



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme) and Help to Buy: NewBuy statistics: Data to 31 December 2015, England

- In the first 33 months of the **Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme** (to 31 December 2015), **73,813 properties** were bought with an equity loan.
- The total value of these equity loans was **£3.24 billion**, with the value of the properties sold under the scheme totalling **£16.30 billion**.
- The mean purchase price of a property bought under the scheme was **£220,825**, compared with a mean equity loan of **£43,916**.
- Most of the home purchases in the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme were made by **First Time Buyers**, accounting for **59,871 (81 per cent)** of total purchases.
- For the **Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme**, **5,696** house purchases were made since the launch of the scheme in March 2012. There were no new transactions in Q4 2015 due to the **scheme closing** to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015.

Housing Market Statistical Release

10 March 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme) | 2 |
| Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme | 9 |
| Accompanying tables | 10 |
| Definitions | 11 |
| Technical notes | 13 |
| Enquiries | 16 |

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Introduction

This Statistical Release presents Official Statistics on the number of home purchases and the value of equity loans under the Government's Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, as well as the number of purchases under the Government's Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme (formerly known only as 'NewBuy').

Further policy information on the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme can be found on the Department's website:

<http://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes/help-to-buy-equity-loans>

Further policy information on the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme can be found at:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-available-homes/supporting-pages/newbuy-guarantee-scheme>

This release does not cover statistics regarding the Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme.

More information on Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee can be found here:

<http://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantees>.

The quarterly release of official statistics on the scheme can be found at

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantee-scheme-quarterly-statistics>. Its next release will be published in June 2016.

This is the tenth statistical release concerning Help to Buy: Equity Loan statistics. The figures presented in this release cover the first 33 months of the scheme, from its launch on 1 April 2013 until 31 December 2015. This release also covers the Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme from its launch on 12 March 2012 to 31 December 2015.

Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme

Monthly figures

The monthly figures for Help to Buy: Equity Loans are based on legal completion dates for transactions in the scheme as operated in England. The figures presented in Table 1 cover the 33 months from the launch of the scheme on 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2015 inclusive.

Table 1: Number of legal completions, and value of equity loans (£m), England

| | Completions ³ | Value of Equity Loans (£m) at completion ¹ | Total value of properties sold (£m) ² |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 2013 | | | |
| April | 8 | £0.26 | £1.31 |
| May | 318 | £11.06 | £55.32 |
| June | 1,777 | £66.77 | £334.73 |
| July | 775 | £30.50 | £152.93 |
| August | 1,376 | £53.85 | £270.28 |
| September | 1,793 | £71.88 | £361.11 |
| October | 1,744 | £71.74 | £360.27 |
| November | 2,346 | £96.95 | £486.45 |
| December | 3,886 | £163.14 | £817.98 |
| 2014 | | | |
| January | 1,175 | £50.78 | £255.39 |
| February | 1,627 | £68.78 | £345.72 |
| March | 2,779 | £115.65 | £580.79 |
| April | 1,870 | £80.60 | £405.28 |
| May (R) | 2,369 | £101.43 | £509.90 |
| June (R) | 4,536 | £198.72 | £998.27 |
| July | 1,651 | £72.14 | £363.38 |
| August (R) | 1,957 | £83.99 | £422.17 |
| September (R) | 2,237 | £96.48 | £484.23 |
| October (R) | 2,210 | £98.48 | £493.86 |
| November (R) | 2,222 | £95.74 | £481.14 |
| December (R) | 3,734 | £163.02 | £819.24 |
| 2015 | | | |
| January (R) | 1,104 | £49.19 | £246.95 |
| February (R) | 1,311 | £57.41 | £288.61 |
| March (R) | 2,213 | £94.71 | £476.33 |
| April (R) | 1,991 | £90.53 | £455.93 |
| May (R) | 2,571 | £116.82 | £588.25 |
| June (R) | 4,800 | £222.74 | £1,121.32 |
| July (R) | 1,986 | £90.92 | £458.00 |
| August (R) | 2,144 | £99.60 | £501.29 |
| September (R) | 2,739 | £127.06 | £640.77 |
| October | 2,937 | £136.61 | £689.35 |
| November | 2,876 | £137.96 | £693.31 |
| December | 4,751 | £226.08 | £1,139.91 |
| Total to 31 December 2015 | 73,813 | £3,241.58 | £16,299.75 |

(R) – revised since the last statistical release to reflect more up-to-date information.

