



DEBT STATISTICS

JULY 2013 EDITION

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Welcome to the July 2013 edition of Credit Action’s monthly Debt Statistics. The Debt Statistics provide a detailed overview of the level of debt in the UK as well as a range of other figures related to money, finance and the economy. We hope that you find them useful.

Our headline personal debt figures are on **pages 3 and 4**. The Striking Numbers box on the right also summarises some of the most significant statistics from this month’s release. The Striking Numbers are colour-coded, to help you navigate to the appropriate section using the key below.

Throughout this document, statistics that are written in **white** have been calculated by Credit Action. All other statistics come from external sources and are written in **black**.

From section 4 (Servicing Debt) onwards, figures are divided into either *Key Statistics* or *Recent Headlines*. The *Key Statistics* are reported on an ongoing basis, and are updated regularly when the latest data becomes available. Meanwhile, the *Recent Headlines* provide a summary of relevant and interesting news stories, and change every month.

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STRIKING NUMBERS
£54,024 was the average household debt (including mortgages) in May
£164m was the daily amount of interest paid on personal debt in May
7824 debt problems were dealt with by the CAB each working day over the year to March
1,545 people were made redundant every day between February and April
898,000 people had been unemployed for over a year between February and April
£10.21m of loans are written-off daily by UK Banks and Building Societies (based on Q1 2013 trends)
Every 16 min 26 sec a property is repossessed (based on Q1 2013 trends)
Every 5 min 15 sec someone is declared insolvent or bankrupt (based on Q1 2013 trends)
£1.455 billion was the daily value of all purchases made using plastic cards in April

1. UK PERSONAL DEBT

TOTAL UK PERSONAL DEBT

Outstanding personal debt stood at **£1.424 trillion** at the end of May 2013.

- This is up from £1.410 trillion at the end of May 2012.
- At the end of May 2013, individuals owed nearly as much as the entire country produced during the whole of 2012.

Outstanding secured (mortgage) lending stood at **£1.266 trillion** at the end of May 2013.

- This is up from £1.252 trillion at the end of May 2012.

Outstanding unsecured (consumer credit) lending stood at **£157.6 billion** at the end of May 2013.

- This is down from £158.0 billion at the end of May 2012.

AVERAGE UK PERSONAL DEBT

Average household debt in the UK (excluding mortgages) was **£5,978** in May.

- This is up from a revised **£5,966** in April.

Average household debt in the UK (including mortgages) was **£54,024** in May.

- This is up from a revised **£54,002** in April.

The average amount owed per UK adult (including mortgages) was **£28,985** in May. This is up from a revised **£28,973** in April and was around **115%** of average earnings.

Average consumer borrowing (including credit cards, motor and retail finance deals, overdrafts and unsecured loans) per UK adult was **£3,208** in May. This is up from a revised **£3,201** in April.

The estimated average outstanding mortgage for the 11.3m households that carry mortgage debt stood at **£112,464** in May.

Based on May 2013 trends, the UK's total interest repayments on personal debt over a 12 month period would have been **£59.8 billion**.

- This is equivalent to **£164 million** per day.
- This means that UK households would have paid an average of **£2,270** in annual interest repayments.

1. UK PERSONAL DEBT

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predicted in March 2013 that total household debt will reach **£1.931 trillion** in Q1 2018.

- This would mean that average household debt would reach **£73,284** (assuming that the number of households in the UK remained the same between now and Q1 2018).

