

# PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

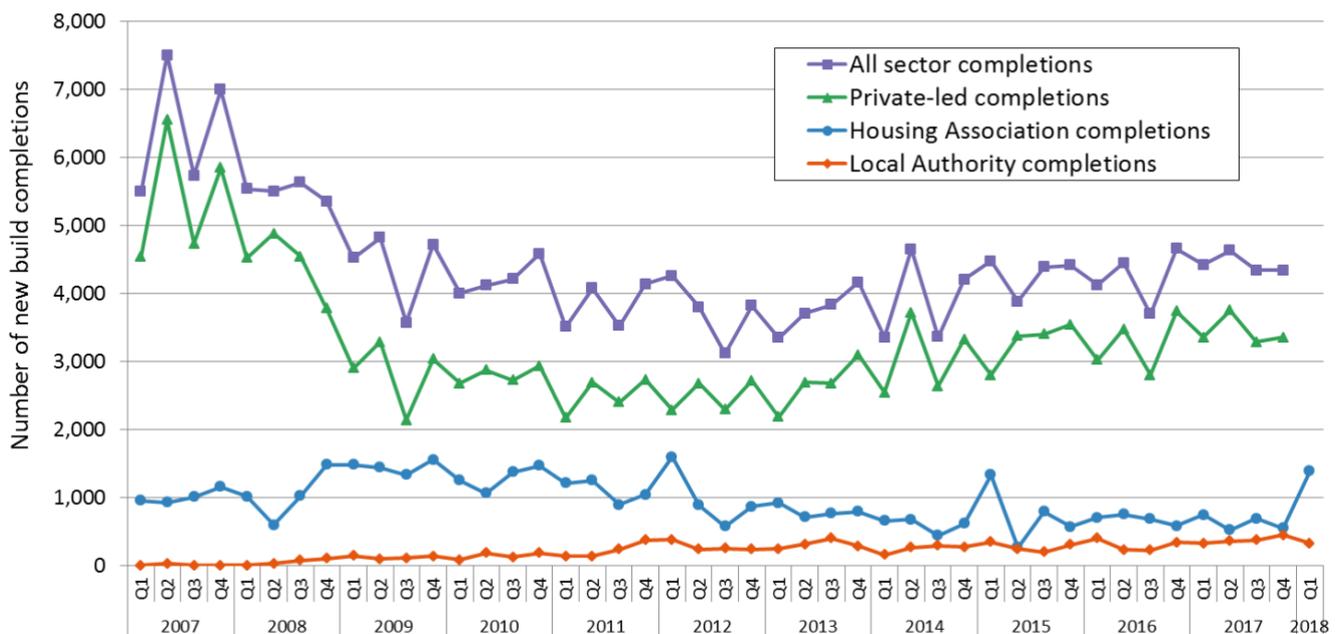
## Housing Statistics for Scotland Quarterly Update (published 12 June 2018)

This quarterly statistical publication provides information on recent trends in:

- **New build housing starts and completions** by sector (up to end December 2017, with more up-to-date social sector information available up to end March 2018)
- **The Affordable Housing Supply Programme** (up to end March 2018)
- **Local authority house sales including Right to Buy** (up to end December 2017)

Background information including Excel tables and an explanatory note on the Quarterly Housing Statistics can be found in the [Housing Statistics webpages](#).

**Chart 1: Quarterly new build completions, 2007 up to end March 2018**



## Key Points

### **New Build Housing – All Sectors – up to end December 2017**

There were 4,344 **new build homes completed** between October and December 2017; a 7% decrease (313 homes) on the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 17,739, up 5% (806 homes) compared to the 16,933 completed in the previous year.

There were 4,483 **new build homes started** between October and December 2017, 3% more (151 homes) than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 19,702 which is up by 8% (1,388 homes) compared to the 18,314 homes started in the previous year.

### **New Build Housing – Private-led Housing – up to end December 2017**

Between October and December 2017, 3,352 **private sector led homes were completed**; 10% fewer (386 homes) than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 13,750 which is 5% more (714 homes) than the 13,036 completions in the previous year.

There were 3,247 **private sector led starts** between October and December 2017, up 1% (35 homes) on the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year ending December 2017 to 13,774, which is 4% (583 homes) more than the 13,191 starts in the previous year.

### **New Build Housing – Social Sector Housing (Housing Association and Local Authority combined) – up to end December 2017**

There were 992 **social housing completions** between October and December 2017; 8% more than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 3,989. This is a 2% increase on the 3,897 social sector completions in the previous year.

Meanwhile, 1,236 **social sector homes were started** between October and December 2017; 10% more than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 5,928. This is a 16% increase on the 5,123 social sector starts in the previous year.

### **More up-to-date figures – up to end March 2018**

Between January and March 2018, 1,707 social sector homes were completed (60% more than the 1,067 completions in the same quarter in 2017), and 3,314 were started (3% more than the same quarter in the previous year). This brings the total completions for the 12 months to end March 2018 to 4,629 (a 20% increase on the 3,866 social sector homes completed in the previous year). Total starts over the 12 months to end March 2018 are now at 6,036 (4% fewer than the 6,316 started in the previous year).

## **New Build Housing – Housing Association Homes – up to end December 2017**

There were 544 **housing association completions** between October and December 2017, 6% less than the 580 completions in the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 2,489, an 8% (218 homes) decrease on the 2,707 completions over the previous year.

There were 710 **housing association approvals** between October and December 2017; 17% less than the 860 approvals in the same quarter in the previous year. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 4,556. This is an increase of 25% (918 homes) on the 3,638 approvals in the previous year.

### **More up-to-date figures – up to end March 2018**

A total of 1,382 Housing Association homes were completed between January and March 2018, 87% (641 homes) more completions than in the same period in the previous year. This brings the total completions for the 12 months to end March 2018 to 3,130, which is an increase of 14% on the 2,748 homes completed in the previous year. A total of 3,073 Housing Association homes were approved between January and March 2018, 5% more than the 2,917 approvals in the same quarter in 2017. This brings the total approvals for the 12 months to end March 2018 to 4,712, a 5% decrease on the 4,945 approvals in the previous year.

## **New Build Housing – Local Authority Homes – up to end December 2017**

There were 448 **local authority completions** between October and December 2017, which is 32% more than the number that were completed in the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year ending December 2017 to 1,500. This is a 26% (310 homes) increase on the 1,190 completions the previous year.

There were 526 **local authority starts** between October and December 2017; more than double the 260 homes started in the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for year ending December 2017 to 1,372. This is an 8% (113 homes) decrease on the 1,485 starts in the previous year.

### **More up-to-date figures – up to end March 2018**

Between January and March 2018, 325 local authority houses were completed (1 home less than the same quarter in the previous year), and 241 were started (17% fewer than in the same quarter in the previous year). This brings the total completions for the year to end March 2018 to 1,499, which is 34% more than the previous year. Total starts for the 12 months to end March 2018 now stands at 1,324 which is a decrease of 3% on the 1,371 local authority homes started in the previous year.

## **Affordable Housing Supply – up to end March 2018**

Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) statistics reflect the broader supply of affordable homes (i.e. for social rent, affordable rent and affordable home ownership) and include off-the-shelf purchases and rehabilitations as well as new builds.

The latest statistics for the year to end March 2018 show that **affordable housing supply completions** have totalled 8,534, up 16% (1,198 homes) on the previous year. This includes increases in social rent completions (up by 15% or 686 homes), affordable rent completions (up by 27% or 243 homes), and affordable home ownership completions (up by 14% or 269 homes).

