



Help to Buy: ISA scheme Quarterly Statistics

30 March 2017

Data from 1 December 2015 to 31 December 2016

Key points:

- Since the launch of the Help to Buy: ISA, 45,098, property completions have been supported by the scheme.
- 63,196 bonuses have been paid through the scheme with an average bonus value of £579.
- The highest proportion of property completions with the support of the scheme is in the North West, Yorkshire and The Humber and South West, with a lower proportion in the North East and Northern Ireland.
- The mean value of a property purchased through the scheme is £170,089 compared to an average first-time buyer house price of £185,000 and a national average house price of £220,000.
- The median age of a first-time buyer in the scheme is 27 compared to a national first-time buyer median age of 30.

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22 June 2017

Introduction

This statistical release contains Official Statistics on the government's Help to Buy: ISA scheme, covering the number and value of bonuses paid, property completions by value, breakdowns by age and by geographical area. Excel tables with all the data set out in this release are available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-statistics-on-the-help-to-buy-isa-scheme

The quarterly release of the Official Statistics for the Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee scheme can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantee-scheme-quarterly-statistics

The quarterly release of the Official Statistics for the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme can be found at:

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

In order to provide context for users of the Help to Buy: ISA scheme statistics, comparisons are made to various Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) statistics, which cover the UK mortgage lending market as a whole. More information about CML statistics is available at:

www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Help to Buy: ISA

The Help to Buy: ISA scheme was launched on 1 December 2015 with accounts available through banks, building societies and credit unions. The scheme enables people saving for their first home to receive a 25% boost to their savings from the Government when they buy a property of £250,000 or less (with a higher price limit of £450,000 in London). This means that for every £200 saved, first-time buyers can receive a government bonus of £50. The maximum government bonus is £3,000.

The scheme will be open to new savers until 30 November 2019. Help to Buy: ISA account holders can, however, continue saving into their account until 30 November 2029 when accounts will close to additional contributions. The Help to Buy: ISA government bonus must be claimed by 1 December 2030.

Monthly figures

Table 1 below shows the number of Help to Buy: ISA bonuses paid through the scheme alongside the number of property completions, the total value of bonuses paid and the total value of the properties purchased. There were 63,196 bonuses paid through the scheme to end of December 2016, which supported 45,098 property completions. The total value of the bonuses paid in this period was £37 million which were used to finance properties worth £7.7 billion in total.

Table 1: Number of bonuses paid, property completions, total value of bonuses and properties from December 2015 to December 2016¹

	Bonuses	Total property completions ^{2,3}	Value of bonuses (£m)	Value of properties (£m)
2015				
December	-	-	-	-
2016				
January	-	-	-	-
February	374	247	0	41
March	1,659	1,204	1	197
April	3,260	2,292	1	374
May	3,666	2,666	2	448
June	6,100	4,311	3	733
July	6,882	4,859	4	824
August	8,287	5,813	5	992
September	8,091	5,731	5	971
October	7,837	5,580	5	954
November	8,570	6,196	6	1,062
December	8,470	6,199	6	1,074
Total to end December	63,196	45,098	37	7,671

Property value

Table 2 below shows the number of property completions supported by the scheme broken down by property value.

¹ Minor changes in previously published data are due to ISA Managers updating accounts and solicitors/conveyancers confirming property completions.

² Total property completions include property purchases where confirmation of completion is still being awaited from the acting solicitor or conveyancer.

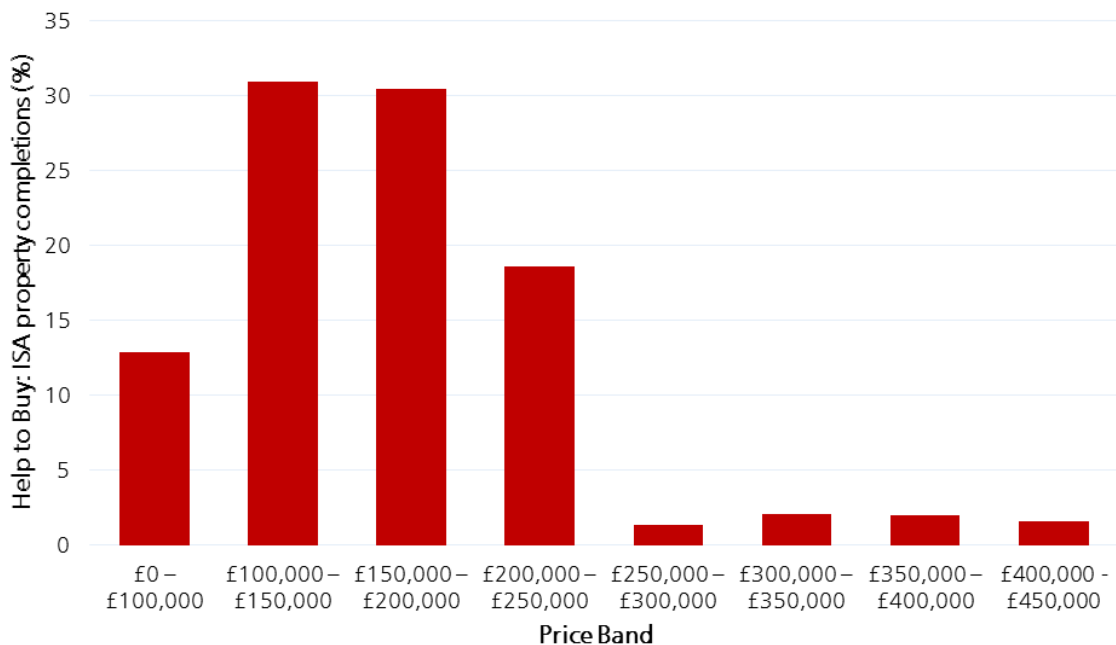
³ Total property completions is lower than the total bonuses paid as multiple bonuses can be used for a single property, i.e. a couple each with a Help to Buy: ISA buying a property together.