1. The value of equity loans are based on the purchase price of the property, up to 20 per cent of the property's value at point of sale. The remaining balance of the purchase must be financed by a purchaser deposit and a conventional mortgage. The value is shown in £million and rounded to 2 decimal places.

2. Value of properties sold is equal to the sum of the purchase prices at point of legal completion.

3. Completions of legacy FirstBuy transactions that occurred after 1 April 2013 are not included in these statistics. For the reporting period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, there were 957 legacy FirstBuy completions for a total value of Government equity loan of £13m.

The cumulative total of the number of completions in the first 33 months of the scheme (to 31 December 2015) was 73,813. The corresponding value of these equity loans at point of legal

completion was £3.24 billion, with the overall value of properties sold under the scheme totalling £16.30 billion.

Table 2 below presents monthly figures for First Time Buyers. The cumulative total of the number of First Time Buyer completions during the scheme was 59,871, accounting for 81 per cent of total purchases. The corresponding value of these equity loans at point of legal completion was £2.51 billion (77 per cent of the total value of equity loans), with the overall value of properties sold under the scheme totalling £12.59 billion (77 per cent of the total value of properties sold). This reflects

Table 2: Number of legal completions, and value of equity loans (£m) for First Time Buyers, England

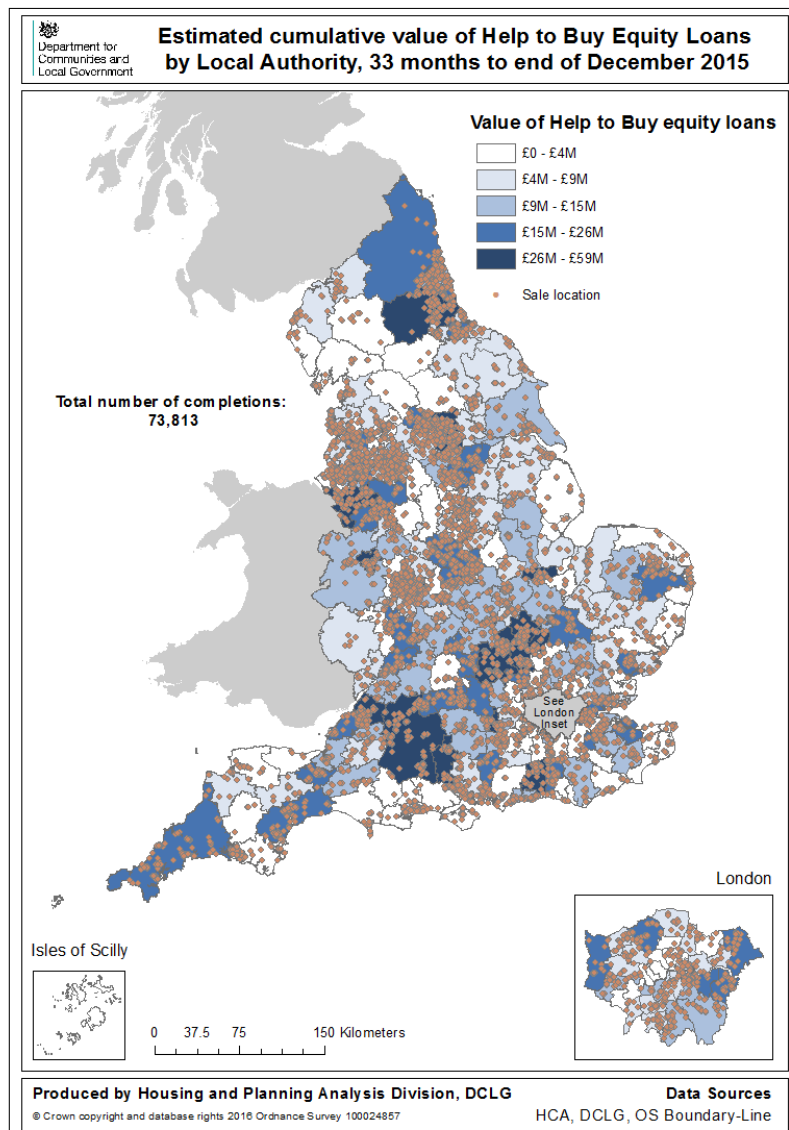
| | Completions ³ | Value of Equity Loans (£m) at completion ¹ | Value of properties sold (£m) ² |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 2013 | | | |
| April | 8 | £0.26 | £1.31 |
| May | 308 | £10.56 | £52.84 |
| June | 1,688 | £62.35 | £312.58 |
| July | 708 | £27.12 | £135.93 |
| August | 1,249 | £47.07 | £236.15 |
| September | 1,607 | £62.51 | £313.64 |
| October | 1,536 | £61.29 | £307.22 |
| November | 2,014 | £79.15 | £396.90 |
| December | 3,349 | £134.96 | £676.39 |
| 2014 | | | |
| January | 957 | £39.06 | £196.41 |
| February | 1,336 | £53.37 | £267.93 |
| March | 2,352 | £93.27 | £468.61 |
| April | 1,492 | £60.66 | £305.14 |
| May (R) | 1,882 | £76.01 | £381.60 |
| June (R) | 3,569 | £148.46 | £744.84 |
| July | 1,262 | £52.26 | £263.09 |
| August (R) | 1,534 | £62.80 | £315.67 |
| September | 1,794 | £73.66 | £369.41 |
| October (R) | 1,721 | £73.54 | £368.79 |
| November (R) | 1,742 | £71.85 | £360.91 |
| December (R) | 2,976 | £123.78 | £621.87 |
| 2015 | | | |
| January (R) | 838 | £35.19 | £176.65 |
| February (R) | 1,015 | £42.18 | £212.11 |
| March (R) | 1,766 | £71.45 | £359.39 |
| April (R) | 1,538 | £66.79 | £336.29 |
| May (R) | 1,995 | £85.89 | £431.71 |
| June (R) | 3,859 | £171.51 | £862.42 |
| July (R) | 1,552 | £68.07 | £342.21 |
| August (R) | 1,685 | £74.40 | £374.39 |
| September (R) | 2,185 | £97.05 | £489.26 |
| October | 2,311 | £102.66 | £517.12 |
| November | 2,259 | £104.35 | £524.48 |
| December | 3,784 | £172.28 | £868.76 |
| Total to 31 December 2015 | 59,871 | £2,505.79 | £12,592.02 |

