

Northern Ireland House Price Index April - June 2021 (Quarter 2 2021)



Land & Property Services
Seirbhísí Talún & Maoine

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The **House Price Index (HPI)** is designed to provide a measure of change in the price of a standardised residential property sold in Northern Ireland. The index uses information on all verified residential property sales as recorded by HM Revenue & Customs. The NI HPI is used as the NI component in the UK HPI and statistics are comparable across regions. The index reference period¹ is Q1 2015 = 100.

Results for the most recent quarter are provisional and are subject to revision.



¹ A reference period is a quarter which is used as a benchmark for other periods, to allow calculation of inflation.



This is a National Statistics Publication

The Northern Ireland House Price Index was first awarded National Statistics status on 18th September 2018.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Land & Property Services' (LPS) responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. As a result, since being awarded National Statistics, LPS have made the following improvements:

- Published the number of sales in each £25,000 price band within Northern Ireland – this added more value by providing a more detailed breakdown of the statistics.
- Published annual descriptive statistics and transaction volumes at Local Government District and Electoral Ward level. This includes lower quartile, median and simple mean prices. Prices are available where at least 30 sales were recorded in the area within the calendar year which could be included in the regression model i.e. the following sales are excluded: Non Arms-Length sales, sales of properties where the habitable space are less than 30m² or greater than 1000m² and sales less than £20,000. **It is important to note that the prices at ward level are not as robust as the modelled standardised prices used to calculate the house price index. Median and simple mean prices should not be used to calculate a reliable change in price over time.**

If LPS become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, LPS will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

For enquiries about National Statistics, including production or achieving the standards set out by the Code of Practice for Statistics you can email the authority enquiries team (authority.enquiries@statistics.gsi.gov.uk) or phone 0845 604 1857 (Calls cost 5p per minute in addition to your phone company's access charge).

If you would like to contact the authority, please send letters to:

UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

Introduction

This publication analyses the Northern Ireland domestic property market using residential sales recorded by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) for Stamp Duty purposes. This includes all sales irrespective of how they are purchased, e.g. auction sales are included. Information on all sales must by law be passed to HMRC – more detail on the HMRC data is available in the [Explanatory Notes](#).

Information on the price of new dwellings sold has been available since Q1 2016. Verified sales numbers for new dwellings for the most recent two quarters are not yet at a reliable level for reporting, so they are not included in the report.

The contents of this report will be of interest to Government, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the business community, property professionals, economic commentators, academics and members of the public interested in the property market.

This report includes eight sections:

1. Northern Ireland House Price Index;
2. House Price Index by Property Type;
3. House Price Index for New/Existing Resold Dwellings;
4. Sales Volumes;
5. Regional House Price Statistics;
6. Economic Context;
7. Detailed Statistics Content;
8. Contact Details.

1. Northern Ireland House Price Index

The overall performance of the residential property market is measured in this report using the Northern Ireland House Price Index (NI HPI). The index uses a modelling approach, to produce a standardised property price. The use of a “mix adjusted” approach controls for differences in the mix of properties sold from quarter to quarter allowing for price comparisons to be made on a like for like basis. The simple average price is not used in constructing the index as it is overly influenced by changes in the mix of properties sold each quarter (e.g. changes in the mix of locations, type or quality of property sold), (see [Explanatory Notes Section 1](#)).

Revisions

Results for the most recent quarter are provisional and subject to revision as more up-to-date data become available (e.g. through late sales returns to HM Revenue & Customs and revisions to existing sales data). As a result, users should use the full time series from the most recent statistics report, rather than appending new data to back series from previous reports.

The table below shows the revisions to price index statistics for Q4 2020 and Q1 2021 since the previous report published in May 2021.

Table 1.1 Magnitude of Adjustments made to each index due to revisions

Sale year	Sale Quarter	NI House Price Index	Detached Price Index	Semi-Detached Price Index	Terrace Price Index	Apartment Price Index	New Dwelling Price Index	Existing Resold Dwelling Price Index
2020	Quarter 4	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.0%
2021	Quarter 1	0.0%	-0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	1.1%	-0.1%	0.0%

Table 1.2 Revised Index values

Sale year	Sale Quarter	NI House Price Index	Detached Price Index	Semi-Detached Price Index	Terrace Price Index	Apartment Price Index	New Dwelling Price Index	Existing Resold Dwelling Price Index
2020	Quarter 4	133.0	131.4	130.7	138.6	129.2	132.4	132.8
2021	Quarter 1	134.5	134.1	132.0	138.7	131.5	134.2	134.2

Statistics are revised each quarter to include sales received since the last publication, namely sales of new properties which have been entered into the NI Valuation List and late sales reported to HMRC.

The process of recording property characteristics of new dwellings takes longer than for existing re-sold properties. As a result a lower number of new dwelling sales are available to calculate the initial price (index) estimate in the current quarter, than for existing re-sold sales. This leads to a more volatile series for new dwelling prices (index).

Price and index values published in previous reports can be viewed on the [NI HPI webpage](#).

Presentation of figures

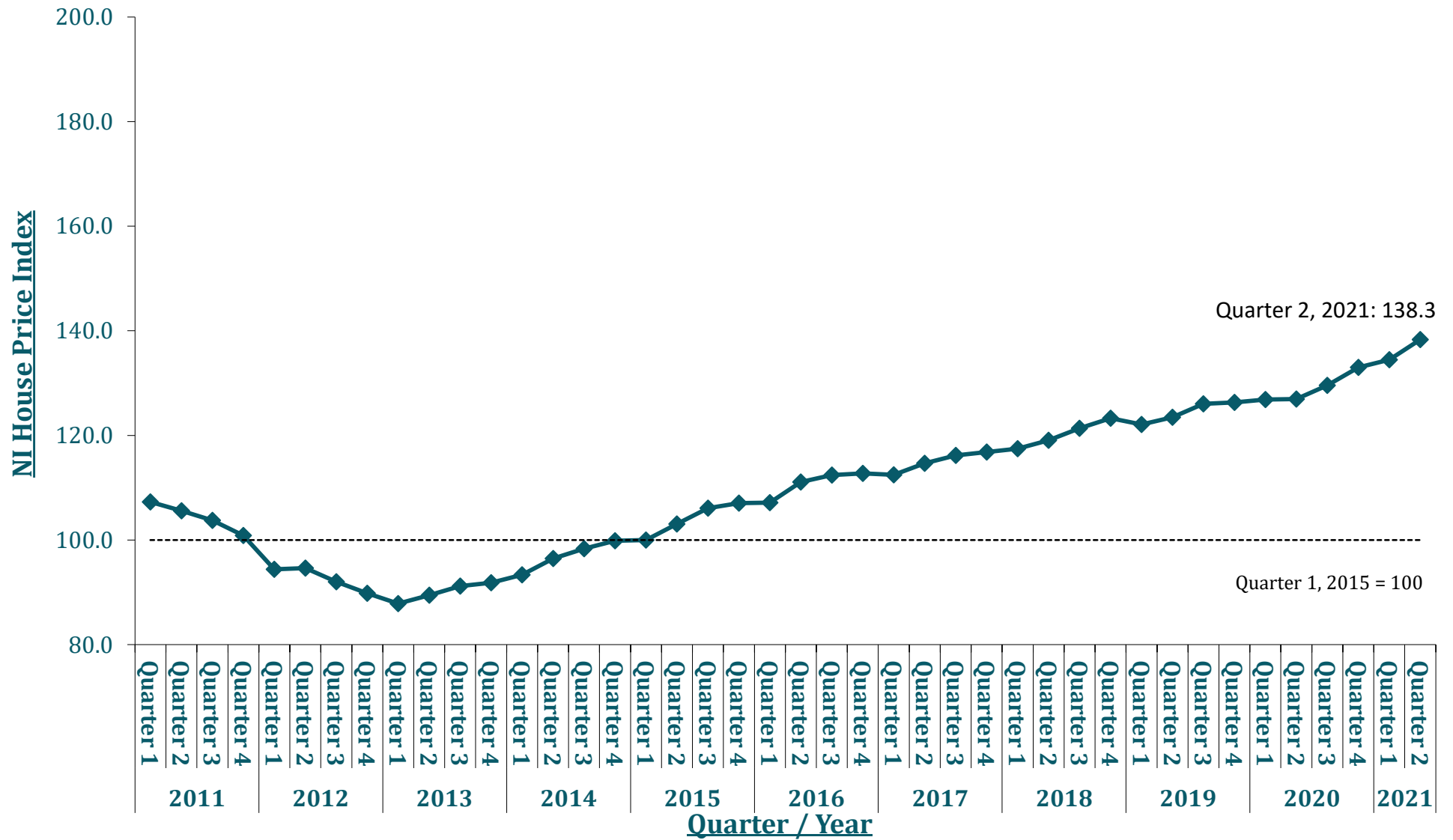
The index number, which is based on the constant standardised price, is presented rounded to the nearest one decimal place. Quarterly and annual changes are calculated based on the unrounded index for accuracy and presented rounded to one decimal place. The index and prices are comparable over time.

