



FT House Price Index - National and Regional December 2006

The latest FT House Price Index, updated with the most recent monthly data from the Land Registry, shows that house prices rose by 0.6% in December and by 6.8% over the past 12 months.

The FT House Price Index comprises the published Land Registry house price data, smoothed and seasonally and mix adjusted by Acadameetrics, combined with an “index of indices” model in order to account for transactions not yet reported to the Land Registry. The FT House Price Index uniquely uses **all** of the Land Registry data including cash purchases. It is designed to provide the most factual record available of domestic property prices in England and Wales and a true guide to house price inflation.

We calculate the FT House Price Index, on a seasonally and mix adjusted basis, as follows:

	House Price	Index	Monthly Change %	Annual Change %
June 2006	£204,882	205.5	0.2	6.1
July 2006	£205,559	206.2	0.3	6.4
August 2006	£206,648	207.2	0.5	6.7
September 2006	£208,106	208.7	0.7	7.2
October 2006	£209,289	209.9	0.6	7.3
November 2006	£210,373	211.0	0.5	7.4
December 2006	£211,607	212.2	0.6	6.8

Peter Williams, Chairman said, “Monthly house price growth appears to have reached a plateau with monthly growth of 0.6% in December accompanied with the first fall in annual growth since September 2005. Even London saw a slowing in monthly growth though London supported by the South East are still driving the market.

“Continued high demand alongside low rates of housing turnover and poor new housing supply has continued to drive southern housing prices throughout this year. However, the recent pick up in new supply in the Midlands and the North of England combined with higher mortgage interest rates should result in a continued easing of market conditions in those regions.

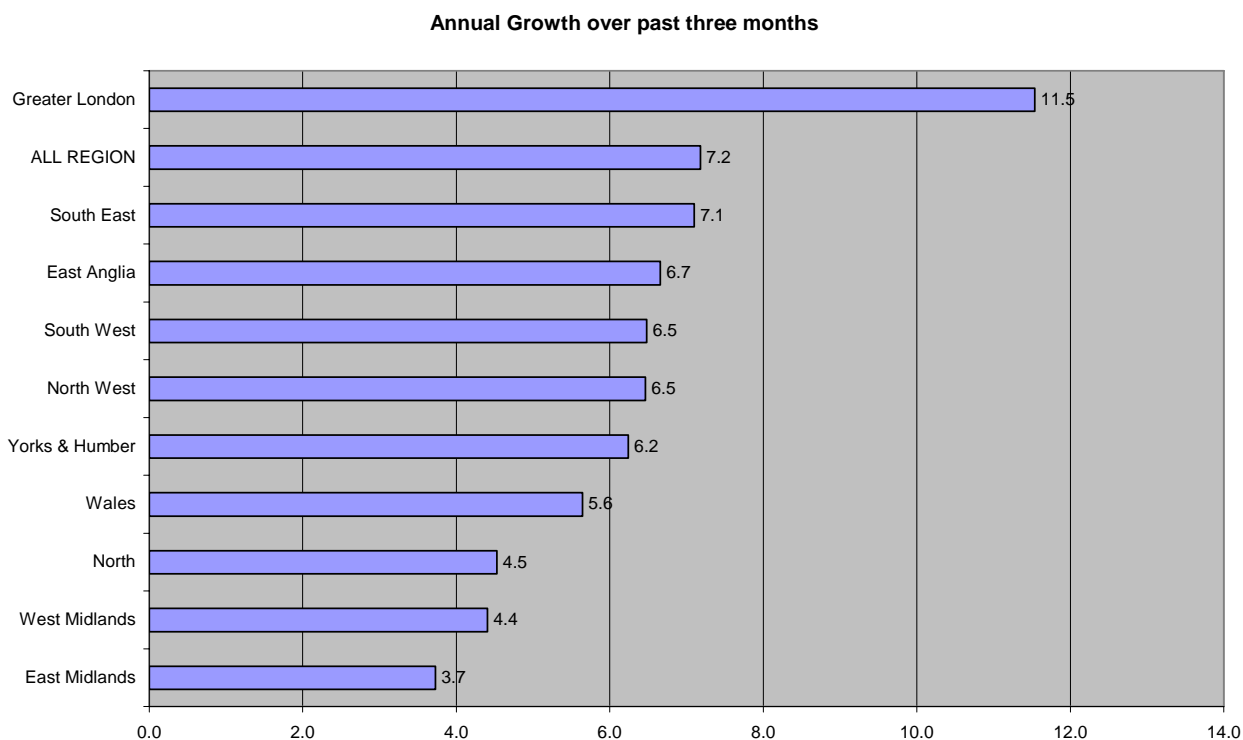
“Though the recent rises in interest rates will take some time to impact upon house prices, there remains a strong possibility that the London market will be even slower to adapt to these rate changes because localised supply shortages continue to dominate a generally low housing turnover market. As the Bank of England recognises, trying to control the housing market through a policy based upon interest rate rises is difficult as is witnessed by the fact that in the last 3 months most regional markets in England and Wales have experienced limited price growth whilst the annual rate has risen to 11% in London.”