There were 11,677 **affordable housing approvals** over the year up to end March 2018, up by 14% or 1,401 homes compared to the previous year. This includes increases affordable rent approvals (which have more than doubled, up by 1,433 homes), and affordable home ownership approvals (up by 5% or 92 homes), with a decrease in social rent approvals (down by 2% or 124 homes).

There were 10,569 **affordable houses started** in the year to end March 2018, up by 14% or 1,261 homes compared to the previous year. This includes increases in social rent starts (up by 9% or 585 homes), affordable rent starts (up by 42% or 530 homes), and affordable home ownership starts (up by 8% or 146 homes).

Quarterly affordable housing supply statistics are used to inform the Scottish Government target to deliver 50,000 affordable homes, including 35,000 homes for social rent, over the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

## **Local Authority Right to Buy Sales – up to end December 2017**

The Right to Buy scheme closed to all new applicants on 31 July 2016, therefore there have been no **Right to Buy applications** made during the last 15 months (October 2016 to December 2017). Throughout the final year of the scheme (the year to end September 2016) there were 9,060 applications made, more than double the 3,890 applications that were made in the previous year to end September 2015. This increase is likely to have been because this was the last chance for social housing tenants with an entitlement to exercise their Right to Buy before the scheme closed.

It can take a period of time for applications to be processed and for sales to be made, and therefore **Right to Buy sales** are still being recorded. In the latest available quarter, October to December 2017, there were 266 Right to Buy sales, 67% less than the 801 sales in the same quarter in the previous year, and also 55% less than the 587 sales in the previous quarter, July to September 2017. It is expected that sales will continue to fall further in future quarters as the number of applications remaining in the system falls.

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## **New Build Housing – All Sectors – up to end December 2017**

The new-build section of this document provides figures on the number of homes started (when the foundations are begun) and completed (when a building inspector deems the property complete).

Figures are presented for homes built on privately led (referred to throughout as private sector), local authority led (referred to as local authority sector) and housing association led (referred to as housing association sector) sites. For the private sector the latest information available is for the quarter ending December 2017. Whilst more up-to-date information is available for local authority and housing association new builds, findings for these sectors are mainly presented up to December 2017 to simplify comparisons between sectors.

The figures have not been seasonally adjusted and so commentary tends to compare the latest quarter with the same quarter the previous year. To help with this, Quarter 4 figures (from October to December) have been highlighted in the charts to allow easy comparison over time. Some of the peaks in the number of starts in Quarter 1 each year are due to large numbers of housing association approvals being granted near the end of the financial year.

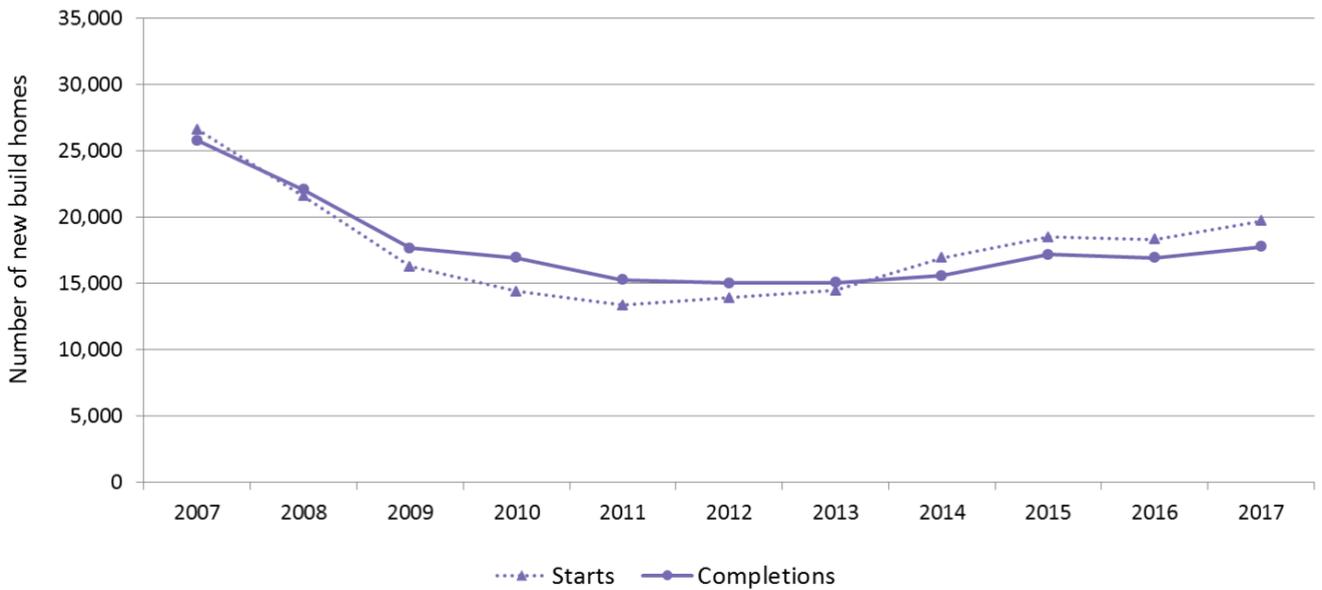
Chart 1 (see page 1) shows the number of private sector, social sector and total new homes completed each quarter since 2007, whilst Charts 2 and 3 (below) show annual and quarterly trends, respectively, in starts and completions across all sectors.

### **Trends over the last ten years – all sectors**

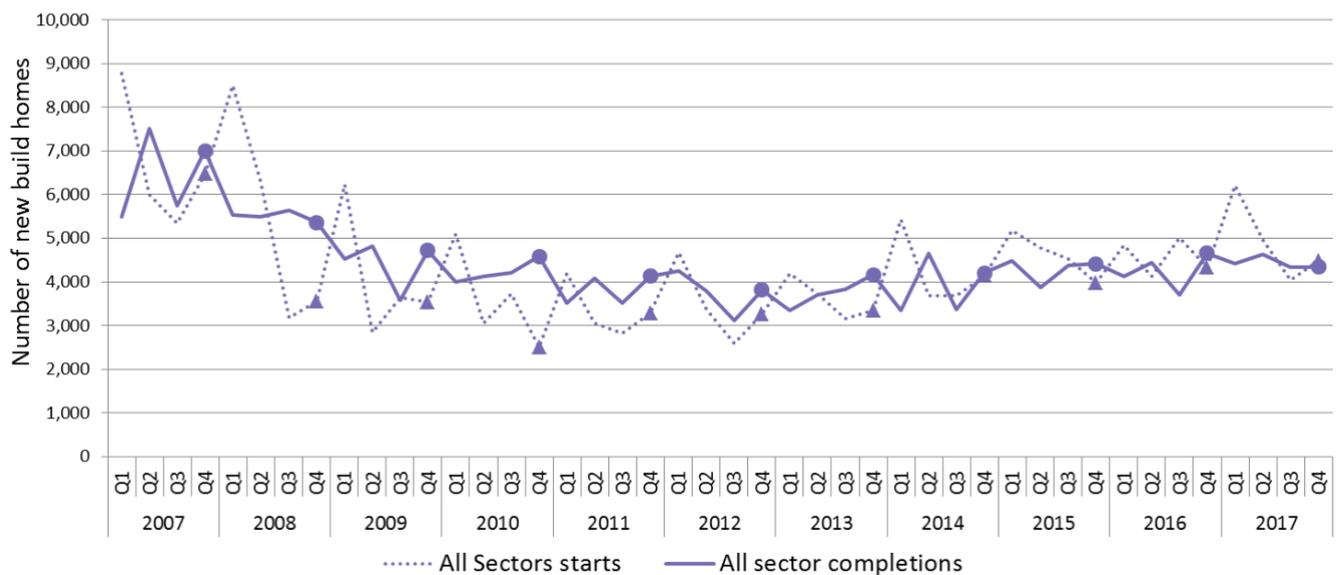
Charts 1 to 3 all clearly show the impact of the recession in the second half of the last decade, with private sector led completions in particular falling throughout 2008 and 2009 (years to end December) due to the financial crisis. Completions for all sectors fell more gradually between 2010 and 2012, after which there have been annual increases seen in every year other than 2016.

