

# UK House Price Index

Budget unlocks another spike in demand

**+4.1%**

Current UK house price growth

**+13%**

Demand for homes, YTD v 2020

**-13%**

Flow of new supply, YTD v 2020

## Executive summary

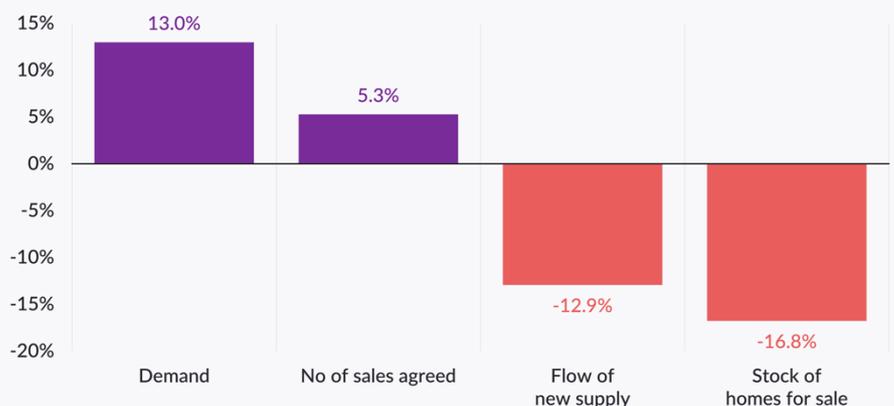
- Demand spikes after Budget while new supply still lags
- The post-pandemic 'search for space' means average time to sell for houses falls to 42 days, some 20 days less than flats
- The 'search for space' is also putting more upwards pressure on price growth for houses, up +4.9% year on year, compared to flats, up +1.9% year on year
- Annual price growth at +4.1% in February, up from +1.8% growth a year ago
- Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds & Nottingham leading on city price growth, rising at more than 5% year on year
- Markets in North well positioned to take advantage of tapered stamp duty extension, with 70%+ of available supply priced at up to £250,000

**“The search for space is driving continued demand for family homes, putting more upwards pressure on pricing for houses than for flats. Houses are also selling more quickly.**

**Gráinne Gilmore**  
Head of Research, Zoopla

Demand for housing and sales activity rises as supply lags

Zoopla



Source: Zoopla Research

YTD to 14 March 2021 vs 2020 ave

**+4.1%**

Annual UK house price growth

**Annual UK house price inflation +4.1%**

House prices climbed by 0.5% in between December and February, taking the annual rate of growth to 4.1%. This is down from 4.4% growth in January, but marks the fourth consecutive month price growth has been above 4%, matching levels last seen in summer 2017.

Price growth ranges from 5.7% in Wales and 5.3% in the North West of England, to London, trailing with 2.3% growth, as illustrated on the map, page 6.

Meanwhile Liverpool and Manchester continue to show the strongest levels of annual house price growth at a city level, at 6.6% and 6.4% respectively, while prices in Aberdeen are down 1.3% on the year.

**UK house price index summary, February 2021**

	3-month change	% year on year	Average price
Sep-2020	1.5%	3.5%	£223,200
Oct-2020	1.7%	3.9%	£224,300
Nov-2020	1.5%	4.3%	£225,300
Dec-2020	1.2%	4.4%	£225,800
Jan-2021	0.9%	4.4%	£226,300
Feb-2021	0.5%	4.1%	£226,400

Source: Zoopla UK House Price Index

**Post-Budget spike in demand for housing**

The Chancellor's announcement of a stamp duty holiday extension and 95% mortgage guarantees created a 24% spike in buyer demand in England and Northern Ireland the days following the Budget, as more first-time buyers and movers entered the market.

Average buyer demand levels since the start of this year are running 13% higher than average levels across the whole of 2020.

The largest post-budget bounce in demand was for three-bed houses - this type of home is attracting the largest levels of demand across the country. However, there was a noticeable spike in demand for one and two-bedroom flats in London and the South East after the Chancellor's announcements, signalling increased buying intent among first-time buyers and those looking to take advantage of the tapered stamp duty holiday.

While there was a slight post-budget rise in supply, overall supply levels remain deeply constrained, with total supply this year down 13% vs the 2020 average.