See notes under Table 1

the fact that First Time Buyers are buying properties in the lower price brackets and thus apply for equity loans of smaller value.

Sub-national trends

Map 1: Total Value of Equity Loans and completions, by local authority area



This map shows the location of sales under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme to 31 December 2015, with each small circle representing one or more sales at a particular location. It also displays the total value of equity loans by local authority area (dark shaded areas denote higher value of equity loans in a local authority).

A table showing the number and value of loans on a quarterly basis and by local authority area accompanies this release (Table 1), and can be found on the Department's website.

Purchase price

The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme can be used to purchase a new build property up to the value of £600,000, with a maximum equity loan of £120,000 (20 per cent).

The numbers of homes purchased in the scheme to 31 December 2015 were the greatest in the £150,001 - £200,000 price bracket in Table 3, representing 30 per cent of total sales. 21 per cent of total sales were for properties between £200,001 and £250,000. These two price brackets combined therefore accounted for over half of the total completions in the scheme.

First Time Buyers purchased the greatest number of homes also in the £150,001 - £200,000 price bracket, representing 32 per cent of total sales. The numbers of homes purchased by First Time Buyers were greater in percentage terms in the lowest three price brackets, compared to the overall figures.

Table 3: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2015, by purchase price

| Purchase Price¹ | Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers) | Percentage of total Completions (First Time Buyers) | Cumulative completions | Percentage of total Completions |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| £0 – £125,000 | 6,781 | 11.3% | 7,118 | 9.6% |
| £125,001 - £150,000 | 8,298 | 13.9% | 8,919 | 12.1% |
| £150,001 - £200,000 | 19,088 | 31.9% | 22,087 | 29.9% |
| £200,001 - £250,000 | 12,346 | 20.6% | 15,825 | 21.4% |
| £250,001 - £350,000 | 9,217 | 15.4% | 13,348 | 18.1% |
| £350,001 - £500,000 | 3,492 | 5.8% | 5,561 | 7.5% |
| £500,001 - £600,000 | 649 | 1.1% | 955 | 1.3% |
| All properties | 59,871 | 100.0% | 73,813 | 100.0% |

1. Purchases under Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme are subject to Stamp Duty Land Tax on the same basis as other residential dwellings. The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme has a property price cap of £600,000.