The picture on all sector starts has been generally similar to the trends seen in completions, although most of the steep drop following the financial crisis was seen in 2009. Starts have increased every year since 2011, other than 2016.

**Chart 2: Annual all sector new build starts and completions, years to end December, 2007 to 2017**



**Chart 3: Quarterly new build starts and completions (all sectors) since 2007 up to end December 2017**



**Trends to end December 2017 – all sectors**

There were 4,344 new build homes completed between October and December 2017; a 7% decrease on the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 17,739, up 5% (806 homes) compared to the 16,933 completed in the previous year.

There were 4,483 new build homes started between October and December 2017; 3% more than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 19,702 which is up by 8% (1,388 homes) compared to the 18,314 homes started in the previous year.

## Comparison with the rest of the UK from 2007 to 2017 – all sectors

Each of the countries of the UK produces their own statistics on quarterly new build housing starts and completions by tenure, and all use broadly consistent definitions. These new build statistics for each of the countries of the UK, as well as for Great Britain and the UK as a whole can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-house-building>.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) also produces an additional annual set of statistics for England on new build homes, as a component part of the 'Housing supply; net additional dwellings, England' set of statistics<sup>1</sup>. These statistics are collected on a different basis to the quarterly UK country statistics as local authorities can use a range of data sources to collate these figures rather than solely using building control information. Figures on this for 2016/17 were published on 16 November 2017, and this publication advised that the 'net additional dwellings' should be considered the primary and most comprehensive measure of housing supply in England.

MHCLG have advised that the quarterly new build statistical collection for England, whilst being a useful leading indicator of activity throughout the year, is not currently capturing all new build activity, largely due to difficulties in collecting accurate starts and completions data from independent building inspectors or where building control has been sourced out to strategic partnerships or the private sector. These data issues do not exist in the Scotland quarterly housing statistics, given that all of the 32 local authorities in Scotland directly manage building control and the associated provision of data to the Scottish Government on starts and completions.

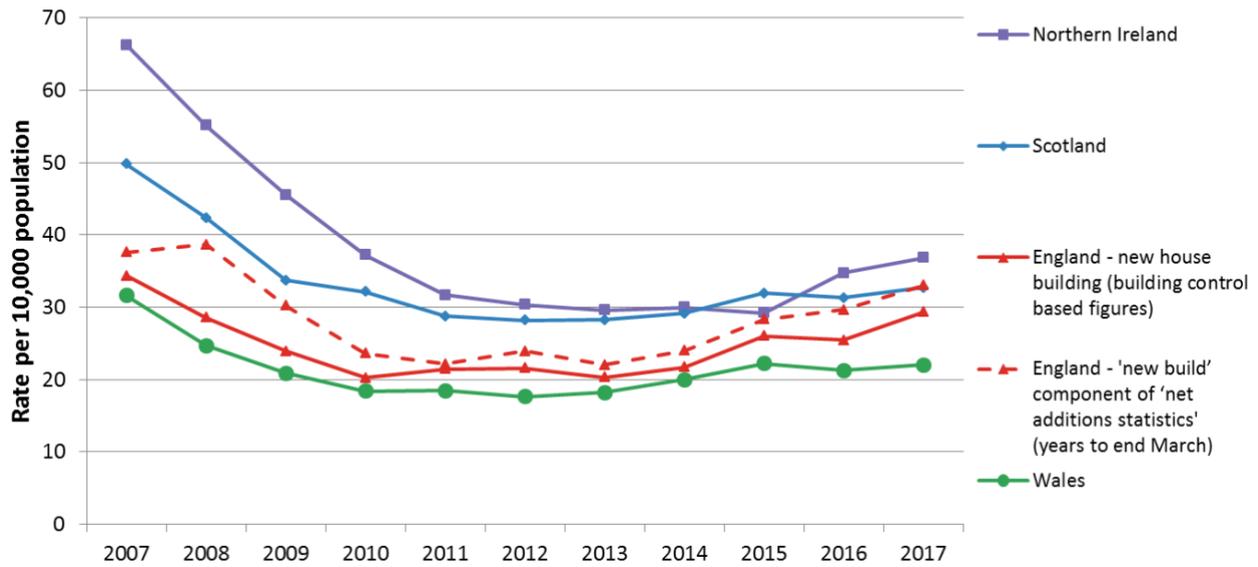
As a result of this advice, the new build component figures of the 'net additional dwellings' statistics for England are included in the UK comparisons as an additional set of figures to consider when comparing between countries. However note that the 'net additional dwellings' figures are only available on a financial year basis rather than a quarterly basis, and so there are some differences in the time periods presented.

Chart 4 shows that the rate of house building completions in Scotland has been above that of England and Wales throughout the 2007 to 2016 period (years to end December), however in the latest year, whilst the rate in Scotland (33 per 10,000 population) has been above the comparable quarterly statistics for England (29 per 10,000 population), it has been equal to the rate of 'net additional dwellings' new builds in England (33 per 10,000 population in the year to end March 2017). The rate of house building completions in Scotland has been below that of Northern Ireland between 2007 and 2017, except for in 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/net-supply-of-housing>