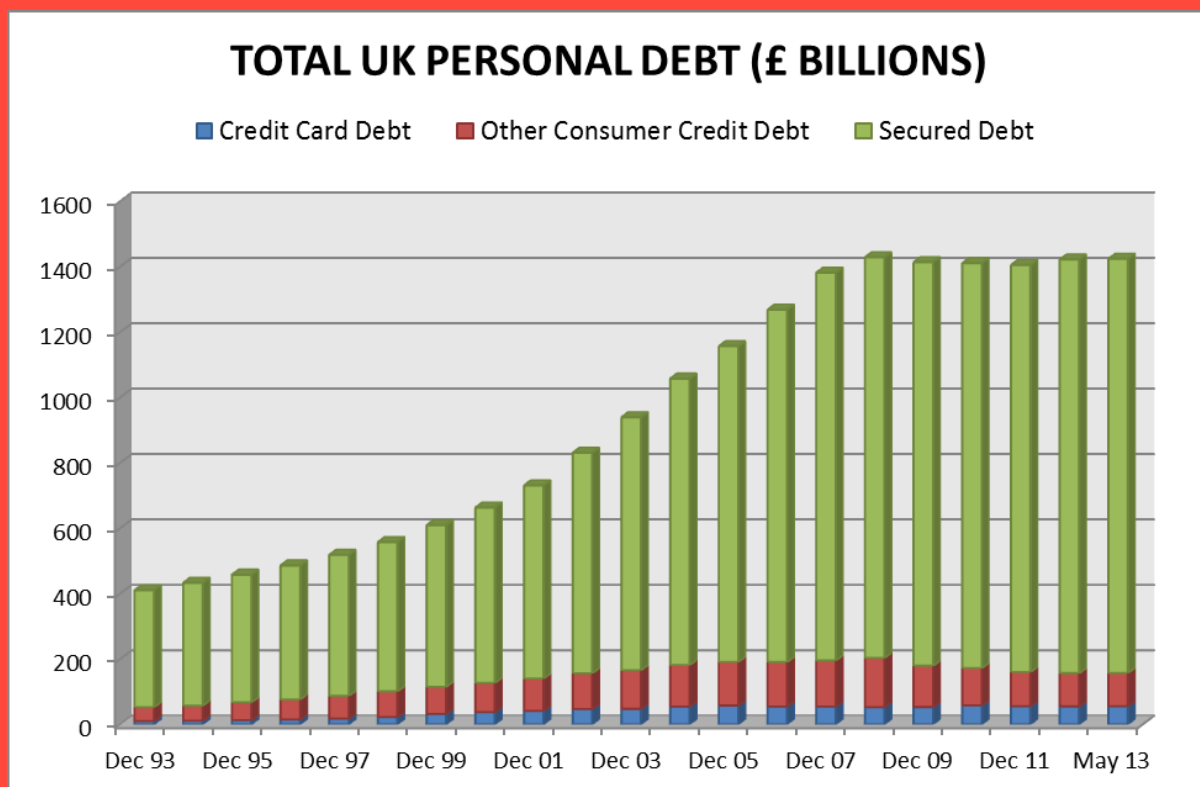
NET LENDING AND WRITE-OFFS

Total net lending to individuals by UK Banks and Building Societies **rose by £1.0 billion** in May 2013.

- Net secured lending rose by £0.3 billion in the month; net consumer credit lending rose by £0.7 billion.

UK Banks and Building Societies **wrote-off £4.1 billion** of loans to individuals over the four quarters to Q1 2013.

- In Q1 2013 itself they wrote-off £932 million (of which £385 million was credit card debt) amounting to a daily write-off of **£10.21m**.



2. EVERY DAY IN THE UK

Based on the latest available data, Credit Action estimates that:

- **274** people are declared insolvent or bankrupt every day (based on Q1 2013 trends). This is equivalent to one person **every 5 minutes 15 seconds**.
- **1,373** Consumer County Court Judgements (CCJs) are issued every day (based on Q1 2013 trends). The average value of a Consumer CCJ in Q1 2013 was **£2,442**.
- Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with **7,824** new debt problems every *working day* during the year ending March 2013.
- It costs an average of **£29.02** per day to raise a child from birth to the age of 21.
- **88** properties are repossessed every day (based on Q1 2013 trends).
- An additional **44** people a day became unemployed for over 12 months during the year ending April 2013.
- **1,545** people a day reported they had become redundant between February and April 2013.
- Public Sector Net Borrowing (excluding financial interventions) was **£8.8bn** in May 2013, meaning that the Government borrowed an average of **£284m** per day during the month (equivalent to **£3,286** per second).
- **158** mortgage possession claims are issued and **112** mortgage possession orders are made every day.
- **466** landlord possession claims are issued and **312** landlord possession orders are made every day.
- The UK population grew by **1,123** people a day between 2001 and 2011.
- **29.4m** plastic card purchase transactions were made every day in April 2013 with a total value of **£1.455 billion**.
- **8.99m** cash machine transactions were made every day in May with a total value of **£360m**.
- A new car in the £13,000 - £18,000 price bracket travelling 10,000 miles per year costs **£16.23** per day to run.
- It cost **£67.30** to fill a 50 litre tank with unleaded petrol in June.