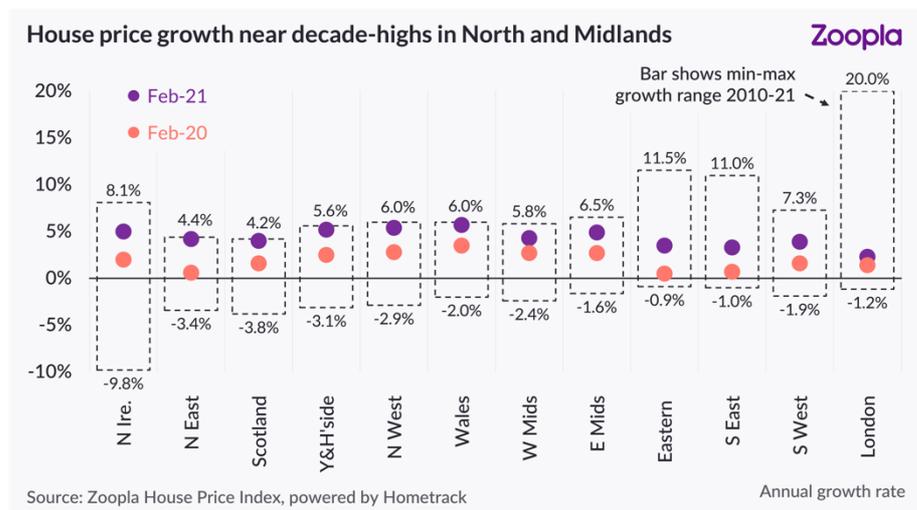
As lockdowns ease and vaccinations continue to be rolled out, we expect more pent-up supply to come back to the market as vendors feel more comfortable opening their homes for viewing, albeit with the usual seasonal Easter dip. Increasing activity levels among first-time buyers, especially as they take advantage of more 95% mortgages from April 1<sup>st</sup>, will keep pressure on the demand/supply imbalance however, as these buyers have no properties to sell.

# +6.2%

Annual growth in average price for houses in South West England, Feb 2021

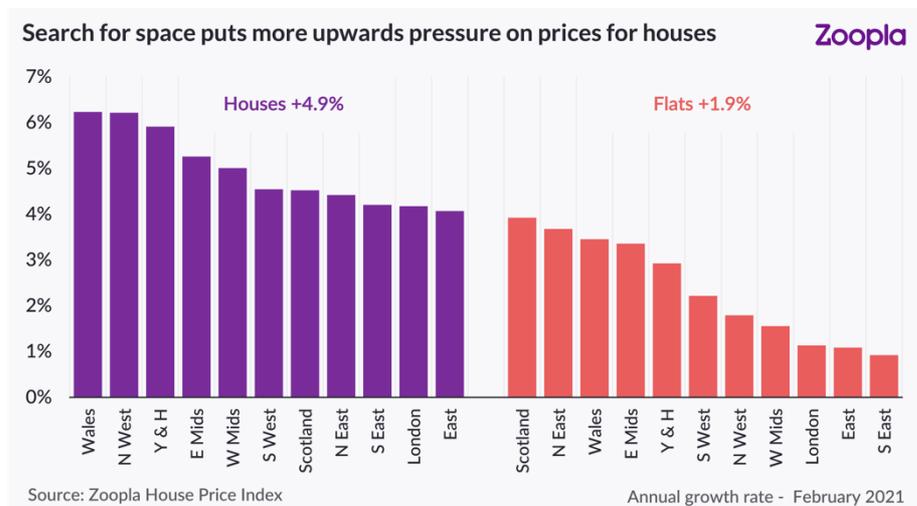
## The 'search for space' pushes house prices ahead

Demand for homes is strongest in the most affordable parts of the housing market, boosting price growth. The annual rate of change in house prices are near decade-high levels in the Midlands and the North. In contrast, the level of price growth in the South of England is lagging slightly, and relatively muted compared to longer-term trends, reflecting affordability factors.



Continued demand for larger family homes as buyers look for more inside and outside space in the wake of multiple lockdowns is putting upward pressure on the value of houses, especially as supply remains constrained.

Across the UK, the average price for a house has risen by +4.9% over the last 12 months, compared to a +1.9% increase for flats. Prices have risen most strongly in Wales and the North West, where the average value of a house is up 6.2% on the year. The price growth for flats is notably smaller in comparison, at 3.5% in Wales and 1.8% in the North West.



# 44days

Average Time to Sell,  
UK excl London

## Markets moving faster as Time to Sell falls

Sales activity in the market has risen, but is constrained by the lack of supply, The number of sales agreed in the year to date are up 5.3% compared to 2020.

But the sheer demand in the market has had a dramatic effect on how quickly sales are being agreed.

The average time to sell a property has fallen by nearly a week across the UK excluding London. This means it is taking around 44 days from listing a property to agreeing a sale, down from 50 days last year.

