



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Dwelling Stock Estimates: 2015, England



Housing *Statistical Release*

28 April 2016

- There were 23.5 million dwellings in England at 31 March 2015, an increase of 171,000 dwellings (0.73%) on the same point the previous year.
- 14.7 million dwellings were owner occupied dwellings, 4.7 million private rented dwellings and 4.0 million social and affordable rented dwellings (Private Registered Providers plus Local Authority).
- Between March 2014 and March 2015, the private rented dwelling stock increased by 125,000 and the owner occupied stock increased by 37,000. The social and affordable rented stock increased by 19,000 dwellings and the other public sector stock decreased by 9,000 dwellings.
- There were 600,179 vacant dwellings in England on 5 October 2015, a decrease of 9,944 (1.6%) from 610,123 on 6 October 2014
- Long-term vacant dwellings numbered 203,596 on 5 October 2015, a fall of 2,225 (1.1%) from 205,821 on 6 October 2014.

(Vacancy figures as previously published in Council Taxbase statistics)

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Introduction

This Statistical Release presents estimates of the number of dwellings in England and in each local authority district. The estimates are at 31 March each year.

The statistics use the Census 2011 as a baseline and apply annual net changes to stock as measured by the related net housing supply statistics (see related statistics).

Estimates for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the UK are also available in the live tables on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. These data are produced and published separately by the devolved administrations, and although the figures are correct at the time of this publication they may be superseded before the next England dwelling stock estimates release.

National estimates

There were 23.5 million dwellings in England at 31 March 2015, an increase of 171,000 dwellings (0.73%) on the previous year.

Figures for all years since 2012 are provisional and subject to revision.

Table 1: Annual estimates of total dwelling stock for England and annual change, as at 31 March 2001–2015

31 March	Thousands of dwellings		Percentages
	Total stock	Net change	Net change as percentage of existing stock
2001	21,207
2002	21,354	147	0.69%
2003	21,513	160	0.75%
2004	21,684	171	0.79%
2005	21,870	186	0.86%
2006	22,073	203	0.93%
2007	22,288	215	0.97%
2008	22,511	224	1.00%
2009	22,694	183	0.81%
2010	22,839	145	0.64%
2011	22,976	137	0.60%
2012	P 23,111	135	0.59%
2013	P 23,236	125	0.54%
2014	P 23,372	137	0.59%
2015	P 23,543	171	0.73%

Sub-national estimates

Local authority district estimates

Local authority district estimates are available in the live tables 100 and 125.

The same methodology (census + net additions) is used to produce estimates at this level of detail as at the national and regional levels, following a recommendation from the Office for National Statistics that this should be the preferred method for the district level.

Live table 125 presents district level totals from 2001 to 2015.

Live table 100 shows district level information with a tenure breakdown between local authority, Private Registered Providers (PRPs), other public sector and private sector. Live table 100 covers the years from 2009 to 2015.

Tenure

In England, at March 2015, making up the 23.5 million dwellings were 14.7 million owner occupied, 4.7 million private rented, 2.4 million rented from Private Registered Providers (housing association) and 1.6 million rented from local authorities (Tables 2 and 3).

These tenure statistics differ from those published from the English Housing Survey which are in terms of households not dwellings. In addition, the dwelling stock figures include vacant dwellings. The trends are broadly consistent.

The number of **owner occupied dwellings** increased slightly between 2014 and 2015 after a period of decline, which is consistent with the latest figures on households in owner occupation revealed by the English Housing Survey. The downward trend in owner occupation as a proportion of all dwellings has slowed, falling from a peak of 69.5% in 2002 but starting to level out at 62.8% in 2014 and 62.5% in 2015.

Private rented sector dwellings increased year on year and remained at 20% of the total stock after successive increases. The number of private rented dwellings exceeded the total social and affordable rented (Private Registered Providers/Local authority) from 2011.

The number of **social and affordable rented dwellings** increased year on year resulting from a rise in Private Registered Provider dwellings exceeding the fall in local authority stock.