3. NATIONAL STATISTICS

ECONOMY

The UK economy **grew by 0.3%** in the first quarter of 2013, according to latest estimates from the Office of National Statistics.

The Bank of England Base Rate is currently set at **0.5%** (since being established in 1694, the Rate has never been lower). It was reduced to this level on 5th March 2009, and has been held there for 52 months.

There were **5.6 million** working age benefit claimants at November 2012. This is a decrease of 141,000 in the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed people in the three months between February and April 2013 was **2.51 million** (7.8%). This is down by 5,000 from the previous three months, and down by 88,000 from a year earlier.

- **141,000** people (**1,545 a day**) reported they had become redundant over the three months. This is up by 9,000 from the previous three months, and but down by 14,000 from a year earlier.
- **898,000** people had been unemployed for over 12 months between February and April, up 11,000 from the previous three months, and up 16,000 (**44 a day**) from a year earlier.
- The number of economically inactive people aged between 16 and 64 rose by 40,000 over the three months, but fell by 199,000 over the year, to reach **8.99 million** in the three months to April 2013.

Public sector employment fell by **22,000** in the first quarter of 2013 to reach **5.697 million** overall.

The Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2013 forecast for General Government Employment estimates a total reduction of around **1.2 million** staff between the start of 2011 and the start of 2018. However, they estimate that this will be more than offset by a rise of **2.6 million** in market sector employment over the period, which will reach 25.8 million by the start of 2018.

3. NATIONAL STATISTICS

PUBLIC SECTOR NET DEBT

In May 2013, public sector net debt (PSND) *excluding* financial interventions was **£1189.2bn**, equivalent to 75.2% of GDP. This compares to £1095.4bn (71.1% of GDP) at the end of May 2012.

Meanwhile, public sector net debt *including* financial interventions was **£2217.9bn**, equivalent to 140.3% of GDP. This compares to £2134.5bn (138.6% of GDP) as at the end of May 2012.

- The Office of National Statistics includes complete data from the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group, which were part-nationalised in 2008, in its calculations for PSND including financial interventions.

According to the March 2013 Budget, public sector net debt is forecast to peak at **85.6% of GDP** in 2016-17, before falling to 84.8% of GDP in 2017-18.

CORPORATE INSOLVENCIES

Figures from the Insolvency Service show that there were **3,619** compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations in England and Wales in the first quarter of 2013 (on a seasonally adjusted basis).

- This was down 5.3% on the previous quarter, and down 15.8% on the same period a year ago.

In the twelve months ending Q1 2013, approximately **1 in 154** active companies (0.7% of all active registered companies) went into liquidation.

- This is down from 1 in 144 in the previous quarter.

Additionally, there were **935** other corporate insolvencies in Q1 2013 (not seasonally adjusted), comprising 236 receiverships, 557 administrations and 142 company voluntary arrangements.

- In total these have decreased 27.5% on the same period a year ago.

3. NATIONAL STATISTICS

INFLATION AND RETAIL ACTIVITY

CPI (Consumer Prices Index) annual inflation stood at **2.7%** in May, up from 2.4% in April.

RPI (Retail Prices Index) annual inflation stood at **3.1%** in May. This is up from 2.9% in April.

- Note that following a re-assessment earlier this year, the Office of National Statistics no longer designates RPI as an official “National Statistic”.

The British Retail Consortium/KPMG Retail Sales Monitor for May 2013 showed that UK retail sales values rose by 1.8% on a like-for-like basis from May 2012, when sales had increased 1.3% on the preceding year.

