

9 December 2011

House Price Index transfers to the Office for National Statistics

The National Statistician, Jil Matheson, has announced today that the House Price Index currently produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government will transfer to the Office for National Statistics. The transfer is expected to be completed by April 2012.

ONS has extensive experience in producing and developing price indices. The transfer of the House Price Index to ONS will open opportunities for improving the efficiency of production and form a good foundation for implementing the recommendations of the National Statistician's Review of Official House Price Statistics.

The review, which was published in December 2010, recommended that DCLG and Land Registry should work together to produce a regular combined statistical release containing the main official measures of house prices, and to consider the development of a single definitive official measure. ONS and Land Registry will take forward these discussions following successful transfer of the Index.

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Notes for Editors:

1. The DCLG house price index is based on a survey of mortgage lenders run by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. DCLG, and its predecessor departments, have produced a quarterly house price index since 1968. In 2003 the sample size increased, the index became monthly and a change was made to the calculation methodology.
2. The National Statistician is the UK Statistics Authority's and the Government's principal adviser on official statistics. The National Statistician is the Head of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and, as the Authority's Chief Executive and Permanent Secretary, is a member of the Board of the UK Statistics Authority.
3. The Report of National Statistician's Review of Official House Price Statistics can be found here: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports—reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-reports/national-statistician-s-review-of-house-price-statistics.pdf>

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