For presentational purposes, most of the tables and graphs in this report cover the period from 2011 onwards. However, the complete time series from 2005 for each Index is available in the detailed statistics document on the [Department of Finance \(DoF\) website](#).

The [Explanatory Notes](#) provide detailed information on the methodology used to produce the statistics.

Figure 1.1 shows the NI HPI series since January – March 2011 (Q1 2011). The reference base period is Q1 2015 and the index is set to 100 for that period.

Figure 1.1: Northern Ireland House Price Index (Q1 2011 – Q2 2021)



[Download graph](#)

NI House Price Index

The overall index showed an increase of 2.9% between the first and second quarter of 2021. Between Q2 2020 and Q2 2021 the House Price Index increased by 9.0%. The NI HPI currently stands at 138.3 in the second quarter of 2021. The index is now 38.3% higher than in the first quarter of 2015, and 37.1% higher than Q1 2005.

Price Index by Property Type

The index for all property types increased over the quarter, detached properties by 3.4%, semi-detached properties by 2.7%, terrace properties by 2.5%, and apartments by 2.5%.

Price Index by Dwelling Type

The process of recording property characteristics of new dwellings takes longer than for existing re-sold properties. The majority of sales in the current quarter will have property characteristics added during the two forthcoming quarters and only when characteristics are available can the sales be used to calculate a price/index. As a result a lower number of new dwelling sales are available to calculate the initial price/index estimate in the current quarter, than for existing re-sold sales. This leads to a more volatile series for new dwelling prices/index.

The price of new dwellings sold in Q2 2021 increased by 2.3% from Q1 2021. The index stands at 137.3 in Q2 2021 which is 37.3% higher than Q1 2015 and 43.4% higher than Q1 2005. It should be noted that these figures are provisional and will be revised in the next quarter.

Table 1.3: NI House Price and Index Values

Year	Quarter	NI House Price Index	NI Standardised House Price	Quarterly Change	Annual Change
2011	Quarter 1	107.3	£119,024	-4.4%	-12.3%
	Quarter 2	105.6	£117,142	-1.6%	-12.9%
	Quarter 3	103.8	£115,108	-1.7%	-12.9%
	Quarter 4	100.8	£111,871	-2.8%	-10.2%
2012	Quarter 1	94.4	£104,712	-6.4%	-12.0%
	Quarter 2	94.6	£104,987	0.3%	-10.4%
	Quarter 3	92.0	£102,086	-2.8%	-11.3%
	Quarter 4	89.8	£99,647	-2.4%	-10.9%
2013	Quarter 1	87.8	£97,428	-2.2%	-7.0%
	Quarter 2	89.4	£99,229	1.8%	-5.5%
	Quarter 3	91.2	£101,165	2.0%	-0.9%
	Quarter 4	91.8	£101,879	0.7%	2.2%
2014	Quarter 1	93.4	£103,570	1.7%	6.3%
	Quarter 2	96.5	£107,031	3.3%	7.9%
	Quarter 3	98.4	£109,116	1.9%	7.9%
	Quarter 4	99.8	£110,750	1.5%	8.7%
2015	Quarter 1	100.0	£110,940	0.2%	7.1%
	Quarter 2	103.1	£114,340	3.1%	6.8%
	Quarter 3	106.1	£117,716	3.0%	7.9%
	Quarter 4	107.0	£118,756	0.9%	7.2%
2016	Quarter 1	107.1	£118,851	0.1%	7.1%
	Quarter 2	111.1	£123,249	3.7%	7.8%
	Quarter 3	112.4	£124,731	1.2%	6.0%
	Quarter 4	112.7	£125,059	0.3%	5.3%
2017	Quarter 1	112.5	£124,786	-0.2%	5.0%
	Quarter 2	114.6	£127,178	1.9%	3.2%
	Quarter 3	116.2	£128,878	1.3%	3.3%
	Quarter 4	116.8	£129,601	0.6%	3.6%
2018	Quarter 1	117.4	£130,292	0.5%	4.4%
	Quarter 2	119.1	£132,095	1.4%	3.9%
	Quarter 3	121.3	£134,619	1.9%	4.5%
	Quarter 4	123.3	£136,764	1.6%	5.5%
2019	Quarter 1	122.1	£135,434	-1.0%	3.9%
	Quarter 2	123.5	£136,960	1.1%	3.7%
	Quarter 3	126.0	£139,838	2.1%	3.9%
	Quarter 4	126.3	£140,141	0.2%	2.5%
2020	Quarter 1	126.8	£140,722	0.4%	3.9%
	Quarter 2	127.0	£140,841	0.1%	2.8%
	Quarter 3	129.6	£143,723	2.0%	2.8%
	Quarter 4	133.0	£147,557	2.7%	5.3%
2021	Quarter 1	134.5	£149,196	1.1%	6.0%
	Quarter 2	138.3	£153,449	2.9%	9.0%

Note: Percentage change figures are calculated using unrounded figures. [Download table](#)

2. House Price Index by Property Type

Table 2.1: NI House Price Index by Property Type

Property Type	Index (Quarter 2 2021)	Percentage Change on Previous Quarter	Percentage Change over 12 months	Standardised Price (Quarter 2 2021)
Detached	138.6	3.4%	12.1%	£232,917
Semi-Detached	135.5	2.7%	8.6%	£148,083
Terrace	142.2	2.5%	6.1%	£107,240
Apartment	134.8	2.5%	7.7%	£117,823
All	138.3	2.9%	9.0%	£153,449

(Index Q1 2015 = 100)

Note: Percentage change figures are calculated using unrounded figures.

[Download table](#)

The table shows the index and standardised price of different types of residential property for the second quarter of 2021 as compared to the first quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2020. This shows that the index for all property types increased over the quarter, and all property types increased over the year.

The remainder of this section shows the trend since 2011 across the four property types (detached, semi-detached, terrace, apartment).