Table 2: Dwelling stock in England by tenure, as at 31 March 2001–2015

		Thousands of dwellings					
31 March	Owner occupied	Rented privately or with a job or business	Rented from Private Registered Providers	Rented from Local Authorities	Other public sector dwellings	All dwellings	
2001	14,735	2,133	1,424	2,812	103	21,207	
2002	14,846	2,197	1,492	2,706	112	21,354	
2003	14,752	2,549	1,651	2,457	104	21,513	
2004	14,986	2,578	1,702	2,335	83	21,684	
2005	15,100	2,720	1,802	2,166	82	21,870	
2006	15,052	2,987	1,865	2,087	82	22,073	
2007	15,093	3,182	1,951	1,987	75	22,288	
2008	15,067	3,443	2,056	1,870	74	22,511	
2009	14,968	3,705	2,128	1,820	74	22,694	
2010	14,895	3,912	2,180	1,786	66	22,839	
2011	14,827	4,105	2,255	1,726	63	22,976	
2012 P	14,754	4,286	2,304	1,693	75	23,111	
2013 P	14,685	4,465	2,331	1,682	73	23,236	
2014 P	14,674	4,623	2,343	1,669	64	23,372	
2015 ¹ P	14,710	4,747	2,387	1,643	55	23,543	

¹ EHS 2015 vacancy data are not yet available to adjust the LFS 2015 privately rented tenure estimates. Therefore, EHS 2014 vacancy data has been used for the LFS 2015 adjustment. This will be updated once the required survey information becomes available.

Table 3: Proportion of dwellings in England by tenure, as at 31 March 2001–2015

							Percentages
31 March	Owner occupied	Rented privately or with a job or business	Rented from Private Registered Providers	Rented from Local Authorities	Other public sector dwellings	All dwellings	
2001	69.5%	10.1%	6.7%	13.3%	0.5%	100%	
2002	69.5%	10.3%	7.0%	12.7%	0.5%	100%	
2003	68.6%	11.8%	7.7%	11.4%	0.5%	100%	
2004	69.1%	11.9%	7.8%	10.8%	0.4%	100%	
2005	69.0%	12.4%	8.2%	9.9%	0.4%	100%	
2006	68.2%	13.5%	8.5%	9.5%	0.4%	100%	
2007	67.7%	14.3%	8.8%	8.9%	0.3%	100%	
2008	66.9%	15.3%	9.1%	8.3%	0.3%	100%	
2009	66.0%	16.3%	9.4%	8.0%	0.3%	100%	
2010	65.2%	17.1%	9.5%	7.8%	0.3%	100%	
2011	64.5%	17.9%	9.8%	7.5%	0.3%	100%	
2012 P	63.8%	18.5%	10.0%	7.3%	0.3%	100%	
2013 P	63.2%	19.2%	10.0%	7.2%	0.3%	100%	
2014 P	62.8%	19.8%	10.0%	7.1%	0.3%	100%	
2015 ¹ P	62.5%	20.2%	10.1%	7.0%	0.2%	100%	

¹ EHS 2015 vacancy data are not yet available to adjust the LFS 2015 privately rented tenure estimates. Therefore, EHS 2014 vacancy data has been used for the LFS 2015 adjustment. This will be updated once the required survey information becomes available.

Vacant dwellings

The Department for Communities and Local Government's *Vacant dwellings* table brings together figures on vacant dwellings in England at local authority district level drawn from several separately published sources:

Table 615 Vacant dwellings by local authority district: England, from 2004

This table has been published alongside this release and can be accessed at:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

This table shows:

There were 600,179 Vacant Dwellings in England on 5 October 2015, a decrease of 9,944 (1.6%) from 610,123 on 6 October 2014;

There were 203,596 Long-Term Vacant Dwellings in England on 5 October 2015, a decrease of 2,225 (1.1%) from 205,821 on 6 October 2014.

The England figures above have been previously published within the Council Taxbase statistics.