**Chart 4: New house building as a rate per 10,000 population for UK countries, years to end December, 2007 to 2017**



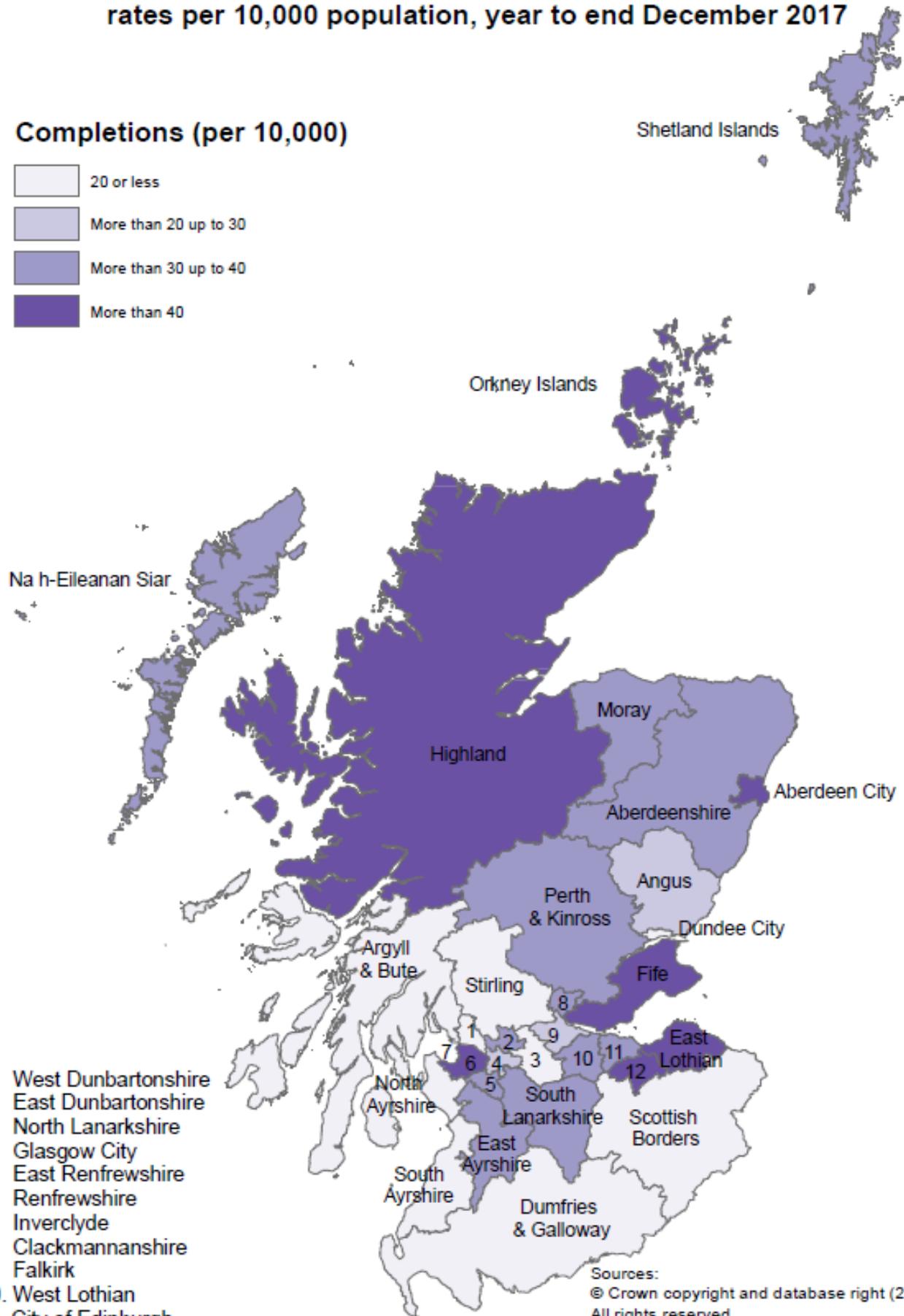
**Sub-national figures for the year to end December 2017 – all sectors**

The information on new build housing in Scotland is collected and published at local authority level. Map A, below, shows new house building in the year to end December 2017, as a rate per 10,000 population based on the latest mid-2017 population estimates.

In the year to end December 2017 the highest new build rates were observed in East Lothian, Orkney, Midlothian, Fife, and Aberdeen City. The lowest rates were observed in Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire and Argyll & Bute.

# Map A: New build housing - all sector completions: rates per 10,000 population, year to end December 2017

## Completions (per 10,000)



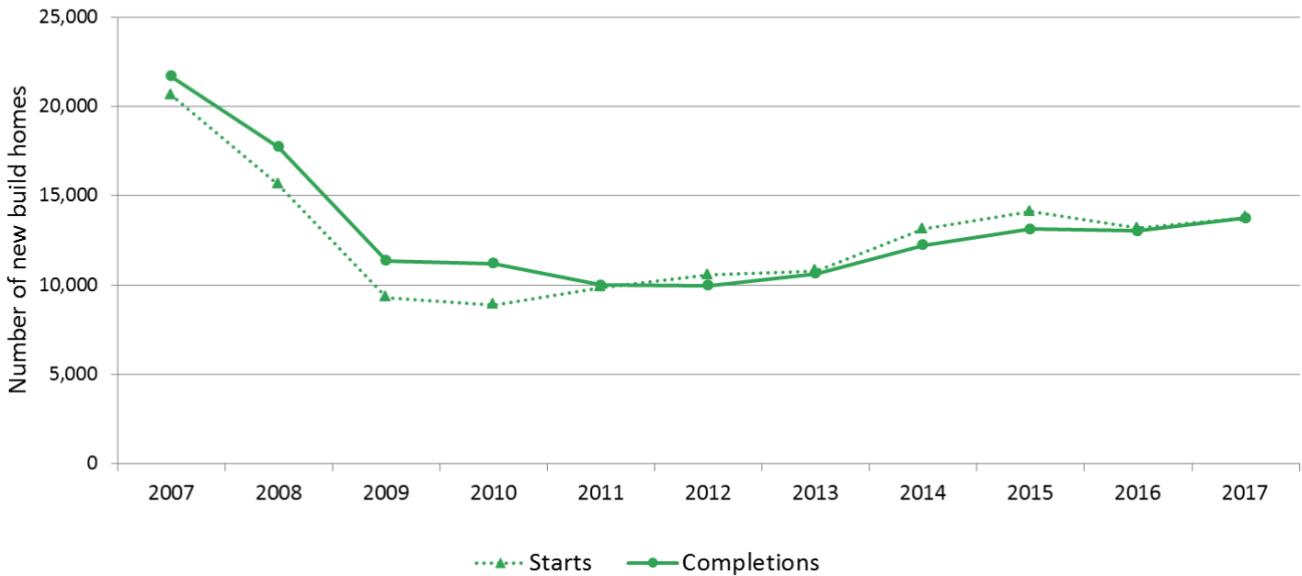
1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire
9. Falkirk
10. West Lothian
11. City of Edinburgh
12. Midlothian

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 The Scottish Government 12th June 2018

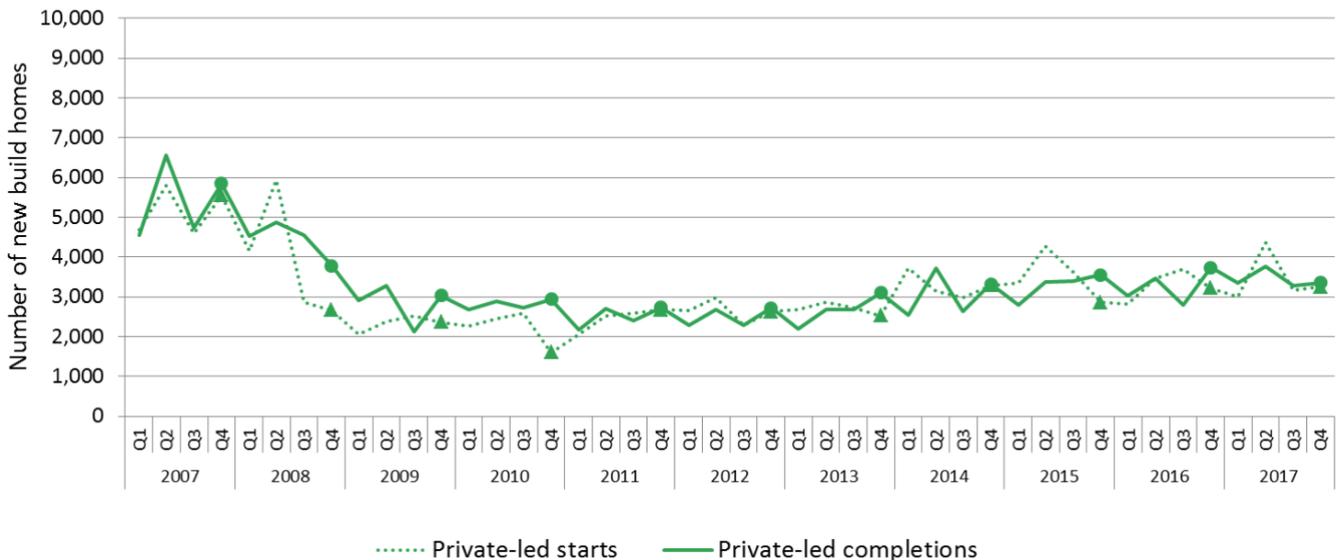
## New Build Housing – Private-led – up to end December 2017

The private sector is the biggest contributor to overall house building, accounting for just under four-fifths (78%) of all homes completed in the 12 months to end December 2017.