Figure 2.1: NI Detached Property Price Index (Q1 2011 – Q2 2021)

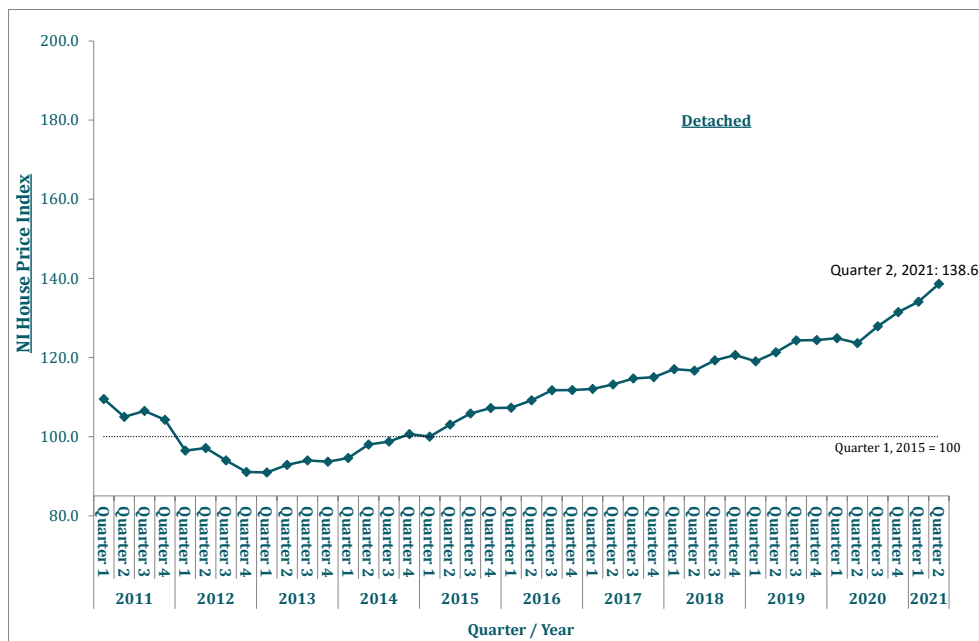


Figure 2.1 plots the index for detached properties sold in Northern Ireland.

The index for detached properties increased by 3.4% between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021 and is 12.1% higher than Q2 2020, with the index now standing at 138.6 (i.e. prices today are typically 38.6% higher than the first quarter of 2015).

[Download chart](#)

Figure 2.2: NI Semi-Detached Property Price Index (Q1 2011 – Q2 2021)

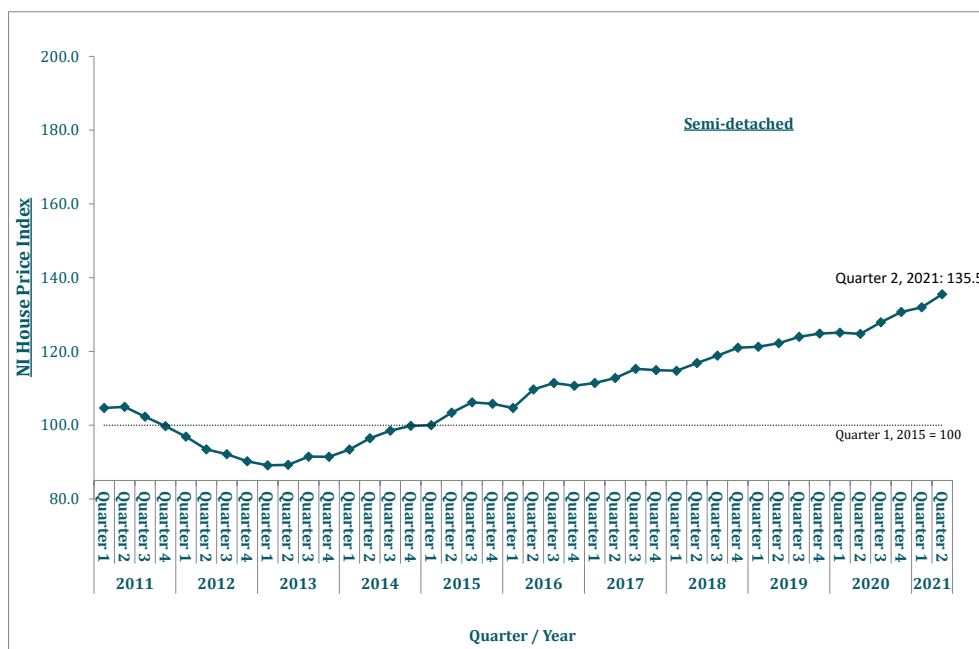


Figure 2.2 plots the index for semi-detached properties sold in Northern Ireland.

The index for semi-detached increased by 2.7% between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021 and increased by 8.6% between Q2 2020 and Q2 2021. Prices are currently 35.5% higher than the Q1 2015 level.

[Download chart](#)

Figure 2.3: NI Terrace Property Price Index (Q1 2011 – Q2 2021)

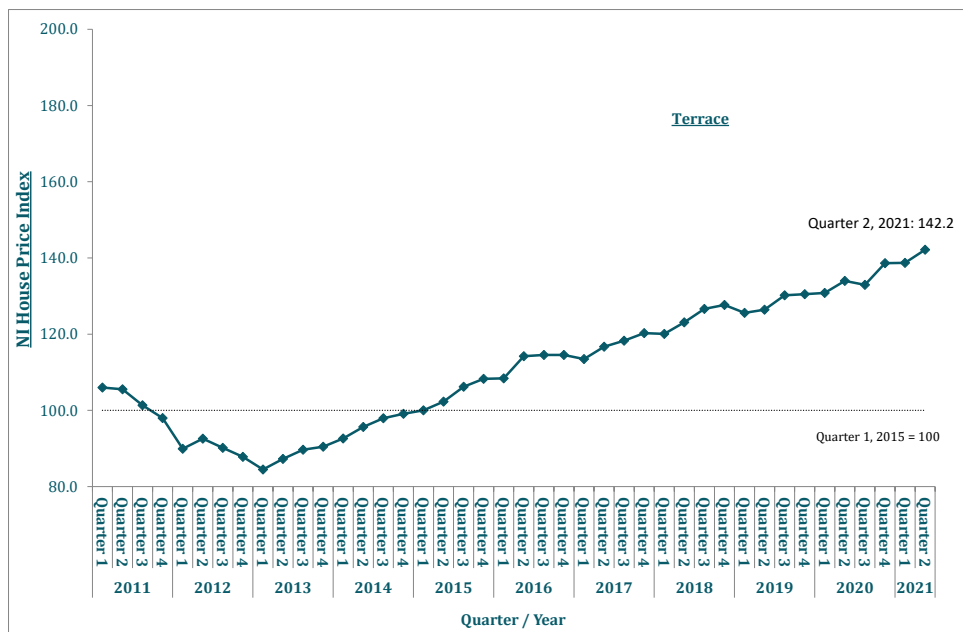


Figure 2.3 plots the index for terrace properties sold in Northern Ireland.

The index for terrace properties increased by 2.5% between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021 and increased by 6.1% between Q2 2020 and Q2 2021. It now stands at 142.2 and is 42.2% higher than Q1 2015.

