

ABERDEEN HOUSING MARKET REPORT

THIRD QUARTER 2014

Change in house prices

Table 1 shows the change in house prices in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to the end of the third quarter of 2014. It also shows the change in house prices for Scotland and the UK as measured by the Halifax house price indices.¹ Figure 1 plots the house price indices for Aberdeen City and suburbs, Scotland, and the UK jointly with the Retail Price Index.

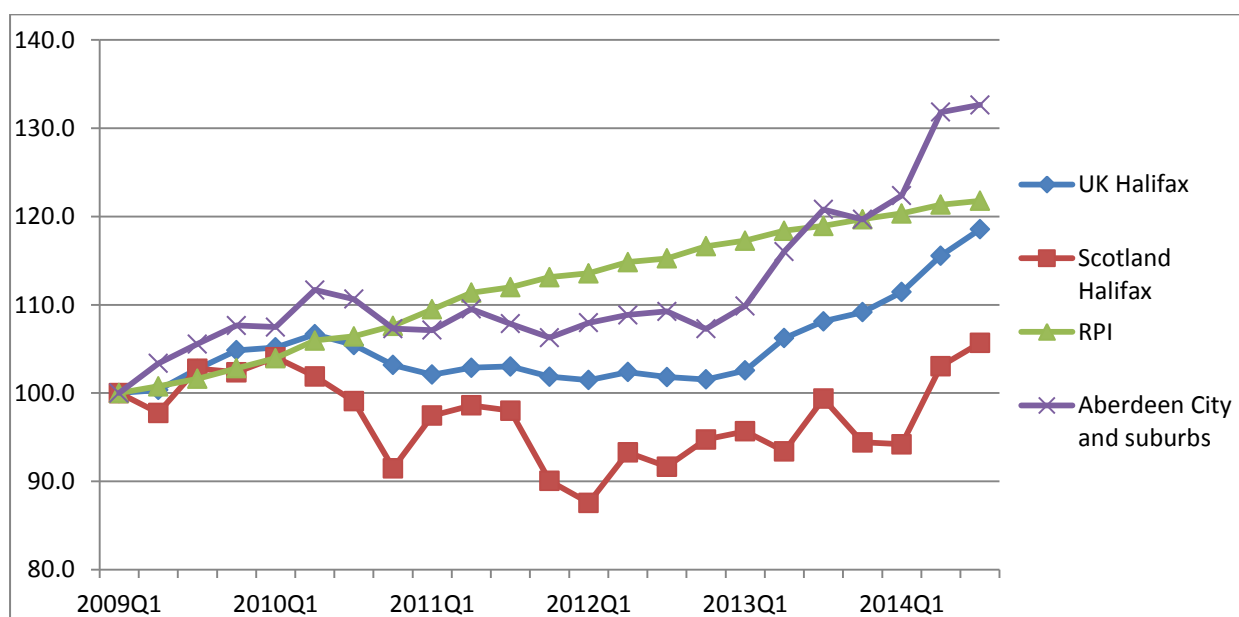
- In the third quarter of 2014, house prices in Aberdeen City and suburbs increased by 0.6%. Over the same period, house prices in Scotland increased by 1.4% and increased by 2.7% in the UK.
- The annual house price change in Aberdeen City and suburbs is 9.8%. The annual house price change is 6.3% in Scotland and 9.6% in the UK.
- The annualised house price change over five years in Aberdeen City and suburbs is 4.7%. The annualised house price change over the same period is 0.6% in Scotland and 2.9% in the UK.

Table 1: Change in house prices for different areas

	Quarterly price change 2014Q3	Annual price change 2013Q3 to 2014Q3	Annualised price change over 5 years 2009Q3 to 2014Q3
Aberdeen City and suburbs	0.6%	9.8%	4.7%
Ellon	-1.9%	7.4%	2.8%
Inverurie	0.0%	10.4%	4.1%
Stonehaven	1.1%	16.1%	4.6%
Other country areas	0.6%	6.3%	1.1%
Scotland (Halifax)	1.4%	6.3%	0.6%
UK (Halifax)	2.7%	9.6%	2.9%
Retail Price Index (ONS)	0.4%	2.4%	3.7%

¹www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/Media/economic-insight/regional-house-prices/. The quarterly price change is seasonally adjusted.

Figure 1: House price indices for Aberdeen City and suburbs, Scotland, UK, and Retail Price Index from 2009Q1 to 2014Q3 (2009Q1=100).



Level of prices

Table 2 gives estimated constant-quality prices for three dwelling types in different areas. Constant-quality means that standard characteristics for the different dwelling types are assumed.