**Chart 5: Annual private sector led new build starts and completions, years to end December, 2007 to 2017**



**Chart 6: Quarterly new build starts and completions (private-led), since 2007 up to end December 2017**



## **Trends over the last ten years – private sector**

In 2007 (year to end December) the number of private sector homes started was around 20,600, while completions were just under 21,700. Private sector led new build housing was hit particularly hard by the recession. The number of homes completed dropped steeply between 2007 and 2009 then continued to decrease more gradually to under 10,000 in 2012. Since then, the number of homes completed has increased each year, except in 2016, bringing completions in the latest year to just under 13,800 in the year to end December 2017.

In September 2013 the Scottish Government introduced the Help to Buy (Scotland) scheme which has aimed to support buyers purchasing a new build home and to stimulate the house building industry. Following this, the Help to Buy (Scotland) Affordable New Build and Help to Buy (Scotland) Smaller Developers schemes were launched on 21 January 2016. Further information on the schemes, along with monitoring information setting out numbers of sales, is available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/BuyingSelling/help-to-buy>.

## **Trends to end December 2017 – private sector**

Between October and December 2017, 3,352 private sector led homes were completed; 10% (386 homes) fewer than the same quarter in 2016 (see Chart 6). This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 13,750, which is 5% (714 homes) more than the 13,036 completions in the previous year.

Meanwhile there were 3,247 private sector led starts between October and December 2017, up 1% (35 homes) on the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year ending December 2017 to 13,774, which is 4% (583 homes) more than the 13,191 starts in the previous year.

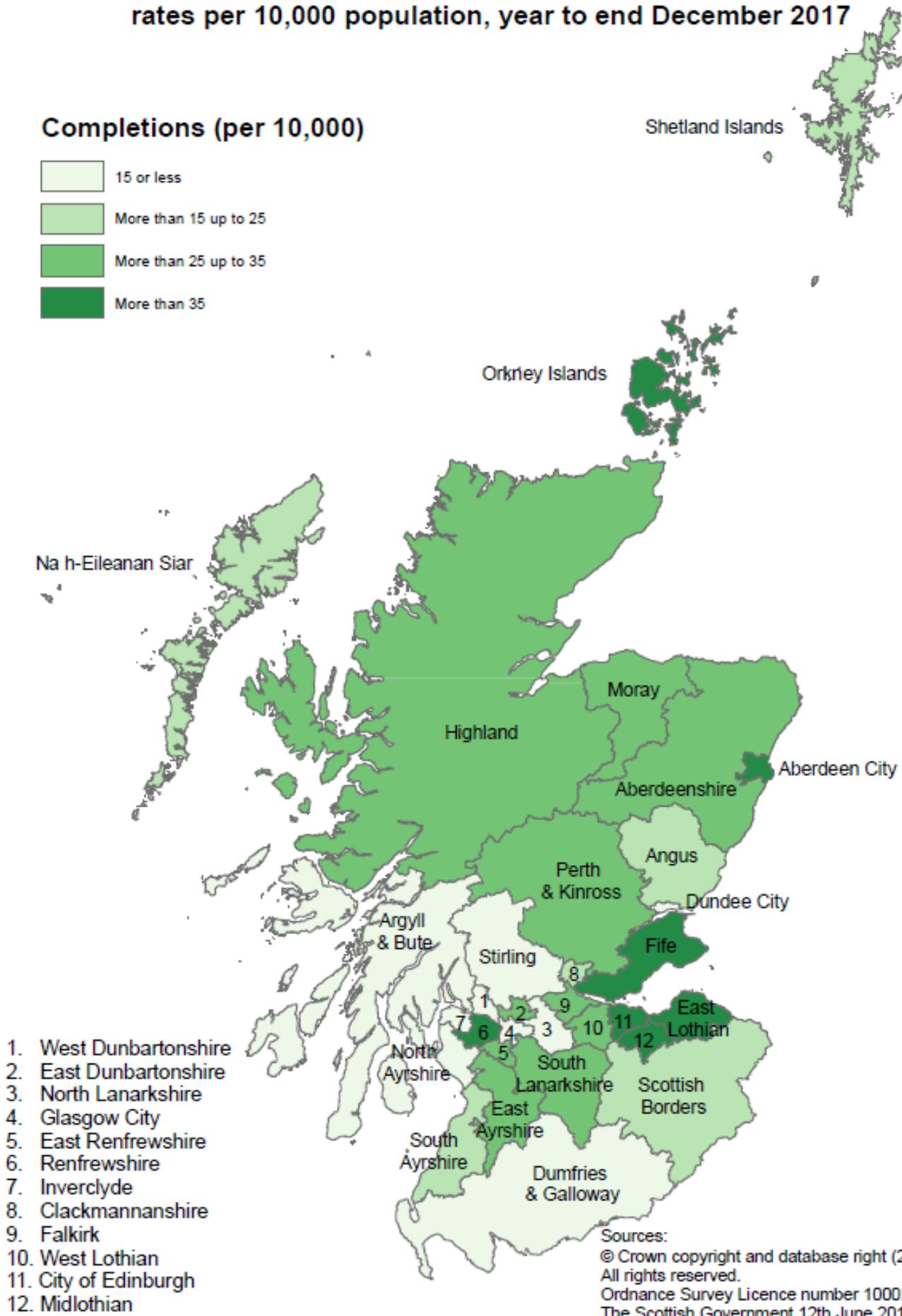
## **Sub-national figures for the year to end December 2017 – private sector**

Map B shows the rates per 10,000 head of population (based on the latest mid-2017 population estimates) of private sector led new build completions in each local authority for the year to end December 2017.

The highest completion rates have been in East Lothian, Midlothian, Aberdeen City and Orkney. The lowest rates meanwhile, have been in West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Argyll & Bute, and North Lanarkshire.