Regional Commentary and Data Overleaf

REGIONS

Our regional index using Land Registry data comprises the only monthly source of smoothed and seasonally as well as mix adjusted Land Registry average house prices for each region.

The national (ALL REGION) index has risen by 0.6% in December and by 6.8% in the last year. The annual rate of growth at a regional level is shown in the chart below. In the latest three months, annual growth in London (11.5%) still far exceeds other regions as the chart shows. In rank order, the South East (7.1%), East Anglia (6.7%), South West (6.5%) and North West (6.5%) lead the way amongst the other regions with the North (4.5%), West Midlands (4.4%) and the East Midlands (3.7%) showing a weaker growth performance.



Low housing turnover, poor new housing supply and strong buyer demand continue to support the London and southern housing markets. There seems little prospect of supply improving in these regions in the short term but higher mortgage interest rates and some widening of mortgage margins should help to ease demand and thus price pressures going into 2007.

Additional housing supply in the North and Midlands will also act to slow overall house price growth in these regions and in the overall national index.

National and Regional Data Overleaf.....

Also see www.ft.com/houseprices

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FT HOUSE PRICE INDEX REGIONAL DATA TABLE

Region	North			North West			East Midlands			West Midlands		
Month	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%
Dec-05	£141,145	1.1	10.6	£148,521	0.7	6.0	£158,968	-0.4	1.5	£168,115	0.6	3.2
Jan-06	£141,588	0.3	9.2	£149,785	0.9	6.5	£159,199	0.1	0.9	£169,410	0.8	4.0
Feb-06	£142,787	0.8	8.7	£150,660	0.6	5.3	£160,104	0.6	1.2	£170,608	0.7	3.9
Mar-06	£142,611	-0.1	7.2	£152,708	1.4	7.1	£161,598	0.9	3.0	£171,298	0.4	4.9
Apr-06	£143,220	0.4	7.5	£152,979	0.2	7.1	£161,971	0.2	3.9	£172,082	0.5	4.6
May-06	£143,518	0.2	7.4	£153,901	0.6	7.7	£162,475	0.3	3.9	£172,411	0.2	4.8
Jun-06	£144,278	0.5	7.4	£153,365	-0.3	6.4	£162,911	0.3	3.8	£173,476	0.6	4.0
Jul-06	£143,691	-0.4	6.5	£153,993	0.4	5.9	£163,605	0.4	3.7	£173,580	0.1	4.8
Aug-06	£143,643	0.0	6.1	£154,981	0.6	6.5	£163,609	0.0	3.7	£174,399	0.5	5.6
Sep-06	£144,291	0.5	5.5	£155,766	0.5	6.7	£164,648	0.6	3.6	£174,404	0.0	6.0
Oct-06	£145,494	0.8	4.8	£156,607	0.5	6.7	£164,794	0.1	3.4	£174,219	-0.1	4.9
Nov-06	£146,371	0.6	4.8	£156,995	0.2	6.4	£165,630	0.5	3.7	£174,369	0.1	4.3
	Wales			Yorks & Humber			South West			East Anglia		
	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%
Dec-05	£152,029	0.8	6.4	£149,719	0.6	6.4	£205,391	0.9	0.6	£180,675	0.6	2.6
Jan-06	£151,579	-0.3	6.0	£151,266	1.0	6.2	£205,700	0.2	1.0	£180,185	-0.3	1.6