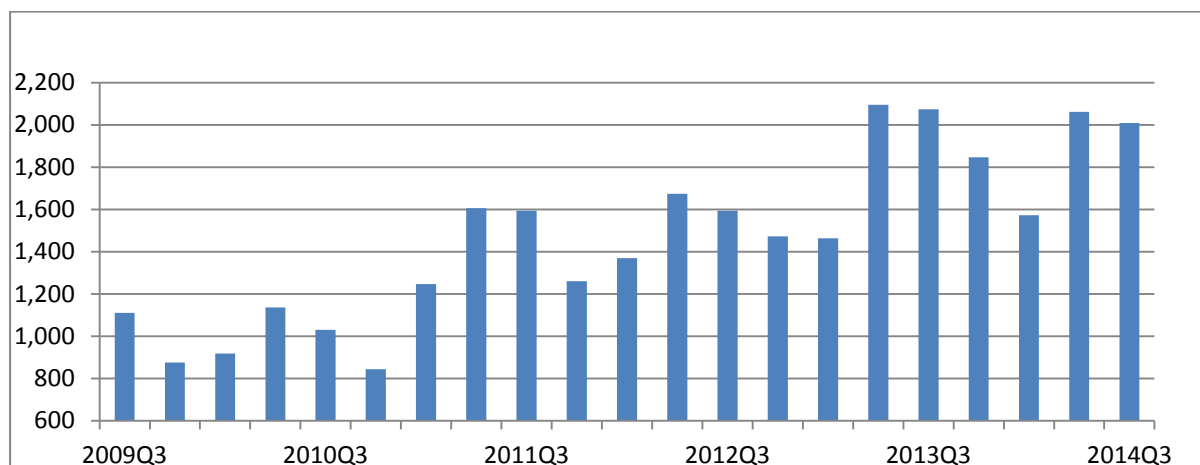
Table 2: Estimated prices for different dwelling types for the current and the previous quarter

Dwelling type	Period	Aberdeen City and suburbs	Ellon	Inverurie	Stonehaven	Other country areas
Flat	2014Q3	£168,472	£142,788	£148,334	£150,510	£142,378
	2014Q2	£167,442	£142,339	£147,901	£151,085	£144,397
Semi-detached	2014Q3	£234,112	£180,290	£219,867	£228,717	£188,951
	2014Q2	£232,669	£183,717	£219,908	£226,226	£187,736
Detached	2014Q3	£358,905	£282,415	£307,945	£342,952	£320,622
	2014Q2	£358,133	£279,660	£311,496	£349,116	£320,701

Volume of sales

Figure 2 shows the volume of sales per quarter in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire over the recent five year period. Table 3 shows the change in the volume of sales for different dwelling types.

Figure 2: Volume of sales from 2009Q3 to the current quarter



In the third quarter of 2014, the volume of sales was 2,009, a decrease of 2.6% from the previous quarter and a decrease of 3.1% compared with the volume of sales a year ago (2013Q3).

- The sales volume of flats increased by 1.0%, the sales volume of semi-detached houses increased by 2.4%, and the sales volume of detached houses decreased by 11.1%.

Table 3: Volume of sales by dwelling type for the current and the previous quarter

Period	Flat	Semi-Detached	Detached
2014Q3	723	678	608
2014Q2	716	662	684
Percentage change	1.0%	2.4%	11.1%

Comment by John MacRae

The third quarter figures for 2014, showing a small decrease in volume compared to the third quarter last year, are perhaps attributable to, or demonstrative of, the referendum effect. Local Practitioners did not notice any great difference in the third quarter (traditionally slightly less active than the second quarter each year) but the third quarter figures just released indicate that the small decrease may be attributable to the referendum effect. Overall, the position seems to be that the local market is remaining reasonably active and stable. The house price index for Aberdeen City and suburbs is still higher than the other indices for Scotland, the United Kingdom and the retail price index so it is not unexpected to see slightly stronger growth figures for the rest of the country compared to Aberdeen.

Note on methods

The information in this report is based on data provided by the Aberdeen Solicitors' Property Centre (ASPC) to the Centre for Real Estate Research, University of Aberdeen.

The price changes shown in Table 1 are calculated after having controlled for the quality of houses that are sold, thereby providing a reliable indication of the underlying market trend.² Three price changes are reported: The quarterly price change shows the percentage change in house prices over the past three months; the annual price change shows the percentage change in house prices measured over the most recent twelve month period; and the annualised price change over five years shows the average annual change in house prices calculated over a five year holding period. Table 1 also includes the Retail Price Index to show how the prices of goods and services in the economy have changed over the same time period.

The estimated price levels in Table 2 assume characteristics that are "standard" for the dwelling type in the respective area. For example, the standard semi-detached house in the Aberdeen City and suburb area has three bedrooms, two public rooms, one bathroom. Full details of the characteristics are available on the link below.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/business/research/aberdeen-house-price-index-156.php>

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² This differs from the information reported in previous Aberdeen House Price Reports where price changes were calculated as the differences in the average prices between two periods.