## Map B: New build housing - private sector completions: rates per 10,000 population, year to end December 2017

### Completions (per 10,000)



1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire
9. Falkirk
10. West Lothian
11. City of Edinburgh
12. Midlothian

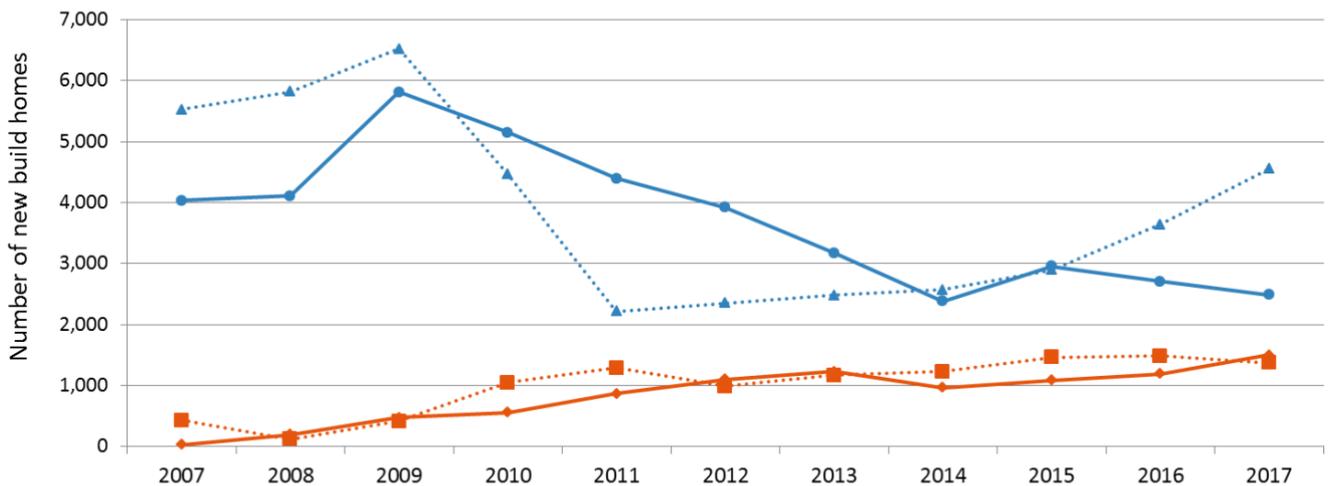
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 The Scottish Government 12th June 2018

## New Build Housing – Social Sector

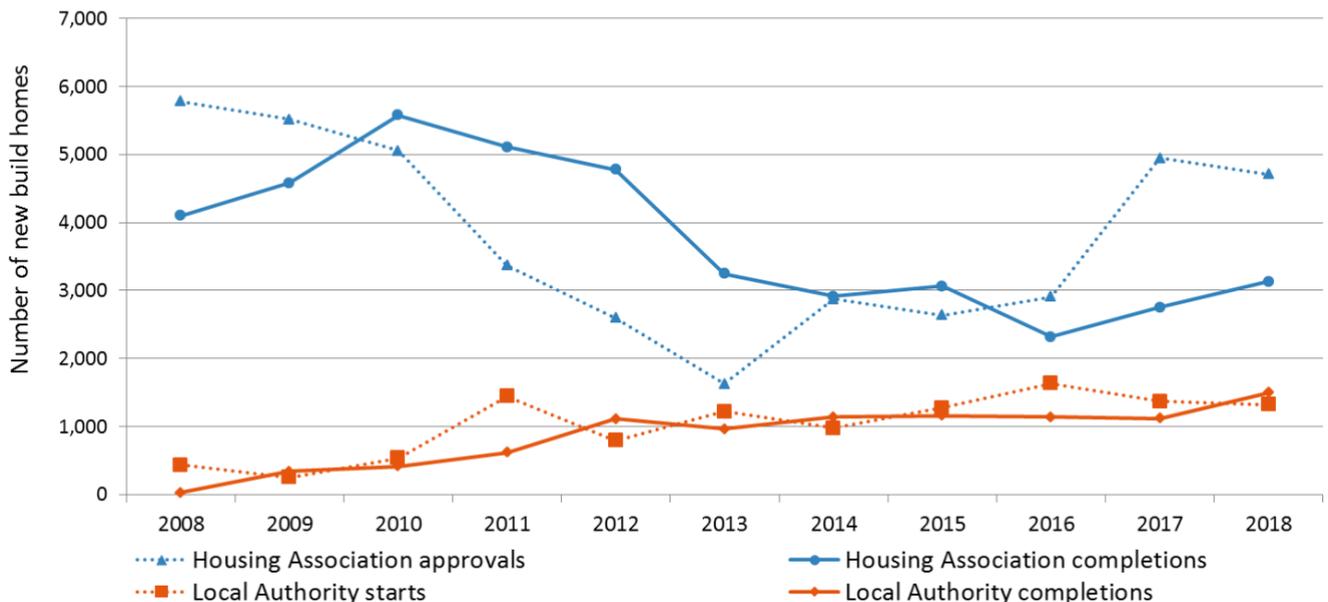
Social sector housing consists of local authority and housing association housing, and has accounted for just over a fifth (22%) of all new build homes completed over the 12 months to end December 2017. Social sector figures are collected a quarter ahead of those for the private sector meaning that figures are available up to the end of March 2018. However, to enable easier understanding of how each sector contributes to the all sector totals described previously, figures are also presented for the same time period to end December (although quarterly charts include the latest quarter's data).

The more up-to-date figures for the social sector are presented later in this section.

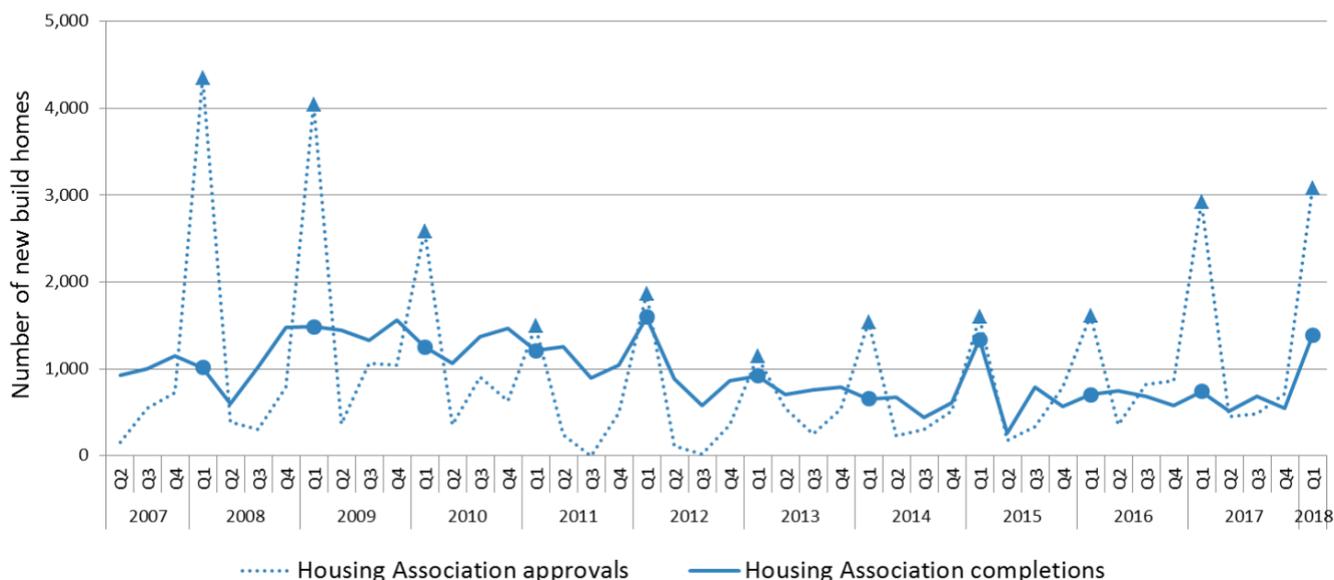
**Chart 7a: Housing Association and Local Authority new build starts and completions, years to end December, 2007 to 2017**



