

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Energy Performance of Buildings Certificates Statistical Release: Q2 2019: England and Wales

In the *quarter* ending June 2019, 410,000 domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) were lodged in England and Wales.

- 85% (342,000) of these EPCs were for the sale and letting of *existing* dwellings; an increase of 17% on the same quarter last year.
- EPCs are valid for 10 years. They were introduced using a phased approach, with the requirement fully implemented for domestic properties by autumn 2008. The large increase may reflect EPCs issued before 2009 being renewed when a dwelling was let or sold in 2019.
- 17% (68,000) of domestic EPCs were for new build dwellings and conversions; an increase of 3% on the equivalent quarter in 2018 and a continuation of the upward trend in EPCs for new dwellings since 2014.

In the year ending June 2019:

- 255,000 EPCs were lodged for new build dwellings and conversions in England and Wales, an increase of 9% on the previous year and the largest annual total for new properties since 2008 when the statistical record began.
- Most EPCs for new build dwellings and conversions were lodged in England (246,000, up 9% on the previous year). The remaining 8,600 EPCs for new build dwellings and conversions were lodged in Wales, up 11% on the previous year.

Energy Efficiency Experimental Official Statistics Release

31 July 2019

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Introduction

This statistical release presents Experimental Official Statistics based on Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) issued for domestic and non-domestic buildings and Display Energy Certificates (DECs) issued for buildings occupied by public authorities. The certificates are lodged on the Energy Performance of Buildings Registers ("the Registers") for England and Wales.

Throughout the release, the number of EPCs in England are quoted to the nearest thousand. The Welsh and DEC figures are quoted to the nearest hundred. Percentage changes have been calculated using unrounded figures. Due to rounding individual figures may not add up to the total.

Energy Performance Certificates

An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) indicates the energy efficiency of building. The assessments are banded from A to G, where A (or A+ for non-domestic properties) is the most efficient in terms of likely fuel costs and carbon dioxide emissions. An EPC is required whenever a building is newly constructed, sold or let. The purpose of an EPC is to show prospective tenants or buyers the energy efficiency of the property. The requirement for EPCs was introduced in phases and fully implemented for domestic properties by autumn 2008. EPCs are valid for 10 years.

Display Energy Certificates

Larger properties occupied by public authorities and frequently visited by the public must display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in a prominent place. DECs show the actual energy consumption of a building and are accompanied by reports which provide recommendations on potential energy saving measures.

Experimental Official Statistics

Experimental Official Statistics are defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics as "new official statistics undergoing evaluation". They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as means to build in quality at an early stage.

These statistics are based on information from EPCs and DECs lodged on the Registers. This administrative data is subject to continuing quality investigation and improvement (see Technical Notes on Data Quality). They have been released because they have been judged to be of immediate value to interested parties and to encourage user feedback.

Open Data

Some of the statistics from previous releases are available in fully open and linkable data formats at Open Data Communities: http://opendatacommunities.org/.

There are also property level EPC and DEC data available at Open Data Communities from previous releases: https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/.

Cumulative totals for all EPCs and DECs

Since 2008, 20,161,000 EPCs have been lodged on the Registers, with domestic properties accounting for 96% of the total. In the last 12 months, 1,617,000 EPCs were lodged – an increase of 26% compared with the previous 12 months. Of these, 433,000 were lodged in the quarter ending June 2019; an increase of 13% compared with the same quarter in 2018 (Live Table A1).

Since 2008, 19,272,000 EPCs covering domestic properties (including new properties) in England and Wales have been lodged on the Register. Of these, 2,017,000 EPCs (10% of the total) covered **new** domestic properties (including new builds and conversions) (Live Table NB1 and A1).

A total of 889,000 EPCs covering non-domestic properties and a total of 369,000 DECs have been lodged on the Registers since 2008 (Live table A and DEC1).

EPCs for all domestic properties

In April to June 2019, 410,000 EPCs were lodged on the Register covering all domestic properties (sales, lets and new dwellings). This represents an increase of 14% on the same quarter last year, when there were 358,000 lodgements.

In the 12 months to June 2019, 1,525,000 domestic EPCs were lodged, an increase of 27% on the previous 12 months (Live Table D1).