Methodology

Local authority stock

Since 2012, the data on local authority and other public sector housing stock are taken from the Department for Communities and Local Government's Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS) return, which is completed and returned every year by local authorities. Prior to 2012, the data were taken from the Department for Communities and Local Government's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). These data are used directly in the dwelling stock tenure split. A web link to this data source where you can find further information is given in the 'Data collection' section of this publication.

Private Registered Provider stock

Information on PRP stock prior to 2012 comes from the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR). From April 2012, the TSA has become part of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and information on PRP stock is now published in their annual Statistical Data Return (SDR). The SDR (and the RSR in the past) is completed by all PRPs every year in one of two variants; with larger PRPs completing a longer, more detailed form (the 'long form') than smaller ones (who complete the 'short form'). Up to 2006, the threshold for completing the long form was that the PRP owned or managed at least 250 units or bed spaces of social housing. From 2007 this increased to 1,000 units or bed spaces of social housing. For 2012, the threshold for completing the long form was that the PRP owned at least 1000 units or bed spaces of social housing or was the parent of a group, while, for 2013, the threshold was simply owning at least 1000 units or bed spaces of social housing. A web link to this data source where you can find further information is given in the 'Data collection' section of this publication.

The RSR and SDR data include information on bed spaces as well as self-contained dwellings. In calculating dwelling stock numbers, bed spaces are not included as they do not represent a separate, self-contained dwelling. Dwellings are also reported on the RSR and SDR separately as general needs and supported dwellings (where the occupant requires some form of special facilities or care). Supported dwellings include both Supported Housing and Housing for Older People.

Due to the format of the data collection and the need to minimise the burden on data providers of completing the form, it is not possible to separate out bed spaces from self-contained dwellings in all categories. The treatment of the different categories is detailed below

General needs, long form

In both the RSR and the SDR, data on general needs dwellings provided on the long form are split between bed spaces and self-contained dwellings. Only the self-contained dwellings are included in the numbers published here.

General needs, short form

In the RSR (prior to 2012), data on general needs dwellings collected on the short form only give a total including bed spaces and self-contained dwellings combined. The short form data represent a small (around 3 per cent) proportion of the general needs stock and from the long form data bed spaces make up less than 1 per cent of the total general needs stock. Due to the small size of the adjustment which would have to be made and having no directly comparable data from which to adjust, short form general needs totals are left unadjusted for bed spaces. In the SDR (from 2012), data on general needs dwellings collected on the short form are split between bed spaces and self-contained dwellings in the same way as for the long form. Again, only the self-contained dwellings are included here.

Supported, long and short form

In both the RSR and the SDR, for supported dwellings, only a combined bed space and dwellings figure is reported at sub-national level and comprises the short and long form data combined.

At a national level the long form data provide a split between supported bed spaces and self-contained dwellings. This is used to calculate the percentage of long form supported dwellings which are self-contained. The percentage is then used to adjust the sub-national supported dwellings totals to give an estimate of the number of self-contained supported dwellings. For the RSR data (collected prior to 2012) this adjustment was made for all supported dwellings collectively but for the SDR data (from 2012), it is made separately for the Supported Housing and Housing for Older People sub-categories.

Total

Prior to 2012, the PRP stock figure from the RSR was then calculated as the total:

PRP Total = Long form self contained general needs stock
+ Short form unadjusted general needs stock
+ Combined long and short form supported stock adjusted to give a self-contained only figure.

From 2012, the PRP stock figure from the SDR is then calculated as the total:

PRP Total = Long form and short form self-contained general needs stock
+ Combined long and short form supported stock adjusted to give a self-contained

only figure.

For estimates at the local authority district level, as published in live tables 100 and 115, it is not possible to adjust for bed spaces for all tenures. Therefore the figures in live tables 100 and 115 will differ from national and regional totals which have had the bed space adjustment.