[Download chart](#)

Figure 2.4: NI Apartment Price Index (Q1 2011 – Q2 2021)

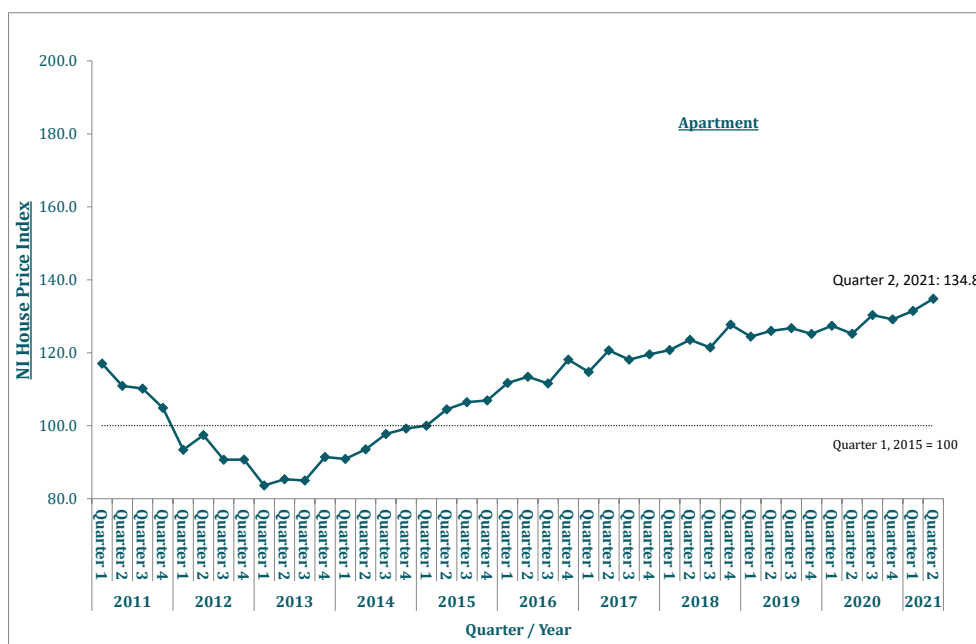


Figure 2.4 plots the index for apartments sold in Northern Ireland.

The index for apartments increased by 2.5% between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021 and increased by 7.7% between Q2 2020 and Q2 2021. The index now stands at 134.8. It is 34.8% higher than Q1 2015.

[Download chart](#)

3. House Price Index for New/Existing Re-sold Dwellings

The sale of a new dwelling is defined as the first sale of a new property in the NI Valuation List. All sales which do not meet this definition are considered to be sales of existing re-sold dwellings.

The process of recording property characteristics of new dwellings takes longer than for existing re-sold properties. The majority of sales of new dwellings in the current quarter will have property characteristics added during the two forthcoming quarters and only when characteristics are available can the sales of new dwellings be used to calculate a price/index. As a result a lower number of new dwelling sales is available to calculate the initial price/index estimate in the current quarter, than for existing re-sold sales. **This leads to a more volatile series for new dwelling prices/index.**

Table 3.1: NI House Price Index for New/Existing Resold Dwellings

Dwelling Type	Index (Quarter 2 2021)	Percentage Change on Previous Quarter	Percentage Change over 12 months	Standardised Price (Quarter 2 2021)
New	137.3	2.3%	4.9%	£180,154
Existing Resold	138.2	3.0%	9.9%	£146,660
All	138.3	2.9%	9.0%	£153,449

[Download table](#)

Table 3.1 shows the price index and standardised price paid for new and existing resold dwellings in Northern Ireland in Q2 2021 compared to Q1 2021 and Q2 2020. New dwellings showed an increase of 2.3%, while existing resold dwellings showed an increase of 3.0% over the quarter. The annual increase in the price of new dwellings was 4.9% while the price of existing resold dwellings increased by 9.9% since Q2 2020.

Figure 3.1: NI House Price Index for New/Existing Resold Dwellings

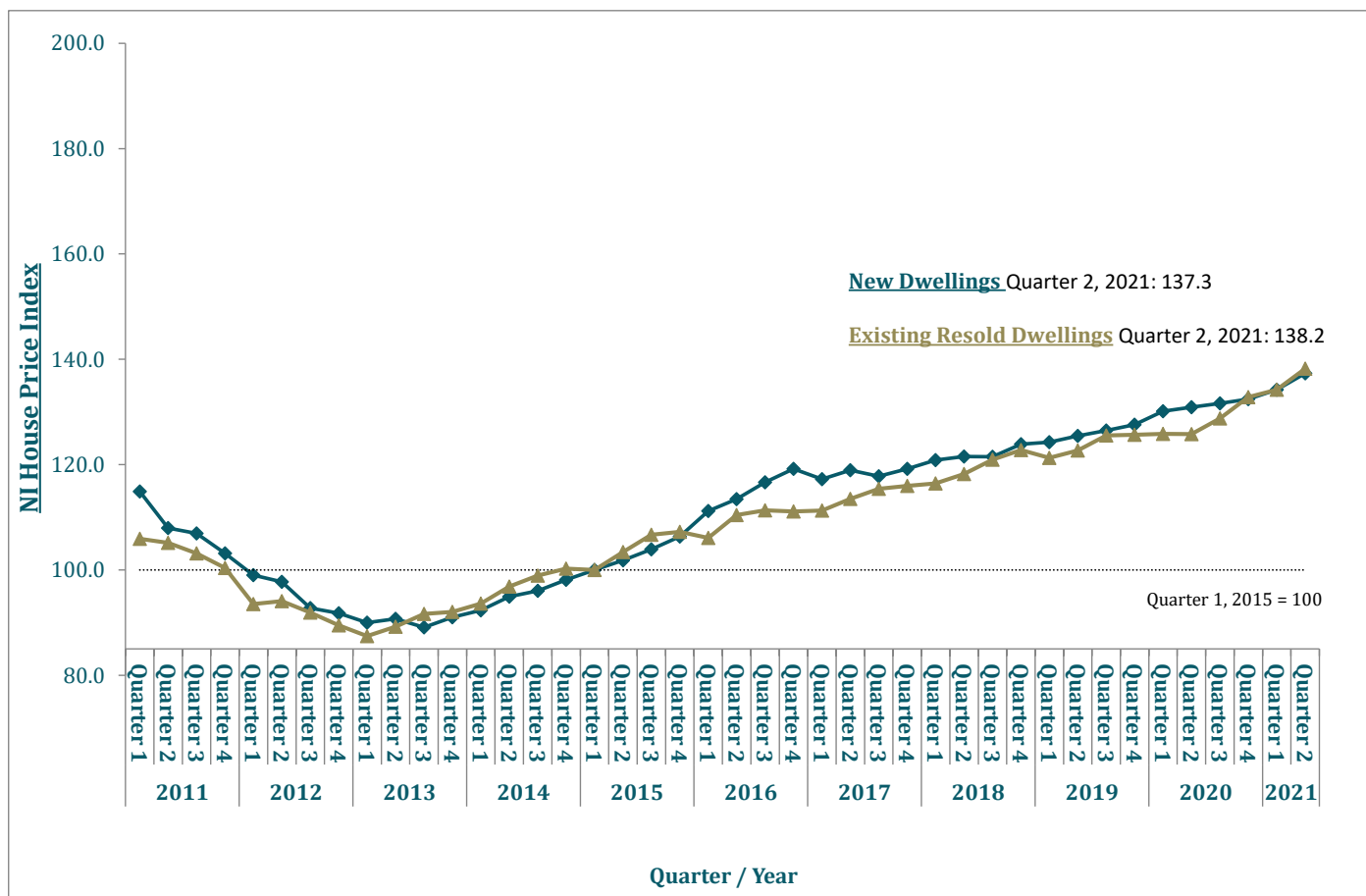


Figure 3.1 shows the price index trend for new and existing resold dwellings between Q1 2011 and Q2 2021. The price index of new dwellings rose by 93.3% from Q1 2005 to peak in Q3 2007 at 185.7, prices for pre-owned dwellings increased by 102.5% during the same period. Since the peak, prices for both dwelling types followed a downward trend until 2013. Price levels for existing resold dwellings bottomed out in Q1 2013 whereas price levels for new dwellings decreased until Q3 2013. Prices of new dwellings increased each quarter since mid-2013 until Q1 2017.