The median purchase price for all purchases in the scheme was £199,950. The mean purchase price was higher at £220,825. This reflects the fact that the majority of sales are bunched in the lower price brackets. The median purchase price for First Time Buyers was £189,950 and the mean purchase price for First Time Buyers was £210,319.

The median equity loan across all completions was £39,749. The mean equity loan was slightly higher at £43,916, and 20 per cent of the mean purchase price. This reflects the fact that the majority of completions in the scheme used the full 20 per cent equity loan available. The median equity loan for First Time Buyers was £37,599 and the mean equity loan for First Time Buyers was £41,853.

Property type

The most frequent type of property sold under the scheme was semi-detached houses, representing 30 per cent of total completions, followed closely by detached properties at 28 per cent. Terraced properties and flats made up 27 and 15 per cent of completions respectively.

The most frequent type of property sold to First Time Buyers was similarly semi-detached and terraced houses, representing 31 and 29 per cent of total completions respectively. First Time Buyers purchased fewer detached houses compared to overall figures, at 23 per cent. Flats accounted for 17 per cent of total First Time Buyer completions.

Table 4: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2015, by property type

| Property Type | Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers) | Percentage of total Completions (First Time Buyers) | Cumulative completions | Percentage of total completions |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Flat | 10,326 | 17.2% | 11,051 | 15.0% |
| Terraced | 17,348 | 29.0% | 20,073 | 27.2% |
| Semi-detached | 18,481 | 30.9% | 21,938 | 29.7% |
| Detached | 13,689 | 22.9% | 20,721 | 28.1% |
| All properties¹ | 59,871 | 100.0% | 73,813 | 100.0% |

1. Includes 28 completions (25 for First Time Buyers) for which the property type was not recorded and 2 Studio apartments (First Time Buyers).

Purchaser deposits

Most completions under Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme were made by purchasers with a deposit of up to 5 per cent, accounting for 63 per cent of total completions. The majority of both, First Time Buyers and non-First Time Buyers, purchased homes with a deposit of up to 5 per cent.

Table 5: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2015, by purchaser deposit level and type of purchaser

| Deposit band ¹ | Completions (non- First Time Buyer) | Completions (First Time Buyer) | Total completions |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Up to 5% | 6,973 | 39,619 | 46,592 (63.1%) |
| 5.1% to 10% | 2,786 | 11,707 | 14,493 (19.6%) |
| 10.1% to 15% | 1,437 | 3,861 | 5,298 (7.2%) |
| 15.1% or more | 2,746 | 4,684 | 7,430 (10.1%) |
| All properties | 13,942 (18.9%) | 59,871 (81.1%) | 62,569 (100.0%) |

1. The deposit level for each transaction is calculated by expressing the amount of purchaser deposit as a percentage of the purchase price, and rounding to one decimal place.

Applicant household incomes

The household income of purchasers of properties under the Help to Buy: Equity Loans scheme is recorded for each individual completion in the scheme. 'Total applicant household income' reported below refers to the total income for the household, regardless of how many members of that household are making the purchase.

The mean of total household income in the scheme to date was £47,799 and the median £42,862. The overall distribution of household incomes shows the numbers of homes purchased were the greatest for purchasers with a household income between £30,001 and £40,000 a year, representing 25 per cent of total completions. 16 per cent of completions had applicants with a

registered household income of between £20,001 and £30,000 a year, with 3 per cent of completions with applicant household incomes lower than this. 79 per cent of completions had household incomes of £60,000 or less, whilst 3 per cent of completions had applicants with a registered household income in excess of £100,000 a year.

First Time Buyers exhibit a similar profile of household income. The mean of total household income for First Time Buyers was £46,051 and the median £41,000. The percentage of total First Time Buyer homes purchased was the greatest for households with income of between £30,001 and £40,000 a year, at 26 per cent. Almost a half of all First Time Buyers (48 per cent) had household incomes of £40,000 or less.