Houses are selling faster than flats, taking an average of 42 days to sell across the UK, compared to 62 days for flats.



London is the only region where properties are taking longer to sell now than they were last year. This is partly a reflection of how strongly the London market bounced back in early 2020 after the General Election in 2019, but also signals how Covid-19 restrictions have affected the London residential market, especially in central areas.

London is a key global city, but domestic and international travel restrictions for leisure and business have limited movement over the last 12 months, with a resulting impact on the residential market, especially in central zones. The 'search for space' has augmented this trend, with activity rising in the areas in outer zones and areas surrounding the capital which have a larger proportion of houses with gardens.

There will be an unwinding of this trend as global travel starts again. As we move into Q3, we are likely to see the central London market shrug off factors such as the ending of furlough and the stamp duty holiday - which may affect other parts of the UK housing market - as global demand returns.

**+1%**

Forecast house price growth UK, 2021

**Outlook**

The Chancellor’s announcement of a stamp duty holiday tapered extension means that hundreds of thousands more buyers will benefit from some level of stamp duty reprieve.

Allowing four months for completions after agreeing sale means that most buyers now will be looking to benefit from the stamp duty holiday on the first £250,000 of their purchase, by completing by the end of September, rather than the first £500,000 which means a completion by the end of June.

Buyers in the North are in pole position to benefit the tapered extension, with more than two-thirds of homes currently listed for sale at under £250,000 – attracting no stamp duty at all.



As such, we expect continued upwards pressure on pricing in the North and Midlands as demand, which we had expected to be sustained even if the stamp duty holiday ended, is now further encouraged by the continued savings on offer.

The data signals that the ‘reassessment of home’ among existing homeowners is set to continue, resulting in a search for space - inside or out, or looking to live in a different location.

As lockdowns start to ease, and COVID-19 cases recede, we are set to see more supply come to the market as sellers feel more comfortable inviting potential buyers into their home. This in turn will lead to more activity in the market. This could put increased pressure on the sales completion process, something buyers will bear in mind as we move through the summer.

All of these factors will support activity levels and headline house price growth up to the end of Q2 2021. While the prospects for the housing market over the year ahead have improved on the back of Budget, the pathway out of the lockdown, and the route to a full re-opening of the economy and unwinding of support measures, is unlikely to be simple or smooth. We still expect house price growth to moderate later in the year, but overall transactions let set to get an additional boost from the stamp duty measures.

## House Price Index – Country, region and city summary

Note: The Zoopla house price index is repeat sales-based price index using sold prices, mortgage valuations and data for agreed sales. The index uses more input data than any other and is designed to accurately track the change in pricing for UK housing.