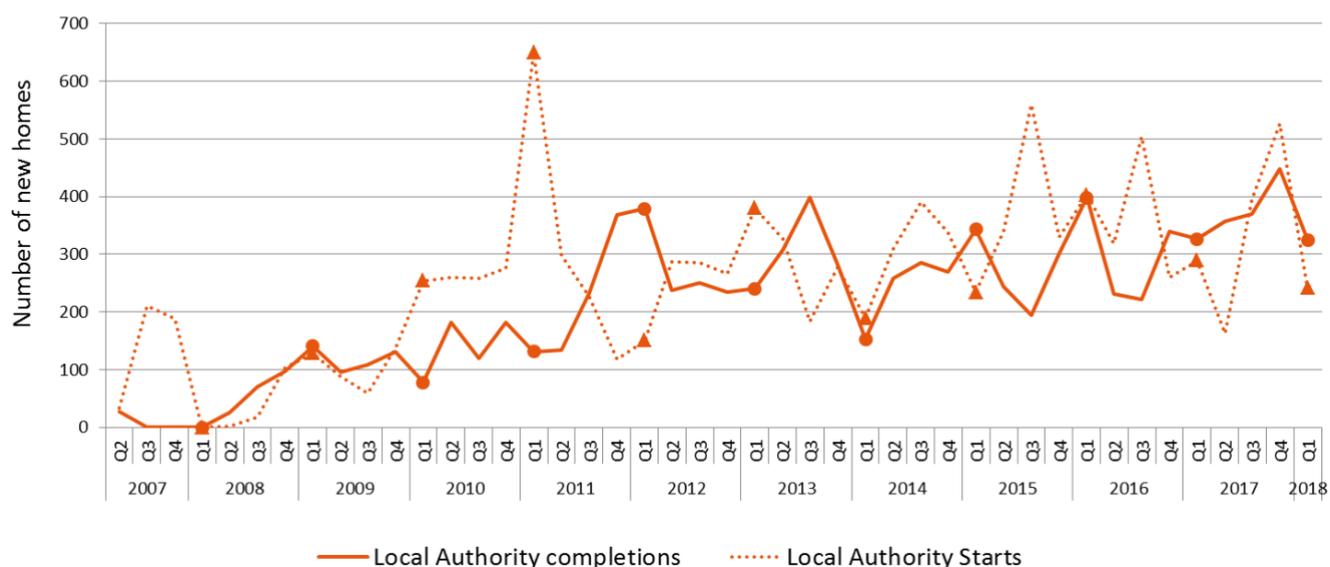
**Chart 7b: Housing Association and Local Authority new build starts and completions, years to end March, 2008 to 2018**



**Chart 8: Quarterly new build approvals and completions (Housing Associations) since 2007 up to end March 2018**



**Chart 9: Quarterly new build starts and completions (Local Authority) since 2007 up to end March 2018**



**Trends over the last ten years – social sector**

Chart 7a shows the number of local authority and housing association homes started and completed each year (to end December) since 2007, whilst Chart 7b shows the same information but up to end March (the most recent information available). Charts 8 and 9 show quarterly figures for housing associations and local authorities, respectively.

Social sector house building has not followed the same pattern as the private sector over time as the number of homes being built did not suddenly drop in 2008 following the recession.

Between 2007 and 2009 (years to end December) the number of housing association completions increased from just over 4,000 to just over 5,800. Completions then decreased each year to just under 2,400 in 2014 before increasing to just under 3,000 in 2015. Completions have since decreased in the past two years to just under 2,500 in 2017.

The number of housing association approvals meanwhile decreased from just over 6,500 in 2009 to just over 2,200 in 2011 (years to end December). The figures have since increased each year since then to just under 4,600 in the year ending December 2017, a 25% increase compared with the year to December 2016.

The number of local authority homes built has gradually increased from just 28 homes in 2007 up to just over 1,200 in 2013 (years to end December). Completions decreased slightly in 2014 before increasing to 1,500 in 2017. Local Authority housing has accounted for 8% of the total amount of new build homes completed across all sectors in the 12 months to end December 2017.

### **Trends to end December 2017 – social sector**

There were 992 social housing completions between October and December 2017; 8% more than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 3,989. This is a 2% increase on the 3,897 social sector completions in the previous year.

Meanwhile, 1,236 social sector homes were started between October and December 2017; 10% more than the same quarter in 2016. This brings the total for the year to end December 2017 to 5,928. This is a 16% increase on the 5,123 social sector starts in the previous year.

### **Sub-national figures for the year to end December 2017 – social sector**

Maps C and D show the rates of housing association and local authority new build completions in each local authority for the year to end December 2017 per 10,000 of the population (based on the latest mid-2017 population estimates). The housing stock of 6 local authorities (Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, Glasgow, Inverclyde, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Scottish Borders) has been transferred to housing associations and so these areas do not build new local authority houses.

In the year to end December 2017 rates of housing association new build completions were highest in the Orkney Islands, Shetland, Clackmannanshire, and Glasgow, whilst no new housing association houses were built in East Ayrshire, Falkirk, Inverclyde, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Stirling.

Meanwhile local authority new build rates were highest in Fife, Midlothian, West Lothian, and East Lothian. As well as the 6 stock transfer authorities mentioned above, Clackmannanshire, East Renfrewshire, the Orkney Islands, Renfrewshire,

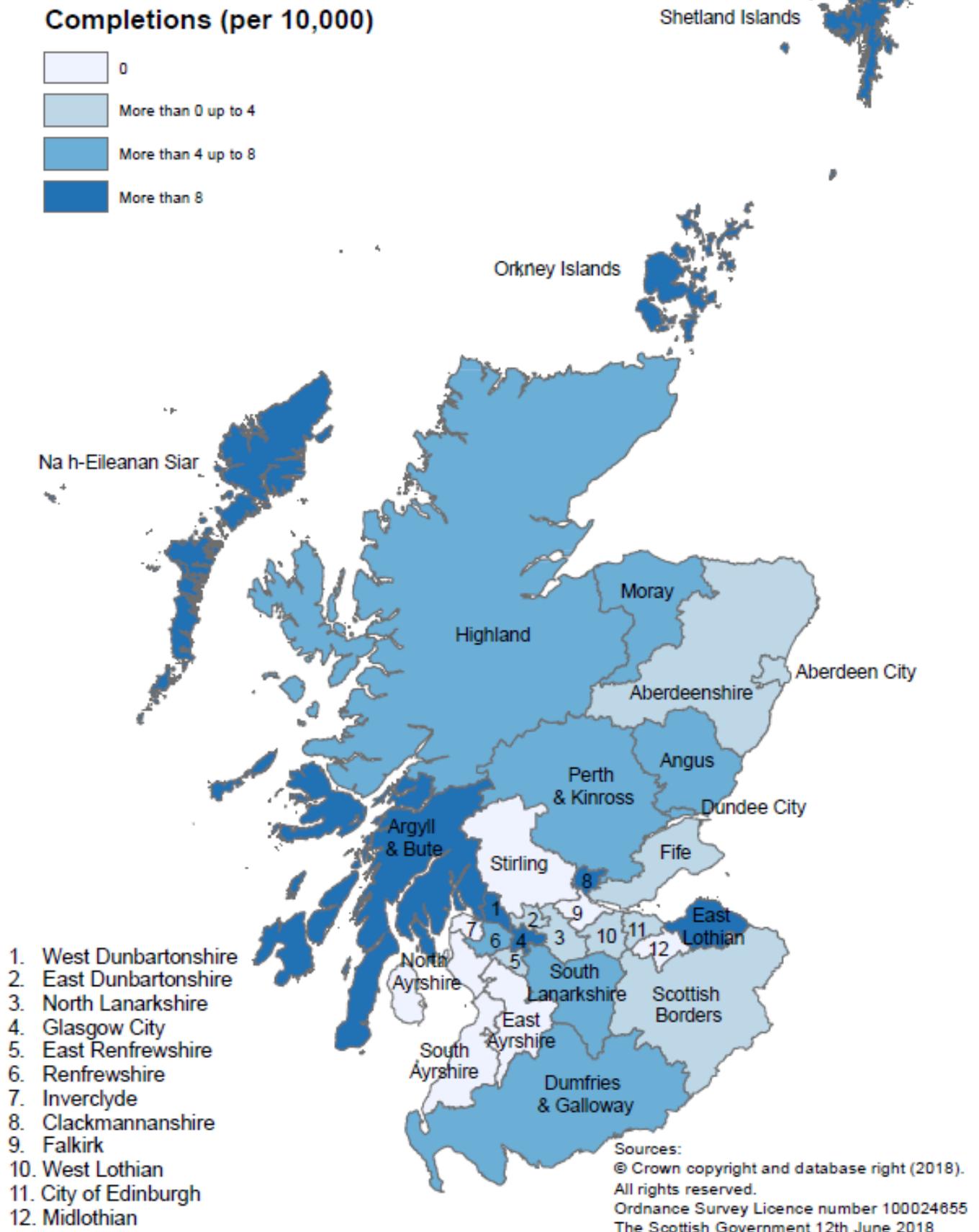
the Shetland Islands and West Dunbartonshire built no new homes in the year ending December 2017.