The mean value of a property completion in the Help to Buy: ISA scheme to the end of December 2016 was £170,089, compared to the average first-time buyer price of £185,000 and the average UK house price of £220,000⁴. 74% of completions were in the lower value bands of £200,000 or less. 19% of completions were on properties valued at between £200,000 and £250,000. This reflects the fact that most completions in the scheme have been on properties outside London, in regions where prices are typically lower.

Table 2: Bonuses and property completions from December 2015 to December 2016, by property value

Price band	Bonuses	Total property completions	Percentage of total completions (%)
£0 – £100,000	7,197	5,804	13
£100,000 – £150,000	19,032	13,970	31
£150,000 – £200,000	20,050	13,749	30
£200,000 – £250,000	12,422	8,383	19
£250,000 – £300,000	862	618	1
£300,000 – £350,000	1339	947	2
£350,000 – £400,000	1279	913	2
£400,000 - £450,000	1015	714	2
All properties	63,196	45,098	100

Chart 1: Property completions from December 2015 to December 2016, by property value



⁴ Source: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-house-price-index-summary-december-2016

Age breakdown

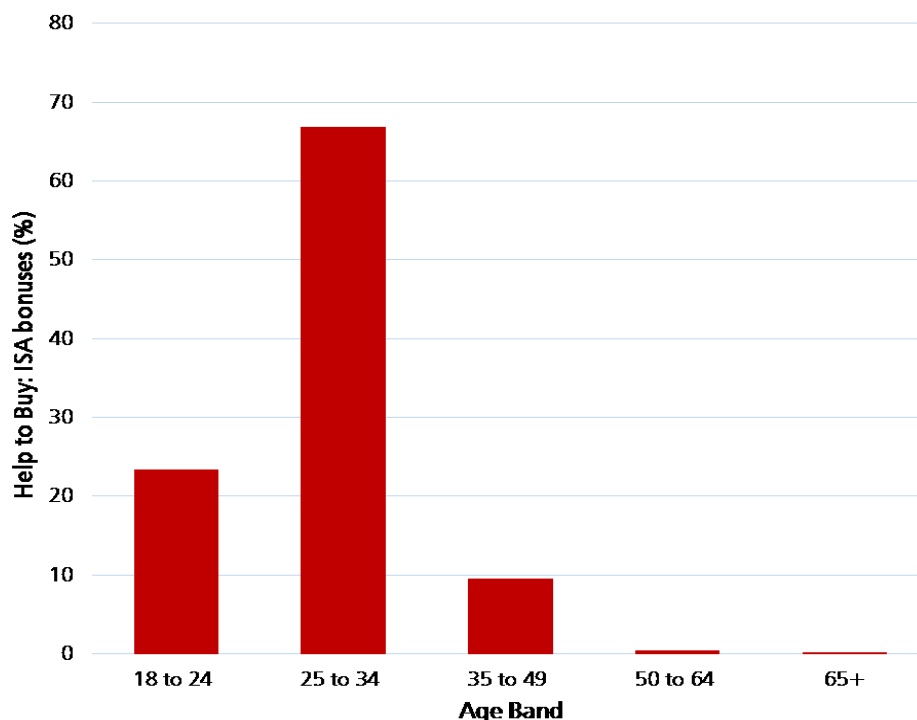
Table 3 shows the number of bonuses paid, broken down by age of first-time buyer.

67% of first-time buyers that have been supported by the scheme were between the ages of 25 to 34. The median age of a first-time buyer in the scheme is 27 compared to a median first-time buyer age across the market in the same period of 30⁵.