- On a total basis, sales were up 3.4% in May 2013, against a 3.4% increase in May 2012.
- The British Retail Consortium note that, in this first month since February to be free of Easter distortions, there was positive total growth in every category.
- The total growth of 3.4% was above both the 3-month average (2.3%) and the long-term 12-month average (2.5%).

There were 180,111 new car registrations in May, according to the Society for Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

- This is an increase of 11.0% compared to May 2012.

4. SERVICING DEBT

KEY STATISTICS

Citizens Advice Bureaux across England and Wales dealt with **0.60 million** new enquiries in the three months between January and March 2013.

- Debt was the second largest advice category (behind Benefits) with 489,448 enquiries. This is a 16% decrease on the same period last year. Debt enquiries represented 30% of all problems dealt with between January and March 2013.
- Based on *annual* figures to the end of March 2013, Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales are dealing with **7,824** debt problems every *working day*.
- CAB site the loss of specialist advice capacity and falling consumer credit debts for the reduction in debt advice cases.

According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), **8,000** properties were taken into possession in Q1 2013 (this is down from 9,600 in Q1 2012, but shows the usual seasonal upturn from the fourth quarter figure, which was 7,700 in Q4 2012).

- This equates to **88** properties being repossessed every day, or one property being repossessed **every 16 minutes 26 seconds**.
- In terms of payment difficulties, **159,800** mortgages ended Q1 2013 with arrears equivalent to at least 2.5% of the outstanding mortgage balance.
- CML's most recent forecast for 2013 anticipates that there will be a total of 35,000 repossessions in the year, with 160,000 mortgages in arrears of 2.5% or more by the end of 2013.

The Financial Conduct Authority estimates that at the end of Q1 2013 there were **296,363** mortgage loan accounts in reportable arrears (i.e. arrears of over 1.5% of current loan balance), a drop of less than 0.5% from the previous quarter, and a fall of 2.2% compared to the start of 2012 (when there were 302,976 accounts in reportable arrears).

- At the end of Q1 2013, loans in arrears represented **2.39%** of the value of the residential loan book.

The Insolvency Service said there were **25,006** individual insolvencies in England and Wales in Q1 2013. This is equivalent to **274** people a day or, one person **every 5 minutes 15 seconds**.

- This was a fall of **1.8%** on the previous quarter and a fall of **12.9%** on the same period a year ago.
- This was made up of 6,663 bankruptcies (down 27.0% compared to Q1 2012), 7,219 Debt Relief Orders (down 8.6% compared to Q1 2012) and 11,124 Individual Voluntary Arrangements (down 4.9% compared to Q1 2012).
- The number of Debt Relief Orders was higher than total bankruptcies for the third quarter, while Bankruptcy Orders have been lower than Individual Voluntary Arrangements for the last eight quarters.

4. SERVICING DEBT

RECENT HEADLINES

Figures from StepChange Debt Charity suggest that concern over debt is keeping people up at night, but that at least some consumers are taking action to resolve their money worries.

- Over 10,000 people have sought help with their debts in the middle of the night in 2013. So far this year, 11,357 people have used StepChange Debt Charity's online debt help tool Debt Remedy between midnight and 7am. The peak time for using the online tool was between midnight and 1am, with 3,514 people using the tool at this time since the start of the year.

Research from the International Longevity Centre and Age UK has considered the debt situation of the over 50s in England from 2002 to 2010.

- The overall percentage in the age range considered to be in problem debt remained virtually unchanged across the time frame at 6%.
- However, of those over 50s using unsecured credit, the number with problem debt rose from 23% in 2002 to 28% in 2010. In the group over 70 and using unsecured credit, one in six are struggling with problem debt.
- The research also found that older people who enter problem debt are twice as likely to experience marital breakdown as those who do not.

5. PLASTIC CARDS AND PERSONAL LOANS

KEY STATISTICS

During April 2013 an average of **341** purchases were made in the UK every second using debit and credit cards, based on figures from the UK Cards Association.