Other public sector dwellings

'Other' public sector dwellings follow the Census definition of a dwelling and include dwellings owned by any public sector body other than lower-tier local authorities (district councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan district councils and London boroughs) or Private Registered Providers (housing associations). This category includes dwellings owned by government departments (e.g. Ministry of Defence) and other public sector agencies (e.g. the NHS, the Forestry Commission, the Prison Service or county councils). Please note that it includes dwellings that are vacant even if they are scheduled for demolition at a future date.

Private sector stock

Private sector stock is split into owner-occupied (OO) and private rental sector (PRS). There is no direct measure of either of these tenures due to the difficulty of collecting this private information and the relatively fluid interchange between these two parts of the private dwelling stock.

The current methodology calculates an estimate of the PRS using information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and English Housing Survey (EHS). The OO tenure is then calculated as the residual after the other tenures have been removed. Web links to these data sources where you can find further information are given in the 'Data collection' section of this publication.

The LFS gives estimates for the PRS. However the LFS only covers occupied dwellings. The vacancy rate in the PRS tenure has been around 10 per cent for the last 10 years, which compares with a vacancy rate of less than 5 per cent in the OO tenure. In order to prevent this vacancy rate biasing the PRS estimate, data on vacancy from the EHS is used to make an adjustment.

The full methodology is outlined below.

Private rented sector estimates from Labour Force Survey

Estimates of the PRS are taken from the LFS and smoothed. For past years the data is smoothed using a weighted average of the previous, current and following years. For example, in the 2014 split we take the estimates from the LFS for the Private Rental Sector for 2013, 2014 and 2015 and form the weighted average:

$$PRS_occupied_2014 = 0.25 \times PRS_{LFS2013} + 0.5 \times PRS_{LFS2014} + 0.25 \times PRS_{LFS2015}$$

For the most recent year the data is smoothed only with the previous year. For example if 2015 is the most recent year we form the weighted average:

$$PRS_occupied_2015 = 0.25 \times PRS_{LFS2014} + 0.75 \times PRS_{LFS2015}$$

Once new data becomes available the previous year will be updated to the full smoothed value.

Adjusting PRS estimates for occupancy rate

The smoothed PRS occupied figure is then adjusted by the occupancy rate. The occupancy rate is calculated as one minus the EHS vacancy rate. This gives an estimate of the total PRS sector including vacant properties.

$$PRS_total = PRS_occupied / PRS_Occupancy\ rate$$

This methodology has been used to produce the figures since 2003. Prior to this no account was taken of vacancy rates in producing the split.

To adjust the PRS_occupied figure for 2015, EHS vacancy rates for 2014 have been used (as EHS vacancy data are not yet available for 2015). This will be updated once the required survey information becomes available. This enables an estimation of the private rental sector tenure split for the most recent year, as EHS estimates of the private rental sector vacancy rate in recent years have been comparable (9.5% in 2012, 10.0% in 2013 and 10.0% in 2014).

Owner-occupation

The OO tenure can then be calculated by deducting the PRS, local authority, PRP and other public sector values from the total stock.

$$OO = Total - LA - PRP - Other - PRS$$

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables and charts are available to download alongside this release. These are:

Table 100	Dwelling stock: Number of dwellings by tenure and district, from 2009
Table 101	Dwelling stock: by tenure, United Kingdom (historical series)
Table 102	Dwelling stock: by tenure, Great Britain (historical series)
Chart 103	Dwelling stock: by tenure, Great Britain (historical series)
Table 104	Dwelling stock: by tenure, England (historical series)
Chart 105	Dwelling stock: by tenure, England historical series
Table 106	Dwelling stock: by tenure, Wales (historical series)
Table 107	Dwelling stock: by tenure, Scotland (historical series)
Table 108	Dwelling stock: by tenure, Northern Ireland (historical series)
Table 125	Dwelling stock estimates by district, from 2001

These tables can be accessed at

<http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

In addition, legacy regional tables are also available at the link above. These tables have not been updated. For more information please see the Written Ministerial Statement as noted below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statistics-for-local-enterprise-partnerships-and-upper-tier-local-authorities>

Definitions

Dwelling

A dwelling is defined (in accordance with the Census definition) as a self-contained unit of accommodation. Self-containment is where all the rooms (including kitchen, bathroom and toilet) in a household's accommodation are behind a single door which only that household can use. Non-self-contained household spaces at the same address should be included together as a single dwelling. Therefore a dwelling can consist of one self-contained household space or two or more non-self-contained household spaces at the same address.