Existing and new domestic properties compared

The majority of domestic EPCs were for the sale and letting of existing properties. In April to June 2019, 342,000 EPCs for **existing** dwellings were lodged on the Register in England and Wales, while 68,000 EPCs were lodged for **new** dwellings (including new builds, conversions and change of use). New dwellings accounted for 17% of all domestic EPCs lodged in England and Wales during April to June 2019 (Live Tables EB1, NB1 and A1).

Compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018 the number of EPCs lodged for **existing** dwellings increased by 17% (Live Table EB1). This is likely to reflect the validity of EPCs being 10 years. EPCs were introduced using a phased approach and fully implemented for domestic dwellings by autumn 2008. EPCs lodged when the energy performance of buildings regulations were first implemented will now need to be replaced when the dwelling is sold.

In *England and Wales*, there was an increase of 3% in the number of EPCs lodged for **new** dwellings in the last quarter, compared to the equivalent quarter in 2018. In the year to June 2019, 255,000 EPCs for new dwellings were lodged, up 9% on the previous year, and the largest annual total since the statistical record began. This increase continues the long-term upward trend in EPCs for new dwellings since 2014 (Live Table NB1).

In England, 65,000 EPCs were lodged for new dwellings in April to June 2019, which is an

increase of 3% since the equivalent quarter last year. In the last year, 246,000 EPCs for new dwellings were lodged in England, an increase of 9% on the previous year.

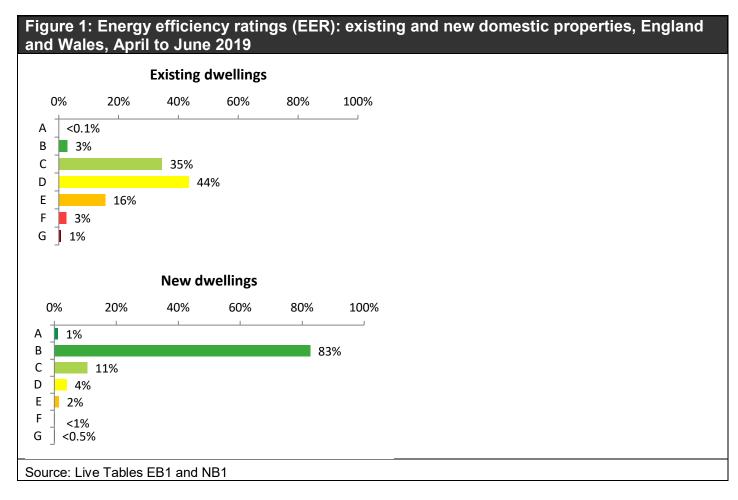
In *Wales*, 2,200 new dwelling EPCs were lodged in April to June, an increase of 6%. In the last year, 8,600 were lodged, an increase of 11% on the previous year (Live Table NB1).

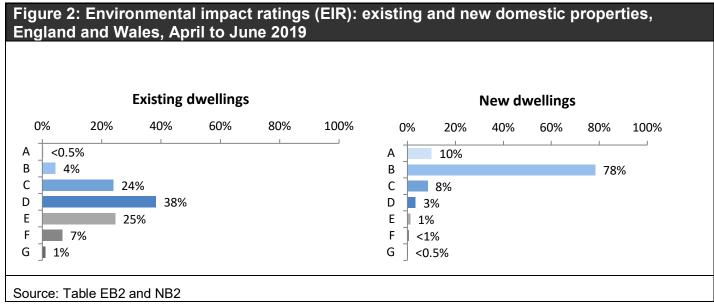
June 2019 Country	New dwellings			Ex	All dwelling totals		
	Number	As proportion of total	Change since the equivalent quarter 2018	Number	As propor- tion of total	Change since the equivalent quarter 2018	Number
England	65,000	17%	3%	321,000	83%	16%	386,000
Wales	2,200	10%	6%	21,000	90%	28%	23,000
England and Wales	68,000	17%	3%	342,000	83%	17%	410,000

EPCs for domestic properties show an energy efficiency rating (EER) based on estimated fuel costs and an environmental impact rating (EIR) based on CO₂ emissions. Both measures are estimated from the characteristics of the property. The numerical ratings are then banded A to G, with A being the most energy efficient and G the least. In general, the higher the EER or EIR rating, the lower the fuel bills and CO₂ emissions are likely to be.

For both the EER and the EIR, the greatest proportion of lodgements for *existing* domestic properties in England and Wales were in band D. *New* properties in England and Wales tended to be more energy efficient, with the majority in Band B (Figures 1 and 2).