The new dwellings index now stands at 137.3, 37.3% higher than Q1 2015 and 43.4% higher than Q1 2005. The existing resold dwellings index stands at 138.2, 38.2% higher than Q1 2015 and 34.9% higher than Q1 2005.

Further analysis on prices of new and existing resold dwellings is available in the [detailed statistics](#).

4. Sales Volumes

Table 4.1 shows the number of verified sales of each residential property type in Northern Ireland during each quarter between Q1 2011 and Q2 2021.

Verified residential property sales are defined as sales recorded by HM Revenue & Customs which could be matched to a domestic property in the NI Valuation List.

In 2011 the annual number of sales was just over 11,000. From 2012-2018, the number of sales increased each year and in 2019 there were almost 25,000 sales.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the UK Government announced lockdown measures on 23 March 2020. This essentially paused the housing market as, in most cases, business as usual could not continue. The number of transactions recorded in April – June 2020 was approximately one third of the number of sales recorded during April – June 2019. Although there was a large reduction in the number of sales during the quarter, the sales received were still representative of the property market as they were not skewed towards one property type, location or socio-demographic characteristic. As a result LPS/NISRA are content the model used to predict the average price and index value is robust and the reduced number of sales does not adversely affect the quality of the price index calculations for the second quarter of 2020.

The total for the number of verified sales during 2020 is 21,021. **This number may be revised upwards** in the coming quarters due to late sales notified to HMRC and new properties being entered into the NI Valuation List. The annual total is 15.6% less than the finalised number of sales in 2019 (published in this report). The decrease in sales during 2020 is most likely attributed to the effect of the lockdown measures introduced to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

In Q2 2021, there were 7,187 verified residential property sales. **This number will be revised upwards** in the next publication due to late sales notified to HMRC and new properties being entered into the NI Valuation List.

In 2011 the single largest type of properties sold were semi-detached houses, around 32%. During 2014 the most popular choice for dwellings sold was detached (32%), however since 2015, semi-detached sales are once again the preferred choice (35%).

Apartment sales have remained steady over the period at around 8% of all sales.

Of the sales recorded during Q2 2021, 33.3% were detached properties, 31.0% were semi-detached properties, 27.7% were terrace properties and 8.0% were apartments.

Table 4.1: Number of Verified Residential Property Sales in Northern Ireland

Year	Quarter	Detached	Semi-Detached	Terrace	Apartment	Total
2011	Quarter 1	654	770	818	159	2,401
	Quarter 2	761	812	814	233	2,620
	Quarter 3	961	1,025	950	272	3,208
	Quarter 4	900	988	927	263	3,078
	2011 Total	3,276	3,595	3,509	927	11,307
2012	Quarter 1	937	971	1,017	250	3,175
	Quarter 2	901	975	990	261	3,127
	Quarter 3	1,119	1,131	1,034	274	3,558
	Quarter 4	1,177	1,147	1,179	268	3,771
	2012 Total	4,134	4,224	4,220	1,053	13,631
2013	Quarter 1	1,027	1,073	1,065	274	3,439
	Quarter 2	1,193	1,196	1,227	259	3,875
	Quarter 3	1,335	1,279	1,275	324	4,213
	Quarter 4	1,603	1,572	1,456	426	5,057
	2013 Total	5,158	5,120	5,023	1,283	16,584
2014	Quarter 1	1,482	1,408	1,379	363	4,632
	Quarter 2	1,666	1,655	1,531	413	5,265
	Quarter 3	1,743	1,742	1,572	429	5,486
	Quarter 4	1,853	1,833	1,675	491	5,852
	2014 Total	6,744	6,638	6,157	1,696	21,235
2015	Quarter 1	1,423	1,469	1,383	341	4,616
	Quarter 2	1,639	1,694	1,481	475	5,289
	Quarter 3	1,862	1,978	1,563	436	5,839
	Quarter 4	1,864	2,049	1,763	500	6,176
	2015 Total	6,788	7,190	6,190	1,752	21,920
2016	Quarter 1	1,762	1,879	1,898	616	6,155
	Quarter 2	1,522	1,711	1,321	327	4,881
	Quarter 3	1,888	2,084	1,537	463	5,972
	Quarter 4	1,890	2,073	1,655	468	6,086
	2016 Total	7,062	7,747	6,411	1,874	23,094
2017	Quarter 1	1,488	1,818	1,460	442	5,208
	Quarter 2	1,889	2,040	1,702	492	6,123
	Quarter 3	1,992	2,322	1,753	479	6,546
	Quarter 4	2,050	2,409	1,805	534	6,798
	2017 Total	7,419	8,589	6,720	1,947	24,675

Year	Quarter	Detached	Semi-Detached	Terrace	Apartment	Total
2018	Quarter 1	1,619	1,895	1,517	443	5,474
	Quarter 2	1,851	2,195	1,664	490	6,200
	Quarter 3	2,053	2,248	1,780	490	6,571
	Quarter 4	2,068	2,360	1,805	543	6,776
	2018 Total	7,591	8,698	6,766	1,966	25,021
2019	Quarter 1	1,469	1,907	1,423	386	5,185
	Quarter 2	1,924	2,136	1,678	466	6,204
	Quarter 3	2,125	2,364	1,767	516	6,772
	Quarter 4	2,029	2,371	1,886	474	6,760
	2019 Total	7,547	8,778	6,754	1,842	24,921
2020	Quarter 1	1,649	1,858	1,447	438	5,392
	Quarter 2	641	753	488	129	2,011
	Quarter 3	1,712	1,837	1,357	360	5,266
	Quarter 4	2,766	2,876	2,157	553	8,352
	2020 Total	6,768	7,324	5,449	1,480	21,021
2021	Quarter 1	2,440	2,394	1,944	559	7,337
	Quarter 2	2,396	2,226	1,988	577	7,187

[Download table](#)

5. Regional House Price Statistics

Quarterly index values and standardised prices are available for:

- eleven Local Government Districts;
- Urban – Rural classification.

The Local Government District level are included in this report and the Urban – Rural level data is available in the [detailed statistics](#), alongside data and a graphical representation of the house price index for each council.

Annual Descriptive Price Statistics

Annual descriptive price statistics for each calendar year 2005 – 2020 are available for:

- eleven Local Government Districts;
- 462 electoral wards.

The statistics include:

- Minimum sale price
- Lower quartile sale price
- Median sale price
- Simple Mean sale price
- Upper Quartile sale price
- Maximum sale price
- Number of verified sales

The annual statistics were released in response to requests from users. The data is presented annually due to the small number of transactions. Prices are available where at least 30 sales were recorded in the area within the calendar year which could be included in the regression model i.e. Non Arms-Length sales, sales of properties where the habitable space are less than 30m² or greater than 1000m² and sales less than £20,000 are excluded.

Annual median or simple mean prices should not be used to calculate the property price change over time. The quality (where quality refers to the combination of all characteristics of a residential property, both physical and locational) of the properties that are sold may differ from one time period to another. For example, sales in one quarter could be disproportionately skewed towards low-quality properties, therefore producing a biased estimate of average price.

The median and simple mean prices are not 'standardised' and so the varying mix of properties sold in each quarter could give a false impression of the actual change in prices. In order to calculate the pure property price change over time it is necessary to compare like with like, and this can only be achieved if the 'characteristics-mix' of properties traded is standardised.