Table 3: Bonuses and property completions from December 2015 to December 2016, by age

Age	Bonuses	Total property completions ⁶	Percentage of total bonuses (%) ⁷
18 to 24	14,755	10,237	23
25 to 34	42,254	30,172	67
35 to 49	5,975	4,526	9
50 to 64	195	151	0
65+	17	12	0
Total	63,196	45,098	100

Chart 2: Bonuses from December 2015 to December 2016, by age



⁵ Source: The Council of Mortgage Lenders industry data for median age of first-time buyers.

⁶ Property completions by age band is allocated by splitting the property in two to account for where multiple bonuses are used for a single property.

⁷ Due to rounding, numbers may not add up to 100%.

Country and regional breakdowns

Table 4 shows the country and regional distribution of the number of bonuses paid and property completions through the scheme in each region of England⁸ as well as in the devolved administrations. It also shows a country and regional breakdown of the mean property value.

Scotland accounted for 8% of property completions, Wales accounted for 5% of property completions and Northern Ireland accounted for 2% of property completions.

78% of bonuses paid were in England and this supported 81% of total property completions through the scheme. London and the South East received 16% of total bonuses paid and made up 17% of total property completions. At a regional level a higher proportion of property completions were supported by the scheme in the North West, Yorkshire and The Humber and South West.

Table 4: Number of bonuses and mean bonus paid, property completions and mean property value from December 2015 to December 2016, by country/region⁹

Country/Region	Bonuses	Percentage of total bonuses (%)	Mean bonus paid (£)	Property completions	Percentage of total completions (%)	Mean property value (£)
England	49,257	78	579	36,395	81	175,584
North East	2,727	4	574	2,031	5	134,721
North West	8,483	13	575	6,276	14	145,454
Yorkshire and The Humber	6,488	10	574	4,805	11	143,160
East Midlands	5,617	9	576	4,143	9	151,212
West Midlands	5,566	9	579	4,116	9	156,773
East	4,391	7	583	3,186	7	181,950
London	5,085	8	584	3,880	9	311,433
South East	4,831	8	585	3,577	8	187,679
South West	6,069	10	582	4,381	10	179,152
Wales	2,960	5	574	2,197	5	141,272
Scotland	4,767	8	557	3,739	8	138,035
Northern Ireland	1,157	2	578	854	2	128,009
Other	5,055	8	597	1,913	4	180,085
Total	63,196	100	579	45,098	100	170,089

⁸ The regions used in this publication are based on regions as defined by the ONS. ONS data regions can be found here: www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/ukgeographies

⁹ Due to rounding, numbers may not add up to 100%.

Local authority breakdown

Map 1 overleaf shows the number of bonuses paid through the Help to Buy: ISA scheme by local authority from December 2015 to December 2016.