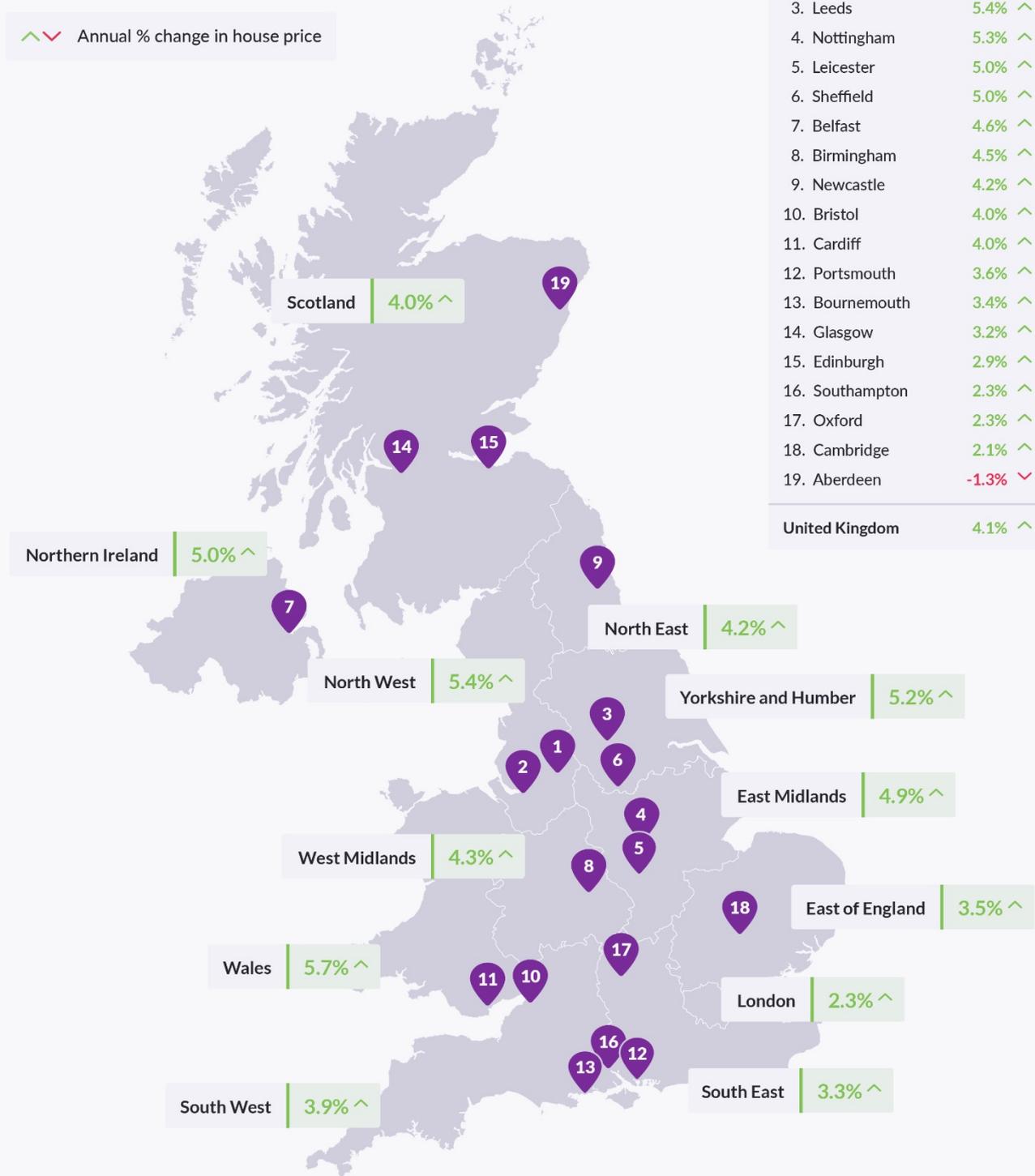
Zoopla

February Index 2021  
(Published March 2021)

Source: Zoopla House Price Index

^ v Annual % change in house price

City	Annual % change in house price
1. Manchester	6.6% ^
2. Liverpool	6.4% ^
3. Leeds	5.4% ^
4. Nottingham	5.3% ^
5. Leicester	5.0% ^
6. Sheffield	5.0% ^
7. Belfast	4.6% ^
8. Birmingham	4.5% ^
9. Newcastle	4.2% ^
10. Bristol	4.0% ^
11. Cardiff	4.0% ^
12. Portsmouth	3.6% ^
13. Bournemouth	3.4% ^
14. Glasgow	3.2% ^
15. Edinburgh	2.9% ^
16. Southampton	2.3% ^
17. Oxford	2.3% ^
18. Cambridge	2.1% ^
19. Aberdeen	-1.3% v
United Kingdom	4.1% ^



**Zoopla UK house price index – City Summary - February 2021**

	Average price	%yoy Feb-21	%yoy Feb-20	Monthly trend	Annual trend
<b>UK</b>	<b>£226,400</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>		
<b>20 city index</b>	<b>£264,200</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>		
Manchester	£185,000	6.6%	3.5%		
Liverpool	£129,800	6.4%	3.2%		
Leeds	£178,600	5.4%	3.4%		
Nottingham	£168,700	5.3%	4.8%		
Leicester	£194,800	5.0%	4.1%		
Sheffield	£147,000	5.0%	2.7%		
Belfast	£145,200	4.6%	2.3%		
Birmingham	£176,800	4.5%	2.9%		
Newcastle	£130,900	4.2%	0.8%		
Bristol	£291,500	4.0%	2.4%		
Cardiff	£217,300	4.0%	2.6%		
Portsmouth	£246,900	3.6%	1.8%		
Bournemouth	£297,700	3.4%	1.5%		
Glasgow	£126,600	3.2%	2.6%		
Edinburgh	£240,600	2.9%	3.7%		
Southampton	£231,300	2.3%	0.7%		
Oxford	£410,400	2.3%	-0.8%		
London	£486,800	2.2%	1.4%		
Cambridge	£423,300	2.1%	1.1%		
Aberdeen	£144,200	-1.3%	-3.4%		

Source: Zoopla House Price Index  
 Sparklines show last 12 months trend in annual and monthly growth rates – red bars are a negative value – each series has its own axis settings providing a more granular view on price development

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