Feb-06	£153,591	1.3	6.6	£152,533	0.8	6.3	£207,124	0.7	1.1	£182,344	1.2	1.6
Mar-06	£154,352	0.5	7.7	£153,343	0.5	6.7	£208,739	0.8	2.2	£184,114	1.0	1.9
Apr-06	£153,964	-0.3	6.8	£153,605	0.2	7.2	£210,375	0.8	3.1	£187,206	1.7	3.2
May-06	£153,523	-0.3	6.5	£153,837	0.2	7.6	£211,410	0.5	4.5	£187,905	0.4	3.9
Jun-06	£154,091	0.4	5.9	£153,785	0.0	6.8	£211,619	0.1	5.0	£187,978	0.0	4.8
Jul-06	£155,153	0.7	5.9	£154,116	0.2	6.7	£212,342	0.3	5.6	£188,371	0.2	5.4
Aug-06	£155,739	0.4	5.3	£154,739	0.4	6.4	£212,700	0.2	6.0	£190,758	1.3	6.6
Sep-06	£156,363	0.4	5.1	£155,669	0.6	5.8	£213,653	0.4	6.3	£191,386	0.3	6.5
Oct-06	£158,170	1.2	5.1	£156,841	0.8	6.0	£215,151	0.7	6.5	£191,990	0.3	6.4
Nov-06	£159,603	0.9	5.8	£158,169	0.8	6.3	£216,677	0.7	6.5	£191,670	-0.2	6.7
	South East			Greater London			ALL REGION					
	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%	Av HP	Monthly%	Annual%			
Dec-05	£232,386	0.9	2.0	£301,263	2.9	5.5	£198,080	1.1	3.7			
Jan-06	£233,787	0.6	2.3	£305,116	1.3	5.1	£199,347	0.6	3.7			
Feb-06	£235,762	0.8	2.9	£310,242	1.7	5.5	£201,293	1.0	3.9			
Mar-06	£237,062	0.6	3.6	£311,049	0.3	5.5	£202,480	0.6	4.6			
Apr-06	£238,880	0.8	4.2	£314,454	1.1	7.4	£203,834	0.7	5.3			
May-06	£240,053	0.5	5.3	£315,353	0.3	8.6	£204,560	0.4	6.1			
Jun-06	£240,914	0.4	5.4	£315,062	-0.1	8.9	£204,882	0.2	6.1			
Jul-06	£242,130	0.5	6.3	£315,876	0.3	8.9	£205,559	0.3	6.4			
Aug-06	£242,909	0.3	6.3	£319,618	1.2	9.5	£206,648	0.5	6.7			
Sep-06	£244,682	0.7	7.1	£324,077	1.4	11.1	£208,106	0.7	7.2			
Oct-06	£245,585	0.4	7.1	£327,367	1.0	12.2	£209,289	0.6	7.3			
Nov-06	£247,000	0.6	7.3	£329,178	0.6	12.5	£210,373	0.5	7.4			
Dec-06							£211,607	0.6	6.8			

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FOOTNOTE:

The above average house prices and Monthly % and Annual % changes are based upon Land Registry data. Smoothed over a rolling 3 month period and using all reported transactions, they are designed to minimise volatility in seasonally and mix adjusted monthly results even at regional level. House prices for the current quarter are forecast using our academic "Index of Indices" model (developed at the University of Cambridge and the Sir John Cass Business School) and are updated monthly to include data for transactions reported to LR only after the month in which they occurred. Our results thus develop and reach "ultimate" once all or virtually all transactions are reported, 4 months after any given month. Significant updates from the Land Registry will be reflected in our data but, even at regional/county level, we would not expect these for all but the current or prior month. Because of lack of LR data for the current month, we provide data by region only for the prior months.

Also see www.ft.com/houseprices

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