sector will be larger.

The IPHRP is published as price indices, rather than average prices. It is also only published down to a country and regional level. Average rental price levels cannot currently be published in IPHRP because of data access constraints. Our [redevelopment of private rental prices statistics](#) work aims to address this.

The IPHRP is released as [Experimental Statistics](#), and subject to revisions if improvements in the methodology are identified. Users should interpret results with this in mind.

## 9 . Related links

### [UK House Price Index: July 2023](#)

Bulletin | Released 20 September 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.

### [Consumer Price inflation, UK: August 2023](#)

Bulletin | Released 20 September 2023

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

### [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.

### [Changes in private rental sector behaviour, England: February 2022 to February 2023](#)

Article | Released 24 March 2023

Experimental longitudinal analysis of observed recent changes in the abundance and magnitude of private rental price changes in England.

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

Article | Released 25 January 2023

Compares growth in the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices (IPHRP) with other measures of private rental growth.

### [Private rental prices development plan, UK: updated February 2022](#)

Article | Released 8 February 2022

Overview of our plans for the statistical development of rental prices statistics, including a timeline for development.

### [Private rental market summary statistics in England: April 2022 to March 2023](#)

Bulletin | Released 21 June 2023

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

## 10 . Cite this statistical bulletin

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 20 September 2023, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: August 2023](#).