In April to June 2019, the majority of *new* dwellings received an A or B EER rating (84% in England and 86% in Wales) while only a small proportion of *existing* dwellings did (3% in England and 2% in Wales). By comparison, the majority of *existing* dwellings were given a C or D EER rating (79% in England and 71% in Wales). Only 15% of *new* dwellings in England and 12% in Wales were given a C or D EER rating (Live Tables EB1 and NB1).





The average values for a range of energy performance indicators for existing and new domestic properties in England and Wales are shown in Table 2. New properties tend to be more energy efficient. Flats tend to produce fewer emissions and have lower lighting and heating costs than houses even though flats have a higher energy use per square metre.

Table 2: Mean floor area, energy use, CO₂ emissions and energy costs for existing and new domestic properties, England and Wales, April to June 2019							
Property	Energy Use	CO ₂	Lighting	Heating	Hot Water	Floor	
type	(kWh/m2	Emissions	Costs	Costs	Costs	area	
	per annum)	(tonnes per	(£ per	(£ per	(£ per	(m2)	
		annum)	annum)	annum)	annum)		
Existing:							
Houses	269	4.83	92	811	137	102	
Flats	281	2.54	60	409	147	56	
All existing dwellings	277	4.01	80	667	141	85	
New:							
Houses	86	1.63	73	286	91	110	
Flats	124	1.2	50	221	127	63	
All new dwellings	101	1.47	64	263	105	93	
Source: Live Tables EB7 and NB7							

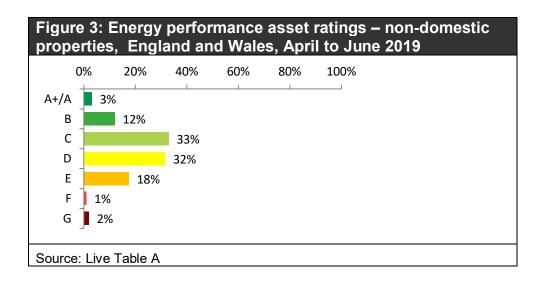
Comparing the dwelling types on certificates for new and existing properties, a higher proportion of new dwelling EPCs were for flats, a similar proportion of new and existing dwelling EPCs were for houses while a smaller proportion of new dwelling EPCs were for bungalows and maisonettes (Table 3).

Table 3: Dwelling types for existing and new domestic properties, England and Wales, April to June 2019						
Property type	Houses	Flats	Bungalow	Maisonettes	Total	
Existing	56%	33%	9%	3%	342,000	
New	59%	37%	3%	1%	68,000	
Source: Live Tables EB Note: Proportions do no		o rounding	<u>, </u>			

EPCs for non-domestic properties

During April to June 2019, 23,000 EPCs were lodged for non-domestic properties, a slight decrease of 4% compared with the corresponding quarter in 2018. Of these, 96% were lodged in England and 4% in Wales. In the year ending June 2019, 92,000 non-domestic EPCs were lodged, an increase of 7% on the number lodged during the previous year (Live Table A). The increases may reflect the 10 year validity of EPCs but may also reflect the new legislation requiring a minimum level of energy efficiency for private rental non-domestic properties.¹

The distribution by EPC band is shown in Figure 3. Non-domestic buildings have an additional A+ band but numbers are too small to report. Two thirds (65%) of certificates lodged in England and Wales were given a C or D rating. An A+, A or B rating were given to 14% of properties in England and 11% in Wales, while a C or D rating were given to 65% of properties in England and to 64% in Wales.



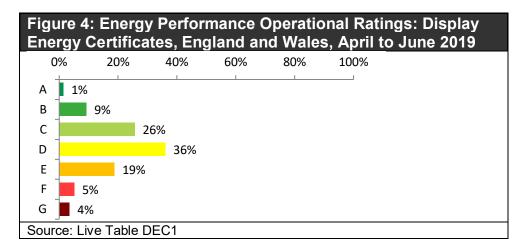
¹ Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015

Display Energy Certificates (DECs)

Larger properties occupied by a public authority and frequently visited by the public must display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). DECs show the actual energy consumption of a building and are accompanied by reports which provide recommendations on potential energy saving measures.