- An average of **£16,838** was spent every second using debit and credit cards.
- On a daily basis, purchases using plastic cards were worth **£1.455 billion** during April.

Meanwhile, data from LINK shows that, on average, **104** cash machine transactions (including balance enquiries and rejected transactions) were made every second in May 2013.

- In total, cash machine transactions were worth an average of **£4,163** per second in May.
- LINK's transaction figures do not include transactions or withdrawals made by customers at their own bank's or building societies' ATMs.

Total credit card debt in May 2013 was **£55.5bn**.

- The average interest rate on credit card lending was **17.31%** in May. This is **16.81%** above the Bank of England Base Rate (0.5%).
- The British Bankers Association says that interest-free borrowing has remained stable but balances bearing interest have fallen sharply over the last 3 years.

RECENT HEADLINES

According to research from M&S Bank, 1 in 4 Brits now uses a debit card more frequently than a year ago.

- Of those who have increased their usage, 43% say they have done so to enable them to keep better track of their spending.
- The same research indicates that 14% use their credit card more frequently - of these 36% have done so to get cash back or rewards. The 35 – 54 age range are even more reward conscious, with 45% of them citing this as the reason for increased credit card usage.

A study of credit card balance transfer periods over the last five years by comparison site uSwitch, shows that the longest interest-free period has grown from 16 months in 2008 to 27 months in 2013.

6. YOUNG PEOPLE

KEY STATISTICS

766,000 economically active 18-24 year olds were unemployed between February and April 2013. This was down by 35,000 (4.3%) compared to the previous three months.

- This meant that **18.6%** of all economically active 18-24 year olds were unemployed between February and April.
- **356,000** (46.5%) had been unemployed for over 6 months.
- **235,000** had been unemployed for over 12 months. This is a fall of 22,000 (8.6%) over the previous 3 months, but a rise of 12,000 (5.5%) from a year earlier.

The number of 18-24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the end Q1 2013 was **843,000** (17.6%).

- The number of 16-18 year olds classed as NEET stood at **152,000** (8.2%) at the end of Q1 2013.
- The overall number of 16-24 year olds NEETs was **909,000** (15.1%).

RECENT HEADLINES

According to statistics recently released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, in 2011/12 there were 9% of first degree graduates who were unemployed.

- Of the 66% of first degree graduates who are employed (as opposed to those undertaking further study or following other avenues), just over a third are in occupational groups classed as non-professional.
- Unemployment is lower in Medicine and Education subjects, but higher for those with design, communications and IT related degrees.
- Of those first degree graduates who disclosed their salary, the median was £20,000.

7. OLDER GENERATIONS AND PENSIONS

KEY STATISTICS

418,000 people aged over 50 were unemployed between February and April 2013. This is up 28,000 (7.3%) from the previous three months, but down 4,000 (0.9%) from a year earlier.

- **45.7%** of unemployed workers aged over 50 - a total of **191,000** people - have been out of work for over a year. 115,000 have been unemployed for more than two years.
- **1,003,000** people aged over 65 were *in work* between February and April, which is up 38,000 (4.0%) from the previous three months, and up 96,000 (10.6%) from the previous year.

At November 2012, there were 12.8m claimants of State Pension (SP), a rise of 146,000 on the year.

RECENT HEADLINES

According to research from MGM Advantage, 1.65 million retirees aged 55 and over are continuing to work part-time (includes voluntary work).

- 44% of these are working to supplement their income.

LV= have released their annual State of Retirement report, which contains some worrying findings.

- Almost 2 million retirees have a disposable income (after deducting essential living costs) of less than £8 per week.
- An estimated 2.3 million (27%) of over 50s have no savings for retirement and will rely solely on the state pension.
- Even those who are saving for retirement have reduced their potential income due to cutting backs on contributions. In the last 12 months, 12% of over-50s not yet retired have cutback their long-term savings by an average of £191.36 per month.
- Almost a third of over-50s have changed their retirement plans in the last 12 months due to financial pressures.
- Over a third (35%) of over-50s had family members reliant on them for financial support during the last 12 months.