The annual information is available on the [DoF website](#).

Local Government District Index and Standardised Price

Table 5.1 shows the NI House Price Index and standardised price for each Local Government District in Northern Ireland at Q2 2021.

Between Q1 2021 and Q2 2021 all councils saw an increase in the price of houses, ranging from 0.7% in Ards and North Down to 7.6% in Causeway Coast and Glens.

Prices in all council areas also showed an increase over the 12 months between Q2 2021 and Q2 2020, the lowest increase was in Derry City and Strabane at 6.0% and the highest increase was in Causeway Coast and Glens at 16.9%.

Table 5.1: NI HPI and standardised price by Local Government District (Quarter 2 2021)

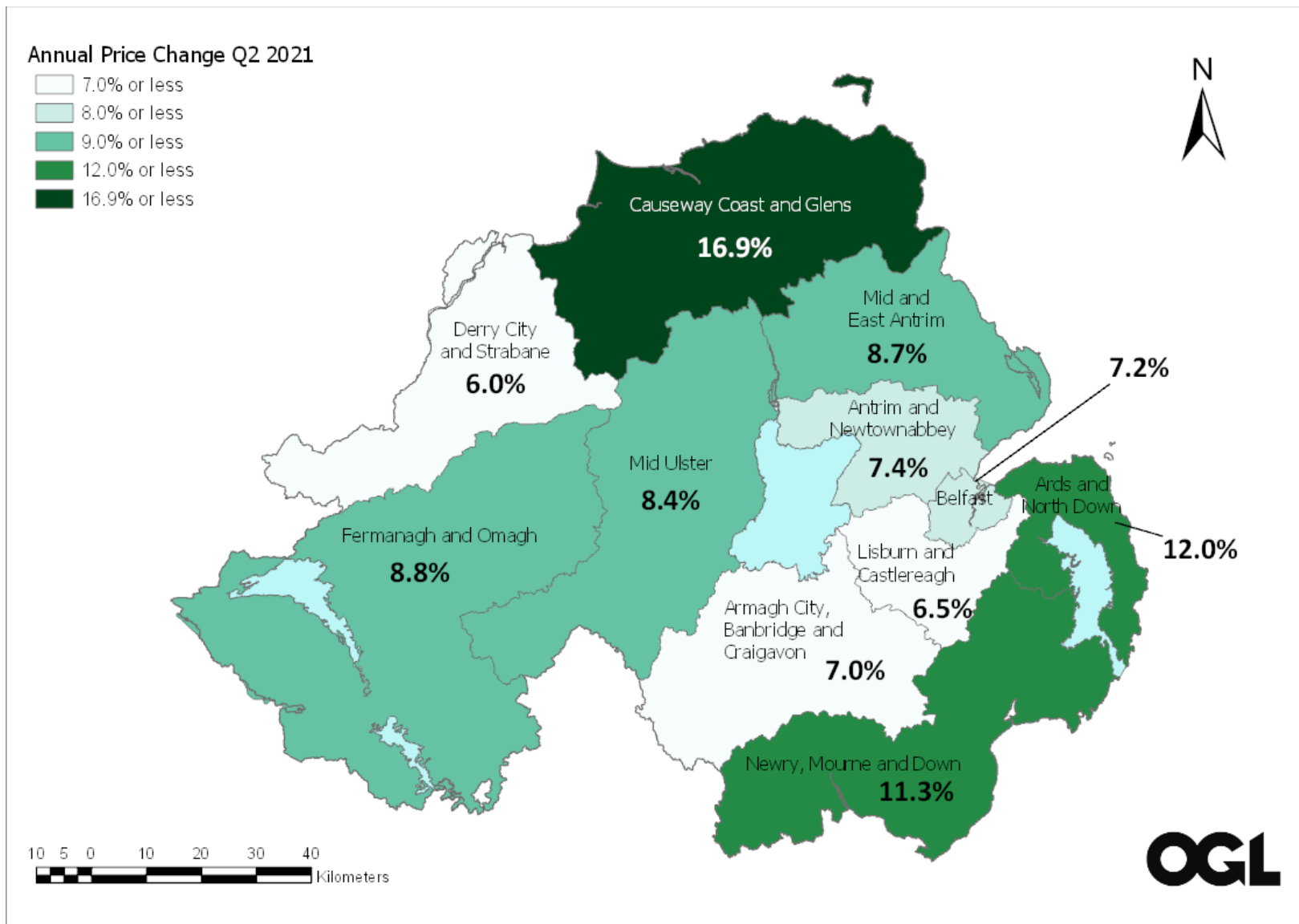
Local Government District	Index (Quarter 2 2021)	Percentage Change on Previous Quarter	Percentage Change over 12 months	Standardised Price (Quarter 2 2021)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	137.0	2.5%	7.4%	£157,468
Ards and North Down	129.4	0.7%	12.0%	£173,630
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	136.0	4.4%	7.0%	£134,091
Belfast	137.5	1.7%	7.2%	£145,337
Causeway Coast and Glens	158.8	7.6%	16.9%	£171,442
Derry City and Strabane	142.8	1.3%	6.0%	£135,176
Fermanagh and Omagh	145.7	2.7%	8.8%	£139,626
Lisburn and Castlereagh	134.1	2.2%	6.5%	£180,067
Mid and East Antrim	137.3	4.3%	8.7%	£142,161
Mid Ulster	129.4	1.2%	8.4%	£144,691
Newry, Mourne and Down	144.0	3.5%	11.3%	£161,994
Northern Ireland	138.3	2.9%	9.0%	£153,449

(Index Q1 2015 = 100)

Note: Percentage change figures are calculated using unrounded figures.

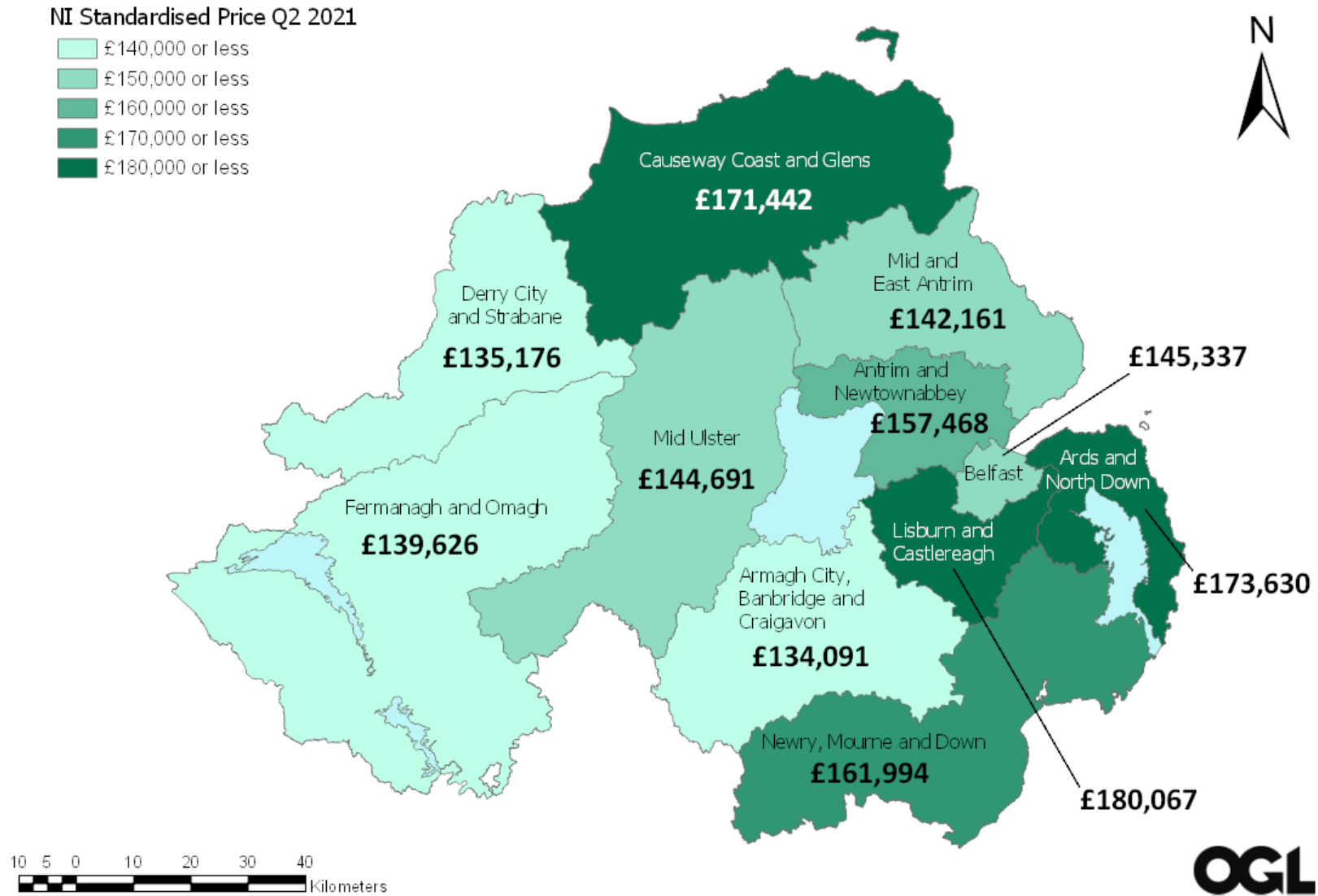
[Download table](#)