Ancillary dwellings (e.g. 'granny annexes') are included provided they are self-contained, pay separate council tax from the main residence, do not share access with the main residence (e.g. a shared hallway) and there are no conditional restrictions on occupancy.

Non-permanent (or 'temporary') dwellings are included if they are the occupant's main residence and council tax is payable on them as a main residence. These include caravans, mobile homes, converted railway carriages and houseboats. Permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches are included if they are, or likely to become, the occupants' main residence.

Communal establishments

Communal establishments are not included within these estimates. These cover university and college student communal accommodation, hospital staff accommodation, hostels/homes, hotels/holiday complexes, defence establishments (not married quarters) and prisons. However, purpose-built, separate homes (e.g. self-contained flats clustered into units with 4 to 6 bedrooms for students) are included. Each self-contained unit should be counted as a dwelling; however some dwellings of this type may have been excluded due to changes in this part of the dwelling definition during the last ten years.

Technical notes

Symbols

The following conventions have been used in the tables:

.. Not available;

- Fewer than 5 dwellings;

^P Figure provisional and subject to revision;

^R Revised from previous release.

Totals may not equal the sum of component parts due to rounding to the nearest 10.

Data collection

No data are collected directly for this statistical release. Instead, it draws on information from a range of data sources in order to compile a coherent set of statistics on the total number of dwellings and the tenure profile of the stock. The statistical sources used are listed below.

- Census 2001 (Office for National Statistics)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/census-2001/index.html>
- Census 2011 (Office for National Statistics)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>
- Net supply of housing (Department for Communities and Local Government)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/net-supply-of-housing>
- Local Authority Housing Statistics (Department for Communities and Local Government)
<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/local-authority-housing-data>
- Statistical Data Return (Homes and Communities Agency)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistical-data-return-statistical-releases>
- Labour Force Survey (Office for National Statistics)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/surveys/list-of-surveys/survey.html?survey=%27Labour+Force+Survey%27>
- English Housing Survey (Department for Communities and Local Government)
<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/english-housing-survey>

Data quality

There are several alternative sources of data on total dwelling stock in England, including the census and the council tax system. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages. Therefore in 2009 the Department for Communities and Local Government asked the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to conduct a review of the method and data sources used for producing estimates of the dwelling stock.

One of the key findings of the review was that the existing method for producing estimates at the England and Government Office regions remains the most suitable method. The review also stated that it would be desirable to extend the same methodology to produce estimates at the local authority district level.

The source of the baseline dwelling counts for these estimates, the 2001 census and the 2011 census, are some of the most reliable National Statistics produced in the UK. The results are subject to intensive validation processes. It cannot be perfect however, and it is estimated that the dwelling count from the 2001 census contains an undercount for England of approximately 60,000 dwellings.

There is a wide margin of error around this estimate of the undercount, and the ONS does not recommend that it should be used as a basis on which to revise the census count. For this reason, and to maintain consistency with published census figures, the dwelling stock estimates in this series will continue to use the existing 2001 census and 2011 census count as a baseline.

Information on the strengths and weaknesses of the *Net housing supply* data used in the production of these dwelling stock estimates can be found in the most recent release of those statistics at the following link.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/net-supply-of-housing>.

Information on the strengths and weaknesses of the other data sources used to provide the tenure profile can be found in the separate statistical releases for each source. See the 'Data collection' section of this publication for a list of these sources and weblinks to each.

Comparability between the countries of the UK

Each of the countries of the UK produces its own statistics on Dwelling Stock Estimates (see "Related statistics" section below). The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for collecting and publishing data for England. However dwelling stock statistics for the devolved administrations of the UK, as well as for Great Britain and the UK as a whole, are included in the tables that accompany this statistical release. In this section the consistency of the data sources and methods is summarised.