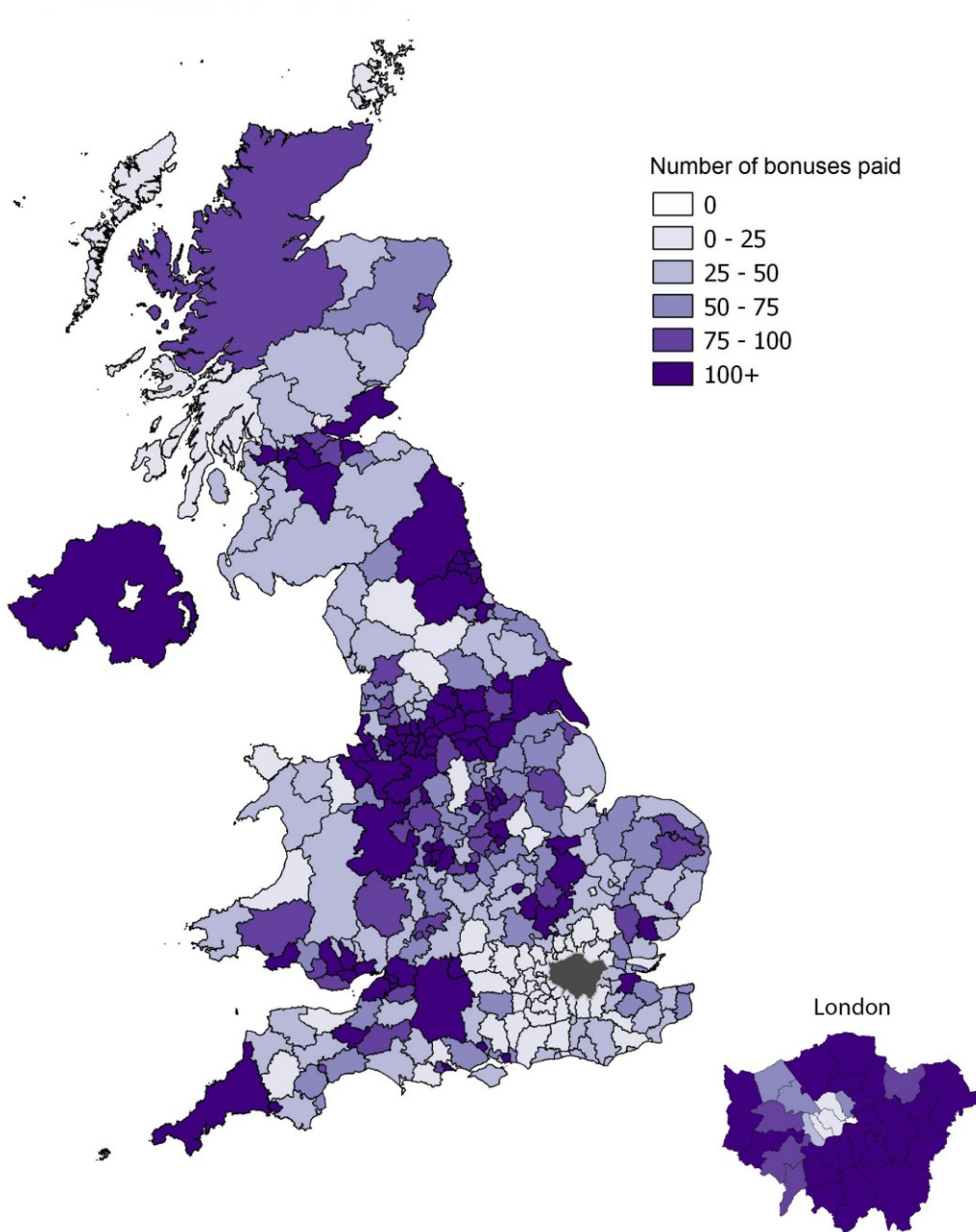
Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release:

Table 5: Breakdown by local authority, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Table 6: Breakdown by postcode district, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Table 7: Breakdown by constituency, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Map 1: Number of bonuses paid through the Help to Buy: ISA from December 2015 to December 2016, by local authority, UK¹⁰



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Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2014

¹⁰ Where the number of bonuses paid falls on the boundary between two bands, it is allocated on the lower band, i.e. 25 number of bonuses paid will be included in the 0-25 band.

Background notes

Data collection

UK Asset Resolution corporate services (UKARcs), who administer the scheme on behalf of HM Treasury, collect data from providers participating in the scheme in accordance with monitoring and reporting requirements set by HM Treasury.

Data quality

Both UKARcs and HM Treasury quality assure the data, using IT solutions and manual processes.

Audit and financial reporting

The scheme requires a rigorous audit regime to monitor and enforce compliance with the eligibility criteria and scheme rules. Providers are required to conduct internal audits, in addition to administrator audits carried out by UKARcs to seek assurance as to the provider's compliance with the scheme rules.

Mean and median

The following explanation uses property value as an example, but the median and mean are used in the same way throughout the publication. The median property value is the midway point of all the properties values included in the analysis. That is, if there were 101 property completions during a time period and they were ranked by value, the median property value would be the value in the middle i.e., that has 50 house prices above it and 50 house prices below it.

This differs to the arithmetic mean value, which equates to the average price – adding the property values together and then dividing this by the number of completions included in the analysis.

It can be useful to look at both the mean and median with property values. Extreme values at either end of the scale can skew the mean. Therefore the median can give users an additional way of interpreting the data.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the Treasury Revisions policy:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/191042/statistics_revisions_policy.pdf

There are two types of revision covered by the policy above, unscheduled revisions and scheduled revisions.

In line with the policy above, if a significant unscheduled revision is needed (for example from an error in the result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process), the statistical release and accompanying tables would be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

There should be relatively few scheduled revisions as the data is compiled from established administrative systems. Where there are scheduled revisions these will be indicated in the time series and highlighted in the release.

Users of the data

The data is used for monitoring the delivery of the Help to Buy: ISA scheme by users including the public, Parliament, financial and housing companies and markets. They are also used to inform wider government policy on housing.

Data sources

The publications of this scheme use the official UK House Price Index (UK HPI) which replaces the existing, and previously used, house price indices published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Land Registry for England and Wales.

An explanation of the change in House Price Index by the ONS is published here:

www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/introducingthesingleofficialhousepriceindex/2016-03-30

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:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/191041/statistics_user_engagement.pdf

Further information

Further information about the Help to Buy: ISA scheme can be found at:

www.helptobuy.gov.uk/help-to-buy-isa/how-does-it-work/

Enquiries

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