During April to June 2019, 4,600 DECs were lodged in England and Wales, a decrease of 45% compared with the corresponding quarter in 2018. Of these 95% were lodged in England and 5% in Wales. Over the whole of the year ending June 2019, 30,000 DECs were lodged, representing a decrease of 16% compared with the previous year (Live Table DEC1).

The distribution of DECs by Energy Performance Operational Ratings is shown in Figure 4. The highest proportion of Certificates (37%) was in band D.

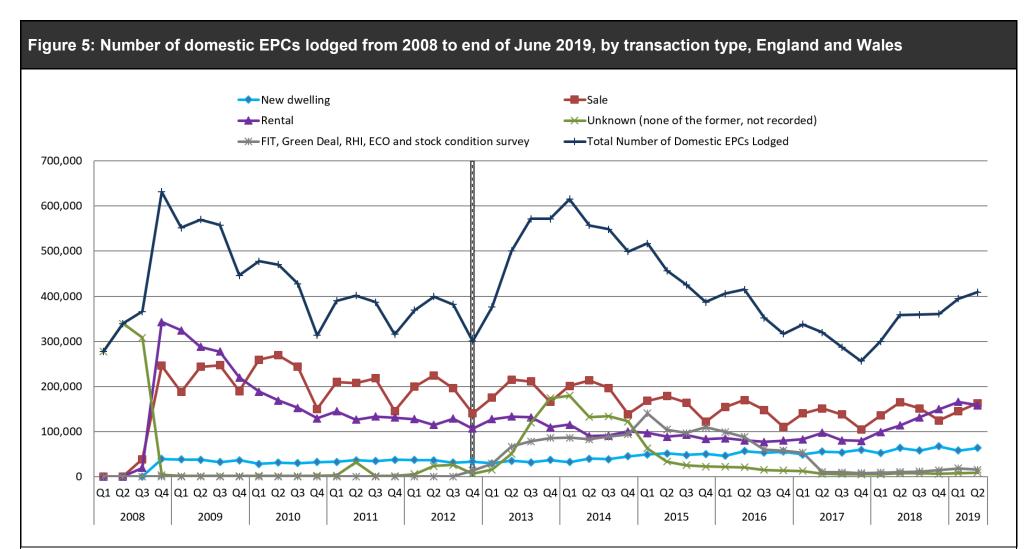


Transaction types for domestic dwellings

Figure 5 shows the number of domestic EPCs by transaction type, i.e. the reason for the EPC being lodged, as well as the total number. The transaction types have been grouped. For example, lodgements for social and private rentals are grouped together, as are the various energy efficiency programmes and stock condition surveys.

The chart shows fluctuations in different transaction types based on the total number of EPCs lodged. For example, there is a seasonal pattern in when home sales take place with fewer at Christmas, which can be seen in the numbers of EPCs lodged for sales. This seasonality affects the total for EPCs, particularly up to the end of 2012. It also shows how the total number of EPCs was influenced by lodgements made for energy efficiency programmes and similar schemes, as well as lodgements for other reasons, particularly in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The decline in EPCs lodged for rentals after 2010 is likely to be linked to EPCs' 10 year validity. In April 2018 new legislation was introduced requiring a minimum level of energy efficiency for private rental domestic properties, which would have led to an increase in rental EPC's. A slight decrease this quarter maybe due to many of the rental properties having already renewed their EPC to conform to the rules. Such EPCs will now have 9 years validity remaining which means there is no need for a new EPC to re-rent the property.



Source: Live Table D4a and D4b. The categories collected changed in 2012, leading to a break in the chart indicated by the line. They were also not recorded for part of 2008.

Accompanying tables

EPCs – All Properties (non-domestic and domestic)

Table A1: Number of Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register and Total Floor Area, by **Type of Property** – in each Year/Quarter.

EPCs – All Domestic Properties

Table D1: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Energy Efficiency Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table D2: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table D3: Floor Area, Size, Energy Use, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Costs of Dwellings assessed and lodged on the Register - in each Year/Quarter.

Table D4a: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register by, **Type of Transaction** – in each Year/Quarter – up to and including 30 March 2012.

Table D4b: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Transaction** – in each Year/Quarter – from 30 March 2012 to latest quarter.

Table D5: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type** of Property and Energy Efficiency Rating – in each Year/Quarter.

Table D6 - : Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Property and Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table D7: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Property and Average Energy Use, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Costs** per Dwelling – in each Year/Quarter.