Table 6: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2015, by total applicant household income

| Total applicant household Income ¹ | Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers) | Percentage of total Completions (First Time Buyers) | Cumulative completions | Percentage of total Completions |
|---|--|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| £0 – £20,000 | 1,898 | 3.2% | 2,060 | 2.8% |
| £20,001 - £30,000 | 11,064 | 18.5% | 12,109 | 16.4% |
| £30,001 - £40,000 | 15,621 | 26.1% | 18,064 | 24.5% |
| £40,001 - £50,000 | 12,661 | 21.1% | 15,739 | 21.3% |
| £50,001 - £60,000 | 7,601 | 12.7% | 10,151 | 13.8% |
| £60,001 - £80,000 | 6,773 | 11.3% | 9,704 | 13.1% |
| £80,001 - £100,000 | 2,516 | 4.2% | 3,615 | 4.9% |
| Greater than £100,000 | 1,737 | 2.9% | 2,371 | 3.2% |
| All | 59,871 | 100.0% | 73,813 | 100.0% |

1. Total applicant household income as registered on the Help to Buy Property Information Form completed at the point of reservation. Income brackets presented here reflect total applicant household income, which does not discriminate between single person applications and joint applications under the scheme. Purchasers must have proof of income in order to be eligible for a Help to Buy: Equity Loan. The scheme allows for property purchases up to £600,000 with a maximum equity loan of 20 per cent. After accounting for the purchaser deposit and equity loan, the remaining balance must be financed through a mortgage which is not in excess of 4.5 times the applicant's household income e.g. a £600,000 property, with a 5 per cent purchaser deposit (£30,000) and a 20 per cent equity loan (£120,000) must fund the remainder of the purchase through a mortgage (£450,000). In this instance, the total applicant household income must be at least £100,000 per annum.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Scheme

Quarterly figures

The quarterly figures for the NewBuy Guarantee scheme are based on legal completion dates for transactions in the scheme as reported by participating mortgage lenders. This covers England only and shows data from the launch of the scheme on 12 March 2012 to 31 December 2015.

Table 7: Number of legal completions, Government liability (£m), and cost to Government (£m) under the NewBuy Guarantee scheme

| | Completions | Government Liability (maximum possible cost) £m ¹ | Successful claims against Government Guarantee, £m ² |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|---|
| 2012 | | | |
| Q2 | 252 | 2.6 | - |
| Q3 (R) | 376 | 3.8 | - |
| Q4 | 906 | 9.1 | - |
| 2013 | | | |
| Q1 | 764 | 7.7 | - |
| Q2 (R) | 1489 | 15.7 | - |
| Q3 | 682 | 7.2 | - |
| Q4 (R) | 613 | 6.6 | - |
| 2014 | | | |
| Q1 (R) | 198 | 2.0 | - |
| Q2 (R) | 193 | 2.0 | - |
| Q3 | 119 | 1.5 | - |
| Q4 (R) | 75 | 0.8 | - |
| 2015 | | | |
| Q1 (R) | 14 | 0.2 | - |
| Q2 (R) | 13 | 0.1 | - |
| Q3 | 2 | 0.0 | - |
| Q4 | 0 | 0.0 | - |
| Total to Q4 2015 | 5,696 | £59.4m | £0.0m |

1. Rounded to one decimal place. Government liability represents the total value of the government guarantees granted in the period. It also represents the maximum possible cost to Government as a result of claims being made against this guarantee. In practice, expected costs to Government as a result of providing the Guarantee are expected to be much smaller than this liability figure. More detail on the guarantee scheme and how it operates can be found in the Definitions section further down in this release.

2. Successful claims against the guarantee represent money Government that has paid out to mortgage lenders as a result of a mortgagee defaulting on their loan covered by the scheme and not being able to pay it back. In previous statistical releases, this was referred to as 'Government's Total Costs'.

(R) – Revised since the last statistical release due to the data provider reviewing the data held on past sales.

There were no completions in the fourth quarter of 2015 due to the scheme closing to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015. Any final transactions were completed on or before 8 September 2015. The total to Q4 2015 (5,696) is less than the previously reported total to Q3 2015 (5,703) due to data cleansing, involving the removal of unreconciled transactions. The total value of the Government Guarantees (“Government Liability”) for these completed sales was

£59.4m. To date, there have been no claims made with respect to the guarantees made under the scheme.

Sub-national trends

A table showing the cumulative number of completions for the NewBuy Guarantee scheme by local authority area (Table 2) accompanies this release, and can be found on the Department's website.

Accompanying tables

Two accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release:

Table 1 Number and value of Help to Buy: Equity Loans (quarterly), by local authority, England

Table 2 Cumulative number of Help to Buy: NewBuy completions (since March 2012), by local authority, England

These tables can be accessed from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-equity-loan-and-newbuy-statistics>

The **statistical release Tables 1-7** are also available to download from the link above.