Figure 5.1: Annual Change in HPI by Local Government District Q2 2021



[Download chart](#)

Figure 5.2: Standardised Price by Local Government District Q2 2021



The standardised price for NI as a whole is £153,449 and ranges from £134,091 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon to £180,067 in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

6. Economic Context

House prices are often considered within the economic context of a region. The latest [Department for the Economy \(DfE\) monthly economic update](#) (July 2021) provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland.

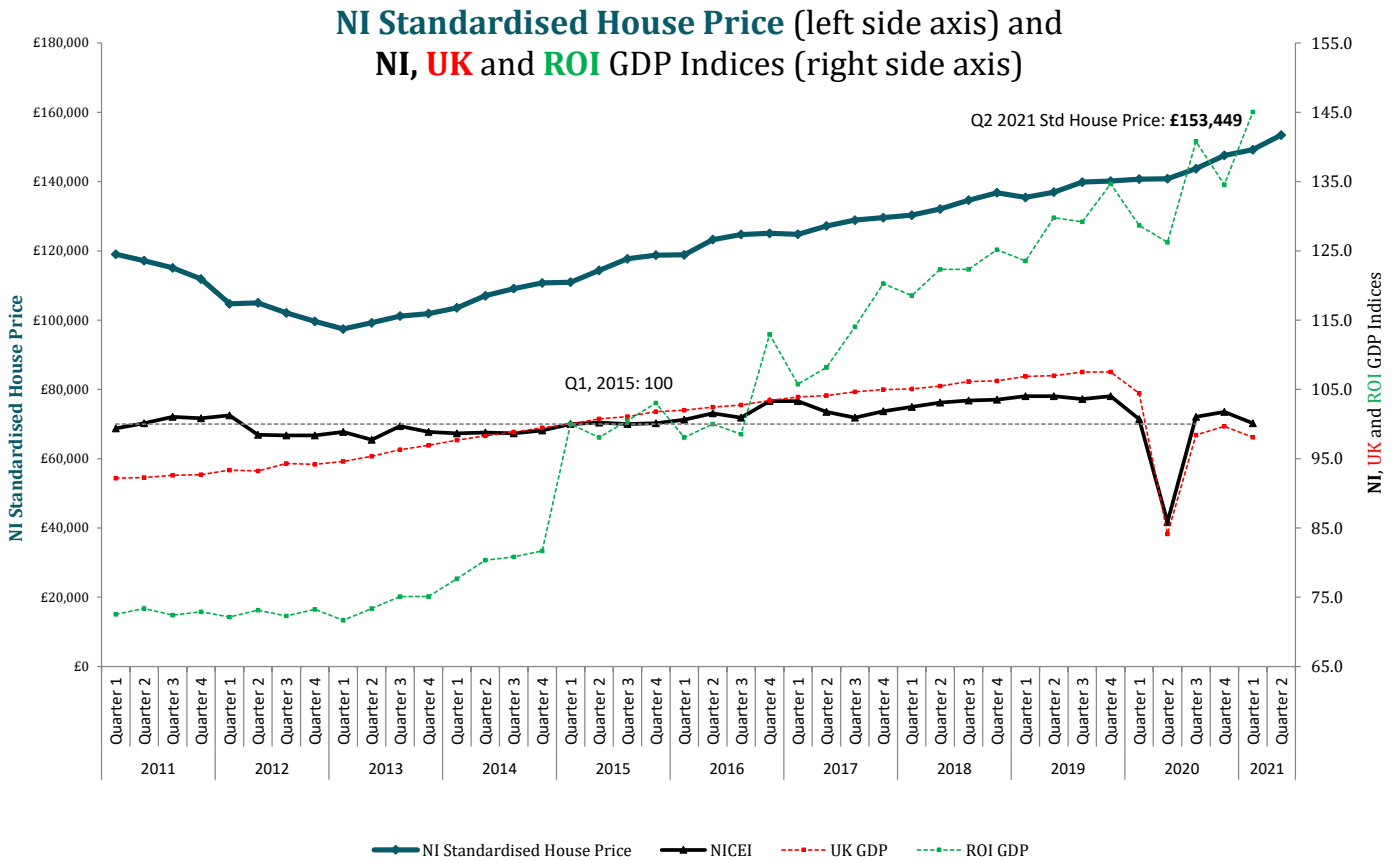
The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the Economy page of the [Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(NISRA\) website](#).

To set the NI HPI within this economic context, the Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI – [an experimental official statistic](#)), along with the UK and Republic of Ireland GDP indices have been presented with a graph of the NI house prices at Figure 6.1. Underneath is an economic time line showing key world, European, UK and NI events.

To illustrate the relationship between the three indices in figure 6.1 the NICEI, UK and ROI indices are referenced to Q1 2015 = 100.