Table LA1: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register in each **Local Authority, by Energy Efficiency Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table LA2: Number of Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register in each **Local Authority, by Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

EPCs – All Existing Domestic Properties

Table EB1: Number of Existing Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Energy Efficiency Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table EB2: Number of Existing Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificate lodged on the Register, by **Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table EB3: Floor Area, Size, Energy Use, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Costs of Existing Dwellings assessed - in each Year/Quarter.

Table EB4: Number of Existing Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register and Total Floor Area, by **Type of Property** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table EB5: Number of Existing Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Property and Energy Efficiency Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table EB6: Number of Existing Dwelling Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register in England & Wales, by **Type of Property and Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year / Quarter.

Table EB7: Number of Existing Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Property and Average Energy Use, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Costs** per dwelling – in each Year/Quarter.

EPCs – All New Domestic Properties

Table NB1: Number of New Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Energy Efficiency Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table NB2: Number of New Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificate lodged on the Register, by **Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table NB3: Floor Area, Size, Energy Use, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Costs of New Dwellings assessed - in each Year/Quarter.

Table NB4: Number of New Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register and Total Floor Area, by **Type of Property** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table NB5: Number of New Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Property and Energy Efficiency Rating** – in each Year/Quarter.

Table NB6: Number of New Dwelling Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register in England & Wales, by **Type of Property and Environmental Impact Rating** – in each Year / Quarter.

Table NB7: Number of New Domestic Properties Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Type of Property, and Average Energy Use, Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Fuel Costs** per dwelling – in each Year/Quarter.

EPCs – Non-Domestic Properties

Table A: Number of Non-Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Energy Performance Asset Rating -** in each Year/Quarter.

Table B: Number of Non-Domestic Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Register, by **Property Group** - in each Year/Quarter.

DECs – Display Energy Certificates

Table DEC1: Number of Display Energy Certificates lodged on the Register, by Local Authority and **Energy Performance Operational Rating** - in each Year/Quarter.

Table DEC2: Annual Energy Use and Carbon Dioxide Emissions of Buildings Assessed – in each Year/Quarter.

These tables can be accessed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-energy-performance-of-build-ings-certificates

Previous MHCLG statistical releases are available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-performance-of-buildings-certificates

Definitions

For full details on how the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive are applied to domestic and non-domestic buildings and buildings occupied by public authorities, users should consult the Energy Performance Certificates guidance collection on GOV.UK: http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-energy-efficiency-of-our-buildings

A consolidated glossary of all the terms related to energy performance of buildings certificates can be accessed on GOV.UK:

http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-performance-of-buildings-certificates

Technical notes

Data collection

Data lodged on the Registers record information about the certificates issued for buildings which have been newly constructed, sold or let since 2008. Data lodged in relation to buildings occupied by public authorities over 1,000 square metres also date back to 2008. The floor area size threshold was changed to include buildings over 500 square metres in January 2013. In October 2015 the floor area size threshold was lowered to include buildings over 250 square metres.

Coverage

The Registers do not hold data for every domestic and non-domestic building or every building occupied by public authorities in England and Wales. These statistics should, therefore, not be interpreted as a true representation of the whole of the building stock in England and Wales, but viewed as part of a wider package of Government's provision of information on the energy efficiency of buildings.

Periodicity

The release covers certificates lodged between January 2008 and June 2019 and breaks the data down for each specified calendar quarter (Q1=Jan-Mar, Q2=Apr-Jun, Q3=Jul-Sep, Q4=Oct-Dec) within each specified calendar year.

New build vs new dwellings

If works are carried out to create a new building(s), either by means of new build or by conversion

of an existing building (for example, subdivision of an existing building into flats or change of use of an office), the builder or person responsible for the construction must obtain an EPC once construction has been completed. This will also apply if a building is converted into fewer or more units designed for separate occupation and there are changes to the heating, hot water provision or air conditioning/ventilation services.

Park homes

This category of property means a caravan within the meaning of Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 which is situated on a relevant protected site and which is occupied by the occupier as their only or main residence. EPCs for park homes have been lodged on the domestic Register from December 2014.

Multiple certificates

The statistical counts in the tables cover all valid EPCs and DECs (i.e. only those lodged on the Registers where there are no doubts about their status) although individual buildings may have more than one certificate. EPCs are valid for up to 10 years. Depending on the size of the building, a new DEC may be issued annually. Data are kept on the Registers for 20 years; therefore, more than one EPC or DEC may be stored over a number of years for one building. While it is possible to identify the most recent certificate at property level, this duplication is not distinguishable in these high-level statistics.