In addition, the following tables are available from Open Data Communities at

<http://opendatacommunities.org/themes/housing-market> or via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-quarterly-statistics> and will be updated every quarter:

- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by local authority**
- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by local authority and postcode sector**, showing only postcode sectors with three or more cases to minimise the possibility of individual households being identified
- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by local authority and postcode district**, showing only postcode sectors with five or more cases to minimise the possibility of individual households being identified
- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by Parliamentary Constituency**, showing only loans for which the property's postcode did not straddle a constituency boundary.

The **Open Data mobile app** provides a range of statistics published by DCLG for the locality and is available for download free of charge from the [Windows App Store](#) and [Google Playstore](#). Any

enquiries about the app should be sent to ODC@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Definitions

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

An **equity loan** is Government financial assistance given to eligible applicants to purchase an eligible home through a Government equity mortgage secured on the home. The Government equity mortgage is ranked second in priority behind an owner's main mortgage lender. The Government equity mortgage means that if Government contributed 20 per cent of the value to the applicant to buy a home, the owner will repay 20 per cent of the future value to Government e.g. when selling their equity loan home.

The equity loan scheme reported in this statistical release is **Help to Buy: Equity loan**. This scheme offers up to 20 per cent of the value as Government assistance to purchasers buying a new build home. The buyer must provide a cash deposit of at least 5 per cent and a main mortgage lender must provide a loan of at least 75 per cent. The Government assistance to buy is made through an equity loan made by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to the purchaser. Help to Buy equity loans are only available on new build homes and the maximum purchase price is £600,000. Equity loan assistance for purchasers is paid via house builders registered with the HCA to participate in the Help to Buy equity loan initiative. The payment is made to builders (via solicitors) at purchaser legal completion. The equity loan is provided without fees for the first five years of ownership. The property title is held by the home owner who can therefore sell their home at any time and upon sale should provide the government the value of the same equity share of the property when it is sold. If Government contributed 20 per cent of the value to buy a new home, the owner will repay 20 per cent of the future value (the value at the time they sell) to Government, e.g. when selling their equity loan home. More information can be found on the Department's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes/help-to-buy-equity-loans>

The following definitions are used in relation to the equity loan scheme:

- **Completed equity loans (“purchaser legal completions”)**: a purchaser legal completion is defined as occurring when the home is ready for occupation, the sale contract between house builder and purchaser has completed and all mortgage funds, deposit and equity loan assistance have been paid to the house builder. The purchaser takes possession after legal completion.
- **Reservations**: a reservation is defined as the point at which an Authority to Proceed (ATP) is issued by the local Help to Buy Agent. The ATP is issued by Local Help to Buy Agent following their approval of a firm reservation of a Help to Buy Home. ATP issue is the approval for purchasers to commence conveyancing and submit a full mortgage application.

to the main mortgage lender.

The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme replaced the existing **FirstBuy** shared equity scheme on 1 April 2013. Information about the FirstBuy scheme can be found here:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130203154301/http://homesandcommunities.co.uk/cfg?page_id=6016&page=71

Completions of legacy FirstBuy transactions that occurred after 1 April 2013 are not included in these statistics. For the reporting period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, there were 957 legacy FirstBuy for a total value of Government equity loan of £13m. FirstBuy offered up to a 20 per cent equity loan on new build properties for First Time Buyers only, co-funded between Government and the house builder.

The figures provided in this release are based on the **legal completion** date for the sale. A purchaser legal completion is defined as when the home is ready for occupation, the sale contract between house builder and purchaser has completed and all mortgage funds, deposits and equity loan assistance have been paid to the house builder. The purchaser takes possession after legal completion.

In February 2016, the Government will launch London Help to Buy, which will offer equity loans at up to 40% of the value of the purchase price. The parameters of the scheme are the same as for standard Help to Buy: Equity Loan: deposits of at least 5% will be required; and the loans will be interest-free for 5 years, after which a charge will apply.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme

The title of the NewBuy Guarantee scheme was changed in early 2014 to 'Help to Buy: NewBuy', so that it is grouped together with the Government's other schemes designed to help prospective home buyers: Help to Buy: equity loan and Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee.

The scheme allows borrowers to secure up to a 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage on a new build property. More detail on the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-available-homes/supporting-pages/newbuy-guarantee-scheme>

The guarantee is provided by Government, in partnership with the house building industry. In the event of a borrower defaulting on their mortgage, Government and the respective house builder assume responsibility for any debt which is not already paid back to the mortgage lender.