8. HOUSING MARKET

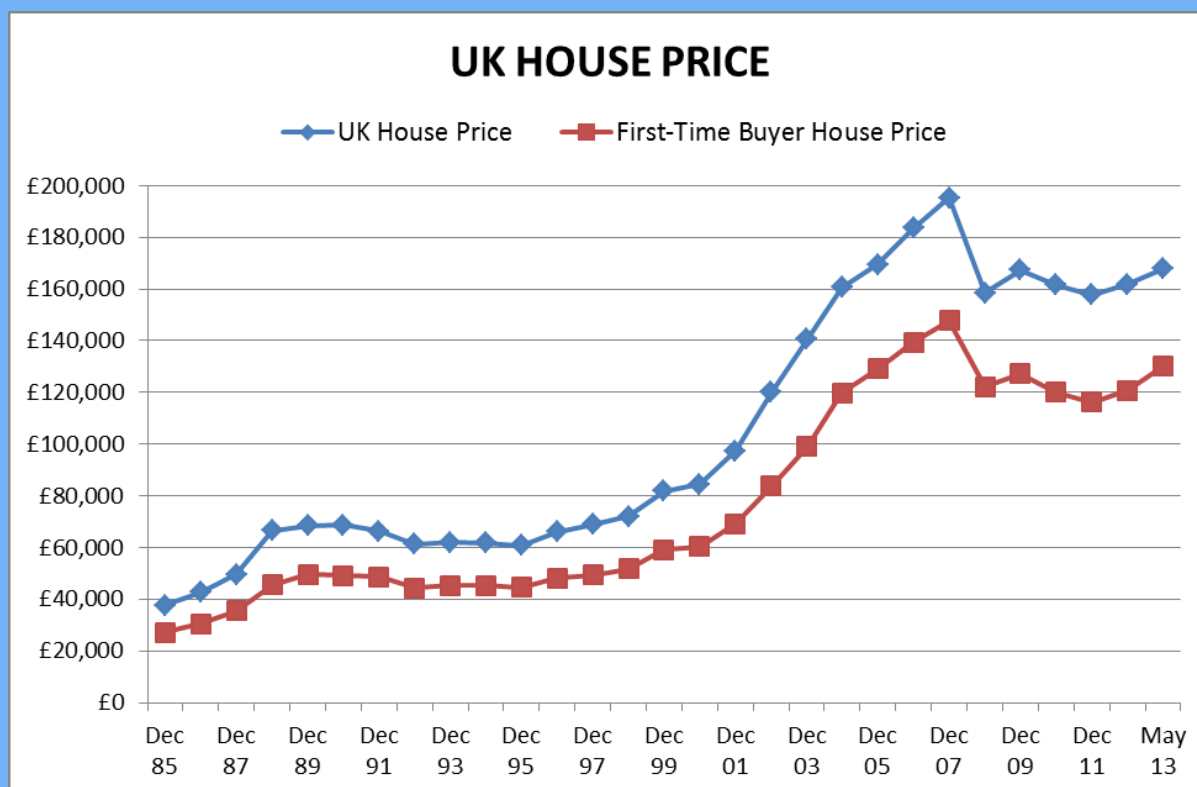
KEY STATISTICS

According to the Office of National Statistics the average house price in the UK in April 2013 stood at **£238,000** (£247,000 in England).

- Average UK house prices increased by 0.4% over the month to April 2013, compared with a revised increase of 0.5% in April 2012 (seasonally adjusted).
- Over the year to April 2013, UK house prices **increased by 2.6%**.
- Average house prices in London **increased by 6.0%** in the year to April 2013.

Nationwide estimate that house prices rose 0.3% during June 2013, and rose 1.9% compared to June 2012.

Halifax said that house prices rose by £723 in May 2013. This is a monthly rise of 0.4%. Prices rose 1.5% over the quarter and rose 2.6% over the year.



Data from Halifax House Price Index (Standardised, Non-Seasonally Adjusted)

8. HOUSING MARKET

The average Mortgage Interest rate was 3.34% at the end of May.