Data quality

These are experimental official statistics drawn from data which have been lodged on the Registers. Experimental official statistics are, by definition, still subject to evaluation and testing and may not meet the same rigorous quality standards as official statistics generally. In spite of any data quality variances which may exist, we are publishing these statistics because we believe them to be of immediate value and we welcome feedback from interested parties to aid their development.

These statistics are in the development stage and we are still refining the data search criteria we use. This process is aimed at producing more accurate statistics.

In accordance with the regulations, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Landmark Information Group cannot alter data which has been lodged on the Registers.

Data used to produce these published tables is updated every 24 hours and can, therefore, vary from day to day. To ensure consistency between the information detailed in separate tables the published tables are produced on the same day. Exceptionally, data between tables may vary marginally where we are required to use tables drawn down on different days or where reports are produced using different search criteria.

Originally, Energy Assessor Accreditation Schemes had the option of lodging the underlying data used to produce the certificate in addition to the PDF document of the final certificate itself. After September 2008, lodging the data became a mandatory requirement. Due to the technical difficulty involved in formatting PDFs into searchable data, the statistics do not include data lodged

in the form of a PDF document only.

In May 2009, additional validation checks were introduced into the lodgement process to identify prescribed data quality issues. Before this period, statistics for domestic buildings may include anomalies which affect the quality of reported CO₂ emission rates. In addition, statistics for domestic and non-domestic buildings and for DECs may include anomalies which affect total useful floor area figures.

On 1 April 2012, the first set of Scheme Operating Requirements came into effect for Domestic Energy Assessors, setting new rules for the operation of Energy Assessor Accreditation Schemes. One new requirement was to introduce quality assurance audit of EPCs. The result was a demonstrable improvement in the quality of data lodged on the Registers from mid-2012 onwards. Users are asked to consider this when interpreting figures prior to that period.

Statistics from October to December 2014 onwards includes statistics for EPC lodged for properties defined as Park Homes.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's *Code of Practice for Statistics* and the Department's own Revisions Policy (found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy).

That policy covers two types of revision:

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

MHCLG and Landmark do not alter the source data for these releases. The next quarterly release will include new certificates and any changes to existing ones (e.g. cancellations).

Uses of the data

The Energy Performance of Buildings Certificates statistical series is an important part of the evidence base which informs the development and evaluation of housing, energy and climate change policy by central and local government. An EPC is required for all properties when constructed, sold or let and this data source provides the most comprehensive evidence of energy efficiency and property attributes in buildings, which is widely used by housing market and energy analysts, environmental modellers, forecasters and decision makers, for example in the construction industry. They are used by the media in reports on the housing market, energy and climate change and by academics both in the UK and abroad. The statistics are also used for market research by a wide range of other businesses.

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

Notes

- 1-These experimental official statistics based on EPCs and DECs are estimates and are provisional and subject to revision.
- 2-Throughout this commentary the statistics on lodgements have been quoted to the nearest thousand for EPCs and the nearest hundred for DECs and figures for Wales. Percentage changes have been calculated using unrounded figures.
- 3-Sources are shown at the foot of individual accompanying tables and live tables.
- 4-Experimental Statistics are defined in the *Code of Practice for Statistics* as new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as means to build in quality at an early stage.
- 5-Details of the Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to this release up to 24 hours before publication can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics
- 6-The next quarterly release will be published on 31st October 2019 and will provide lodgement statistics up to the end of the third quarter of 2019.

Devolved administration statistics

The requirement on domestic and non-domestic properties to have an EPC on construction, sale or let and for buildings occupied by public authorities to have a DEC are devolved matters in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further information can be found on Devolved Administration websites:

Scottish Government:

https://www.gov.scot/publications/energy-performance-certificates-introduction/

Department of Finance, Northern Ireland:

https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/building-regulations-and-energy-efficiency-buildings/energy-performance-buildings

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Information on forthcoming Official Statistics is available via the "gov.uk" Release Calendar: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

Information about statistics at MHCLG is available via the Department's website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-govern-ment/about/statistics

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If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, complete the form at http://forms.communities.gov.uk/ or write to us at:

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