Mortgages are covered by the government guarantee from point of completion. Government's maximum total contingent liability is capped at £1bn. Each time a property is sold under the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme, Government's maximum possible cost within this limit increases by 5.5 per cent of the property's sale value.

Government's costs will be incurred only when: (i) Help to Buy: NewBuy properties have been purchased (completed), possessed, and/or resold, and have attracted losses, and those losses have been claimed by the appropriate lender/s; and (ii) the total of such losses is in excess of the total of the builder's corresponding indemnity fund.

The Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme closed to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015. Any final transactions were completed on or before 8 September 2015.

Technical notes

Data collection

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

Data are extracted from the Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System (IMS). This contains information provided by Help to Buy agents in accordance with monitoring requirements for the payment of the equity loans.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme

The data in this release have been provided by JLT Insurance Management (Guernsey) Ltd (JLTIM) in its capacity as administrator to the NewBuy Mortgage Indemnity Scheme. Analysts working for the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked with JLTIM's analysts to ensure the accuracy of the data presented. JLTIM is a member of the Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group plc group of companies and is regulated by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.

Data quality

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

Data recorded in the IMS by Help to Buy agents are subject to system validations in IMS. In addition, Help to Buy Agents make Key Performance Standard monthly reports to HCA and these include compliance with HCA requirements. HCA also conducts random file checks for accuracy on all Help to Buy Agents at quarterly contract review meetings. Following extraction for the purposes of producing this statistical release, data are quality assured by checking individual entries which exceed set tolerances e.g. such as purchaser income levels, as well as 'spot checks' by cross checking with the Land Registry database (see: <http://houseprices.landregistry.gov.uk/sold-prices/>).

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme

Data on individual sales in the scheme are recorded by JLTIM and checked for consistency from both the participating builder and lender. In the event that information is inconsistent, JLTIM will contact and resolve with the relevant parties as part of routine query process.

Following extraction for the purposes of statistical release, the data are validated by DCLG against Management Information reports provided by JLTIM to the Department.

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

Help to Buy: Equity Loan statistics are drawn from the grant administration system and therefore updated information can be provided by grant recipients after the official statistics have been extracted and compiled. If required, revisions are incorporated into the next scheduled statistical release. For each release, revisions are made to the previous eight quarters only. Until recently, the HCA recorded Help to Buy equity loan sales at approval of payment of the builder's claim. In January 2015 the National Audit Office advised that, for accounting purposes, sales should be recorded at the completion of the home purchase. The HCA has amended the data on this basis. The main effect is on the distribution of sales across previous quarters. The most recent cumulative totals are slightly increased. The first revised total to the end of January 2015 was included in the monthly statistics on the 5th March 2015 which also explained the change. The first revised time series (count and value of loans) was included in the monthly statistics on the 31st March 2015 and has been revised today.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme statistics are drawn from JLTIM's database of recorded transactions. Whilst the majority of transactions that happen within a reporting period are recorded within a month of the period ending, there are residual cases where completion dates have yet to be confirmed by participating lenders in the scheme. This can lead to a slight under-reporting of the actual number of transactions on first release. Figures can also be revised as a result of JLTIM reviewing data held on past sales. The future impact of such revisions is anticipated to be small.

Uses of the data

The data are used for monitoring the delivery of the Help to Buy: Equity loans scheme, and the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme. They are also used to inform wider government policy on housing.

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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

Related statistics

Six-monthly statistics on housing starts on site and housing completions delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency (which will include Help to Buy: Equity Loan completions) are published in their Housing Statistics release, which can be found here:

<http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing-statistics>

Although from April 2012 the Mayor of London has had strategic oversight of housing, regeneration and economic development in London, the Homes and Communities Agency administers the Help to Buy: Equity Loans scheme on behalf of the Greater London Authority.

Details of delivery of housing under other Government schemes, including shared ownership schemes, can be found on the Department's website here:

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

Both the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, and the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme operate only in England.

As stated in the Introduction (page 2), the quarterly release of official statistics on the Help to Buy mortgage guarantee scheme – covering sales to 31 December 2015 - was scheduled for publication by the Treasury today and can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantee-scheme-quarterly-statistics>. Its next release – covering sales to 31 March 2016 - will be published in June 2016. The mortgage guarantee scheme operates across the whole of the United Kingdom.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) publishes a range of statistics on its programmes

including activity on the Help to Buy equity loan scheme. Figures are available at <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing-statistics>

Enquiries

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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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