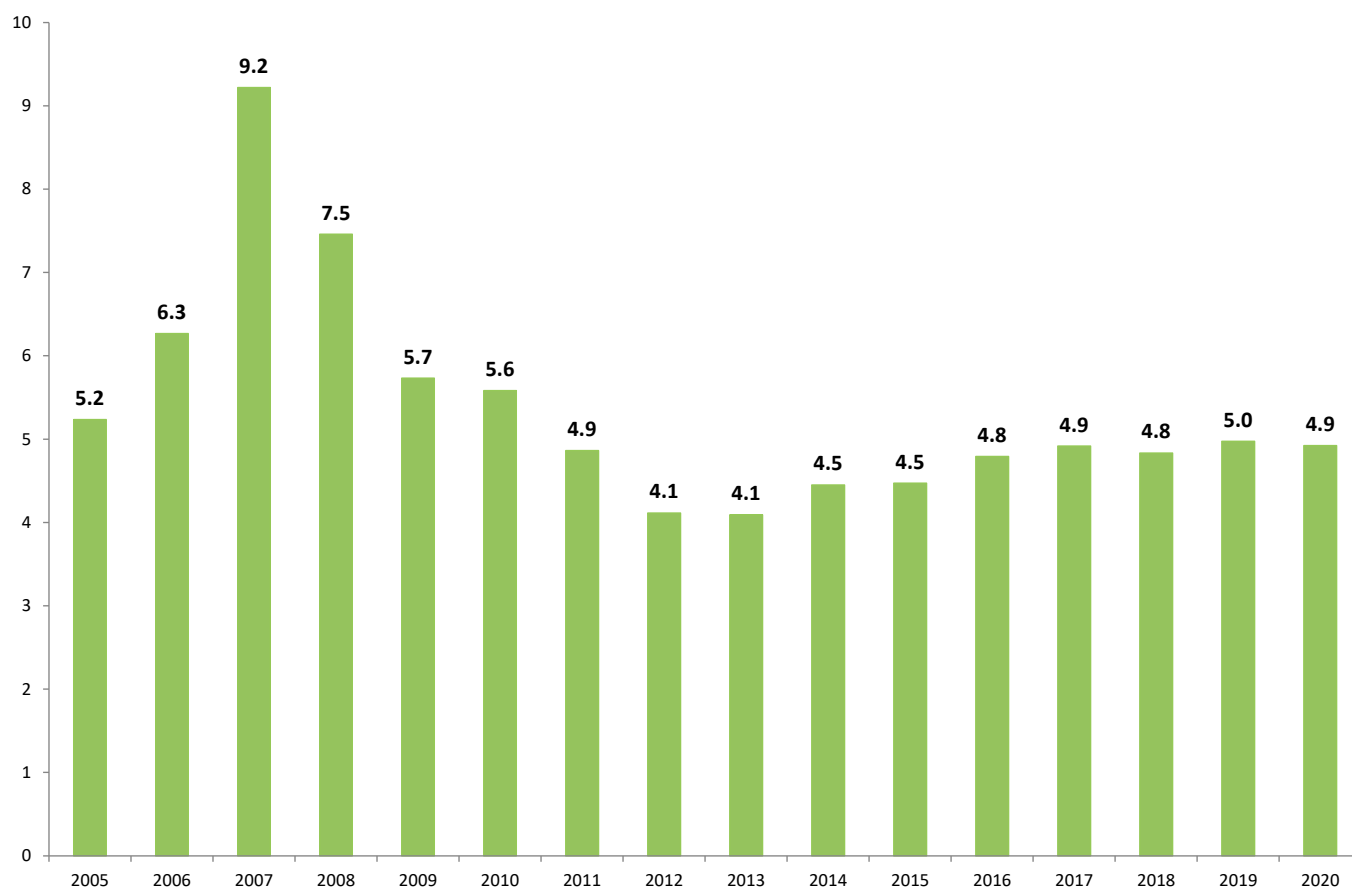
The graph shows how the prices between Q1 2011 and Q3 2019 most closely aligned to the NI economic performance. Since the end of 2019 NI economic performance has decreased but house prices have continued to rise. The UK GDP and the NICEI both fell to a series low in Q2 2020. ROI GDP fell at a slower rate.

Figure 6.1: NI Standardised House Price with NICEI, UK and ROI GDP Indices



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<p>Portugal bailout and second Greek bailout agreed</p> <p>Bank of England injects £75bn into UK economy through quantitative easing</p> <p>NI loses 8,800 employee jobs</p> <p>NI economic activity at lowest rate since 2004</p> <p>NI employee jobs rise by almost 3,000 over the year</p> <p>NI Executive launch Economic Strategy and £200m Economy & Jobs Initiative</p>	<p>NI claimant count falls for 11 consecutive months</p> <p>Ireland exit bailout programme</p> <p>Employment in manufacturing highest growth rate in 20 years</p> <p>Highest rise in export activity since August 2007</p> <p>Construction Output still 48% below Q1 2007 peak</p>	<p>Construction employment up for first time in 5 months</p> <p>6 months of growth but pace of activity eased in Q3</p> <p>Uneven prospects across countries/regions; global growth 3.1%, EU 1.5%, Ireland 4.8%, UK 2.5%</p>	<p>Consumer squeeze with inflation outpacing wage growth</p> <p>Private sector employment at record high</p> <p>Housing starts at their highest level for 7 years</p> <p>Brexit and the border issue presents economic challenges</p>	<p>UK vote to leave the European Union</p> <p>Falls in the Euro and Dollar exchange rates boost exports</p> <p>New orders fall for first time in 15 months</p>	<p>Chancellor announces austerity is coming to an end</p> <p>NI unemployment rate increased to 4.3%, higher than UK</p> <p>NI Construction Output for 1st half of year fell by 4.5% year on year</p> <p>Brexit and border uncertainty continues to challenge business</p>	<p>PMI survey: 2019 weakest year for private sector output, orders and employment growth in 7 years</p> <p>NI Construction activity hit a 79 month low.</p> <p>NI unemployment rate fell to a record low of 2.5 per cent in Q3 2019</p> <p>Brexit uncertainty continues to negatively impact business</p>	<p>PMI survey: March 2021 output and new orders nearing stabilisation</p> <p>Supply issues due to Brexit and the blockage of the Suez Canal prompted firms to raise prices at the fastest rate on record</p> <p>NI claimant count fell for eighth consecutive month</p>	<p>NI Executive returns after 3 years</p> <p>Covid-19 Pandemic: UK lockdown measures pause housing market 23 Mar – 15 June</p> <p>Great uncertainty and risk to economic recovery due to rise in Covid-19 cases, new restrictions and end to Brexit transition period</p>		

Figure 6.2: Ratio of NI Median House Sale Price to Median Annual Gross Earnings



Source: [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#), NISRA

Figure 6.2 shows the ratio of median sale price of residential properties in Northern Ireland to median annual gross earnings of all full time employees in Northern Ireland for each year between 2005 and 2020.

In 2005 median house prices were just over five times the median annual gross full time salary, but by 2007, at the peak of the market, prices were more than 9 times the median salary. With the downturn in the property market since 2008, the ratio fell each year until 2012. The ratio stood at 4.5 in 2014 and 2015 and since then has been reasonably steady at around 4.8 to 5.0. (The 2019 figure was revised from 4.9 to 5.0.)

The median earnings relate to the pay period containing 22nd April 2020 and are compared to the April to June 2020 median sales price. This period falls at the start of the coronavirus pandemic and the [ASHE report](#) provides some context of the effect of the pandemic on the survey results. The annual gross earnings figures are published annually in the autumn. The next update of ratio of earnings to house prices will be November 2021.

7. Detailed Statistics Content

An index, price series and sales volumes between Q1 2005 and Q2 2021 are available in [detailed statistics](#) for the following breakdown:

- All residential dwellings;
- Property Type (detached, terrace etc);
- Dwelling Type (new/existing resold);
- Local Government District;
- Urban and Rural Area;
- Rural Drive Times.

These statistics should be used when calculating a price change over time.

8. Annual Statistics Content

Price statistics for each calendar year 2005 – 2020 in each LGD and Electoral Ward in NI are available on the [DoF website](#), these include:

- Minimum sale price
- Lower quartile sale price
- Median sale price
- Simple Mean sale price
- Upper Quartile sale price
- Maximum sale price
- Number of verified sales

These statistics should **not** be used when calculating a price change over time.

9. Contact Details

Users' comments or any issues relating to the statistics are particularly welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the contact below:

Contact Details

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