According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, gross mortgage lending in May totalled an estimated £14.7 billion. This is a rise of 21% compared to April's gross lending total (£12.2 billion) and a rise of 17% from May 2012 (£12.6 billion).

- This is the highest monthly estimate for gross mortgage lending since October 2008.

The May RICS Residential Market Survey reports that activity has increased markedly with newly agreed sales increasing from 21 to 30 and new buyer enquiries rising from 27 to 30. Both indicators have reached 2009 levels.

- RICS add that the pick up in buyer interest is enticing more homeowners to test the market with new vendor instructions reaching 15, up from 8.
- Despite the new instructions, average stock levels actually fell – the sales to stock ratio now being 27.5%. This measure has increased by 5 percentage points over the last 12 months, however is still below its long term average of 32.5%.

Hometrack's monthly survey of agents and surveyors showed that demand for housing rose 1.6% in June, compared to a rise of 2.5% in May.

- The supply of homes for sale increased by 1.6% in June, following a 2.8% increase in May.
- House prices grew by 0.4% in June, matching the rise of 0.4% in May (which was the highest single month increase since June 2007).
- Lower prices were reported across 3.1% of post code districts in June, compared to 4.4% in May. Price rises were reported across 31.4% of postal districts in June, compared to 28.5% the previous month.
- Hometrack say that a lack of housing for sale remains an important feature of the market and key driver of price increases. Asking prices are being achieved in 94.2% of sales, this rises to 96% in London.

Rightmove said new seller asking prices rose by 1.2% in June, standing at an average of £252,798 – breaking the £250,000 barrier for the first time. Prices rose 2.7% compared to June 2012.

8. HOUSING MARKET

There were 36,102 loans for house purchase approvals in May, according to the British Bankers Association (BBA), this is 24% higher than May 2012. The average loan approved for house purchase rose to £159,200.

Statistics from the National Association of Realtors show that existing home sales across the United States (including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops) increased 4.2% during the month of May.

- The average price increased 15.4% year on year to \$208,000. This marks 6 consecutive months of double-digit increases and is the strongest price rise since October 2005.
- Meanwhile, RealtyTrac® said that a total of 148,054 foreclosure filings — default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions — were reported on U.S. properties in May 2013. This is a 2% increase from the 75 month low in April, but a 28% decrease from May 2012.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS AND BUY TO LET

The Office of National Statistics say that the average house price for first time buyers was **£179,000** in April 2013, which is an annual increase of 4.7%.

The typical first-time buyer deposit in April 2013 was **19% (around £30,228)**. The average first-time buyer borrowed 3.25 times their income and the average first-time buyer loan was an estimated **£128,866**.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders say that 33,500 buy-to-let mortgages were advanced in Q1 2013, worth a total of £4.2bn (this compares with £4.6bn in the previous quarter). By the end of Q1 2013, there were 1.46m buy-to-let mortgages in the UK, accounting for around 13% of the total estimated stock.

According to the May 2013 RICS Residential Market Survey, demand for rented property continues to outstrip supply. Respondents expect rents to increase by 1.4% over the next 12 months, this figure has barely changed over the last 6 months. Moreover, it is interesting that while price increases are expected to be greatest in London, rental expectations in the capital are far more aligned to the national average.

8. HOUSING MARKET

RECENT HEADLINES

New research from the Council of Mortgage lenders suggests that the Bank of Mum & Dad is coming under increasing pressure from children trying to get on the property market.

- 53% of potential first-time buyers feel that they will only be able to buy a home with help from family or friends to raise a deposit. Of these, less than half feel that they will get help.
- 26% of 'second steppers' will also need help to progress to a new home.
- 36% of first time buyers were able to buy without assistance last year, down from 67% in 2006.
- In 2006 there were 402,800 first-time buyers, last year there were just 217,800.

A recent report from the Halifax has found that some people are simply giving up on the idea of property ownership.