This is not an exhaustive account of the methods used in each country. For full details please refer to their respective statistical releases. Links to these are provided in the 'Related Statistics' section of this publication.

In England, some imputation of stock figures is necessary for individual local authority districts, and this generally accounts for around 5 per cent of annual net supply. Assuming the imputation technique is appropriate, this should not lead to any positive or negative bias in the overall figures.

In Scotland, council tax data are used and this leads to a slight definitional mismatch with the rest of the UK as council tax data includes certain extra dwelling types. Evidence from comparisons in England suggests that the inclusion of such extra dwelling types probably increases estimates of the Scottish dwelling stock by less than one per cent, although this proportion may differ between Scotland and England.

The approach in Wales is very similar to that in England, using the Census and adding a measure of net supply for each intervening year. However, there may be a small negative bias in the net supply estimate for Wales compared to the rest of the UK due to the fact that they do not include new builds certified by Approved Inspectors and they have no way of incorporating gains or losses due to Change of Use.

Northern Ireland, like Scotland, uses administrative data from a tax system for total stock, but the data relate to March 31st and no substantial definitional differences or biases have been detected.

The methodology used for the tenure breakdown of stock is similar for all devolved administrations. Due to the nature of the social housing sector, data can be collected directly from the local authorities and PRPs who own and manage the stock. Total private sector is then derived by deducting full counts for the social tenures from the total estimate:

$$\text{Private} = \text{Total} - \text{Social (PRP + LA)}$$

The private stock is then split into owner-occupied and private rental using proportions estimated from a large government survey. This is done slightly differently in England from the other countries of the UK, with extra account taken of the much higher vacancy rate in the private rental sector. For further details see the 'Tenure' section of this publication.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>).

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

Scheduled revisions for the dwelling stock estimates are dependent on revisions to the Net supply of housing statistics. Information on the revisions policy of those statistics can be found in the most recent release of those statistics at the following link.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/net-supply-of-housing>

In addition, the dwelling stock estimates are calibrated against the census dwelling count on its release every ten years.

Following the 2001 census, the annual figures (1992 to 2001) were adjusted, with any difference spread evenly across the ten years since the previous census. It amounted to around 8,000 extra dwellings per year at the England level.

Following the 2011 census, the annual figures (2002 to 2011) were adjusted, with any difference spread evenly across the ten years since the previous census. It amounted to around 16,000 extra dwellings per year at the England level.

The differences are not evenly spread across districts.

For information, the dwelling stock estimates are not the source for the local authority council taxbase in England, which is sourced from the number of dwellings liable for council tax on the Valuation Office Agency valuation list, which can be found at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/council-taxbase-statistics>.

Uses of the data

The dwelling stock estimates are used as evidence in policy making by both central and local government. The data is also used in the development and production of other government statistics such as the English Housing Survey and by the Office for National Statistics. Outside of government the dwelling stock estimates are used by the finance and investment industries, for example to help develop a picture of demographic trends.

Related statistical releases are available:

Net supply of housing

The Department for Communities and Local Government's *Net supply of housing* statistics show the absolute change in the dwelling stock between 1 April and 31 March the following year. It comprises the number of new build permanent dwellings; plus the net gain from dwelling conversions; plus the net gain of non-residential buildings brought into residential use; plus net

additions from other gains and losses to the dwelling stock (such as mobile and temporary dwellings); less any demolitions. Each year the net supply of housing is added to the previous year's dwelling stock estimates to produce the latest year's dwelling stock estimates. The net supply of housing statistics can be found at the link below.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/net-supply-of-housing>

House building starts and completions

New house building completions are the largest component of net housing supply and therefore the most important factor in the annual change in the size of the dwelling stock. The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes a quarterly National Statistics series on new build starts and completions based on quarterly data returns by building control officers.