- A fifth (21%) of non-homeowners aged 20-45 have already given up on the prospect of owning a property – this rises to 43% among 40-45 year olds.
- 57% of non-homeowners are concerned they will be unable to retire if they have to rent all their life.

LSL Property services report that the total amount of rent late or unpaid improved by £6m in one month and fell from 8.4% of all rent in April to 8.2% in May.

- Rents in May are at the third highest level on record, although the rate of growth has slowed to 0.1% per month (England & Wales).
- LSL represent buy-to-let landlords and will therefore be less affected by the recent benefit changes than social landlords.

9. SPENDING

KEY STATISTICS

The AA calculate that in June 2013 the average price of unleaded petrol rose by 1.2ppl (pence per litre) to 134.6ppl.

- This meant it cost **£67.30** to fill a 50 litre unleaded tank.
- The average price of diesel rose by 1.0ppl to 139.2ppl.
- The UK had the ninth highest petrol price and the second highest diesel price in Europe.

According to the AA, it costs **59.25** pence per mile to run a car. This is based on buying a new petrol car in the £13,000 - £18,000 price bracket, replacing it after 4 years and averaging 10,000 miles per year.

- Do 30,000 miles per year in a car that cost less than £13,000 and the cost falls to **31.47ppm.**
- Do 5,000 miles per year and spend £25,000 - £32,000 on the vehicle and the cost soars to **155.14ppm.**

An annual report by LV has calculated that the cost of raising a child to their 21st birthday now stands at a record **£222,458**. This is up 2.0% compared to last year, and has increased 58.4% since the study first began in 2003.

- Education and childcare represent the biggest areas of expenditure, costing parents £72,832 and £63,738 respectively over the course of their children's childhoods.
- The cost of education (including uniforms, after-school clubs and university costs) increased 123.5% since 2003, while the cost of childcare has risen by 60.9%.
- LV predict that the cost of raising a child to 21 will reach £350,000 by 2023.

9. SPENDING

RECENT HEADLINES

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published its annual Minimum Income Standard report and concludes that families are facing an unprecedented erosion of household living standards.

- The report is based on the goods and services members of the public think people need in order to have a minimum acceptable standard of living.
- The cost of the MIS basket has increased by 25% since 2008, compared with 17% for CPI.
- To reach an adequate standard of living: a single person needs to earn £16,850, a working couple with 2 children need £19,400 each and a lone parent requires £25,600.
- Essentials have risen dramatically over the past 5 years: childcare by 37%, social housing rent by 26%, food costs by 24%, energy costs by 39% and public transport by 30%.

The Legal & General MoneyMood survey for Q2 2013 has shown a small improvement in household finances.

- More households (45%) say that they have money left over after paying bills and debts than in April 2012 (43%).
- Fewer households (15%) say that they are struggling to pay bills and debts compared to the same period last year (16%).
- For those households that say they are struggling, the average monthly shortfall is down from £74 to £72.

10. SAVING

RECENT HEADLINES

The Quarterly National Accounts released by the Office for National Statistics show that households are saving less of their income than at any point since the beginning of 2009.

- For the first three months of 2013 households saved just 4.2% of their disposable income, down from 5.9% in the last three months of 2012.
- Only the first quarter of 2009, when the rate dipped to 3.4%, has shown a lower level of savings in the last five years.

The Legal & General MoneyMood survey for Q2 2013 shows that, for those who say that they can afford to save, average monthly saving has risen by 24% since April 2012.

- The average monthly saving (for households who say they can afford to save) is £88 across the UK, up £17 from 12 months ago.
- There is significant regional variation in the change in the number of households that say they can afford to save. Southern England, Wales and Yorks & Humber show rises in the number of households able to save; Scotland was unchanged and the remainder of England showed falling numbers.
- Households in Southern England who are saving also show the highest level of monthly saving, whereas Wales and Yorks & Humber are amongst the lowest.

NOTES

Credit Action's Debt Statistics are compiled on a monthly basis by Liz Dunscombe. Email lizdunscombe@creditaction.org.uk for information and enquiries.

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Note that all statistics in this release are based on the latest available data at time of writing.

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