The quarterly house building statistical series is separate from and complementary to the annual *Net supply of housing* series described above, providing a more timely but less comprehensive measure of total housing supply in England. The house building statistics can be found at the link below.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/house-building-statistics>

Affordable housing supply

The Department for Communities and Local Government's annual *Affordable housing supply* statistics can be found at the following link. The affordable housing supply statistics include both new build supply and acquisitions for social and affordable rent and low cost home ownership. These figures are 'gross' in that they do not take account of any losses from the affordable housing sectors for example through demolitions, sales or transfers to the private sector.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/affordable-housing-supply>

Council tax valuation lists

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) compiles and maintains lists of all domestic properties in England and Wales to support the collection of council tax, and these lists are constantly updated to reflect the creation of new dwellings and losses of dwellings.

The VOA's definition of a dwelling differs somewhat from that used by the census. The Department for Communities and Local Government's *Dwelling stock estimates*, *Net supply of housing* and *House Building* statistics all use the census definition (see 'Definitions' section below). This means that a number of dwelling units may be included in one set of statistics but not the other. In general the VOA's definition is broader and includes communal establishments such as student halls of residence or care homes where the definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government does not.

The Valuations Office Agency now publishes statistics on these lists which can be found at the following link.

<http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/Publications/statistics.html>

New Homes Bonus

The New Homes Bonus allocates grants to local authorities according to the number of new homes delivered and empty homes brought back into use in their area. The growth in their council taxbase is used as a proxy measure for the number of new homes delivered because this provides information about council tax bands which are required as part of the calculation of New Homes Bonus allocations. The number of long-term empty homes in each area is also collected as part of the council tax system.

As the New Homes Bonus is based on council tax data, which is itself derived from the Valuation Office Agency's valuation list, it is collected using the same, broader definition of a dwelling as used by the Valuation Office Agency (see 'Council tax valuation lists' above).

The council taxbase data return is made by local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government in November giving details of their council tax base at September.

Therefore the period over which the change in taxbase is measured for the New Homes Bonus (the year to September) is different from the period over which the net supply of housing is measured (the year to April).

The combination of timing and definitional differences means that it is not possible to reconcile the New Homes Bonus numbers fully to the National Statistics on housing supply (House Building and Net Supply of Housing). The different sources will inevitably give different figures, though trends over time are likely to be similar. In addition, the New Homes Bonus headline allocations figures also include a component for empty homes brought back in to use.

Users of housing supply statistics should note that the New Homes Bonus figures are a by-product of the data used to administer the council tax system and are not primarily designed as a measure of housing supply. The National Statistics on *House Building* and on *Net supply of housing* are designed to give a comprehensive measure of housing supply which can be used to make consistent comparisons over time. They have been assessed and endorsed by the UK Statistics Authority (see 'National Statistics' section below).

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here:

Notes

1. These dwelling stock statistics are estimates and are all provisional and subject to revision. Figures at the national levels in the accompanying tables are shown rounded to the nearest 1000 dwellings. Figures at the local authority district level are expressed to the nearest ten dwellings but should not be regarded as accurate to the nearest ten. Further work is scheduled to investigate differences in estimates of net additional dwellings.
2. Sources are shown at the foot of individual accompanying tables and live tables.
3. National Statistics are produced to professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.
4. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to the Department for Communities and Local Government annual dwelling stock release up to 24 hours before release can be found at: <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics>
5. The next annual release will be published in April 2017, and will provide estimates of the dwelling stock as at 31 March 2016.

Devolved administration statistics

Dwelling stock estimates for the devolved administrations of the UK are included alongside the England statistics in the tables that accompany this statistical release. These data are published separately by the devolved administrations, and although figures are correct at the time of this publication they may be superseded before the next England dwelling stock release. Latest data and details on data sources and methods can be found at the following links.

Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSfS>

Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/housing/stock/;jsessionid=YGqTTPyXkdG6cHTm2rz9FTRpCBnwg12tp1GHMx1KlpvyL7L1hqxx!1959770227?lang=en>

Northern Ireland

<https://www.dsdni.gov.uk/topics/dsd-statistics-and-research-housing/housing-statistics>

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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