### **Latest data to end March 2018 – social sector**

A total of 1,707 social sector homes were completed between January and March 2018, 60% more than the 1,067 homes completed in the same period in 2017. This brings the total for the 12 months to end March 2018 to 4,629, which is 20% more than the 3,866 completed in the previous year. The increase in the 12 months to end March 2018 is due to an increase in both Housing Association led and Local Authority led completions, which increased by 14% (382 homes) and 34% (381 homes), respectively.

Meanwhile, 3,314 social sector homes were started between January and March 2018. This is up by 3% compared to the same quarter in the previous year. This brings the total for the 12 months to end March 2018 to 6,036 which is a 4% decrease (280 homes) on the 6,316 starts in the previous year. The decrease in the 12 months to end March 2018 is due to decreases in both Housing Association approvals and Local Authority starts, which decreased by 5% (233 homes) and 3% (47 homes), respectively. (See Charts 8 and 9).

**Map C: New build housing - Housing Association sector completions: rates per 10,000 population, year to end December 2017**





## Affordable Housing Supply – up to end March 2018

Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) statistics reflect the broader supply of affordable homes (i.e. for social rent, affordable rent and affordable home ownership) and include off the shelf purchases and rehabilitations as well as new builds. The social rent new build element of this covers largely the same houses referred to in the social sector new build section of this report. Statistics for the AHSP are available up to the end of March 2018. As a result they have been presented here for the year to end March. This differs from the figures in much of the remainder of this report which cover years to end December.

Changes in the funding programme in 2011 and 2012 impacted on the timing of affordable housing activity as well as the level of activity and this should be borne in mind when making comparisons over time.

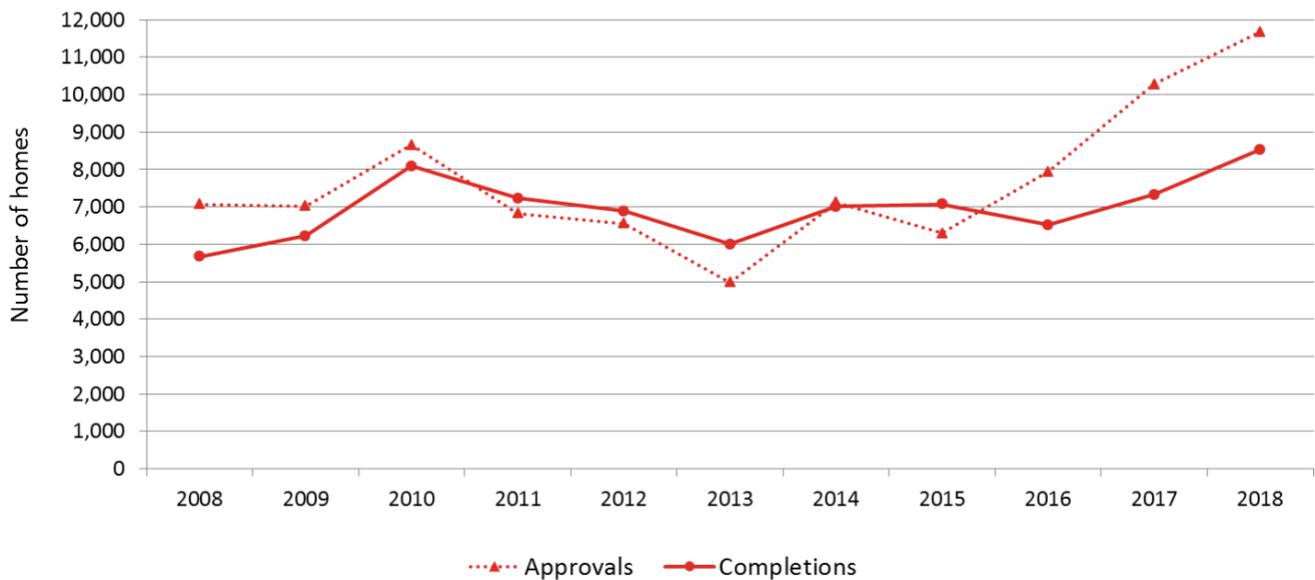
Approvals, starts and completions are all measured for the AHSP. Approval is the point at which funding is granted and, along with completion, is a significant part of the administration process meaning that the data should be of good quality. Starts meanwhile can be recorded at any point in the development, for example when site clearance begins or any point up to the beginning of ground works for foundations. As a result approvals are generally deemed a better measure than starts for AHSP data.

**Social Rent** includes Housing Association Rent, Council House Rent as well as Home Owner Support Fund Rent.

**Affordable Rent** includes Mid-Market Rent (MMR), National Housing Trust (NHT) Rent as well as other programmes such as the Empty Homes Loan Fund (EHLF) and Rural Homes for Rent (RHfR).

**Affordable Home Ownership** includes Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE), New Supply Shared Equity (NSSE), Shared Ownership (LCHO) as well as other programmes such as Home Owner Support Fund Shared Equity.

**Chart 10: Annual Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) approvals and completions, years to end March, 2008 to 2018**



A total of 3,344 affordable homes were completed in the quarter between January and March 2018, an increase of 50%, or 1,119 homes when compared to the equivalent quarter in the previous year. This brings the total for the year to end March 2018 to 8,534, up 16% on the 7,336 completions in the previous year.

Between January and March 2018 a total of 6,448 affordable homes were approved. This is 1,416 (28%) more than in the same quarter in the previous year. It brings the total for the year to end March 2018 to 11,677 approvals, up 13% on the previous year.

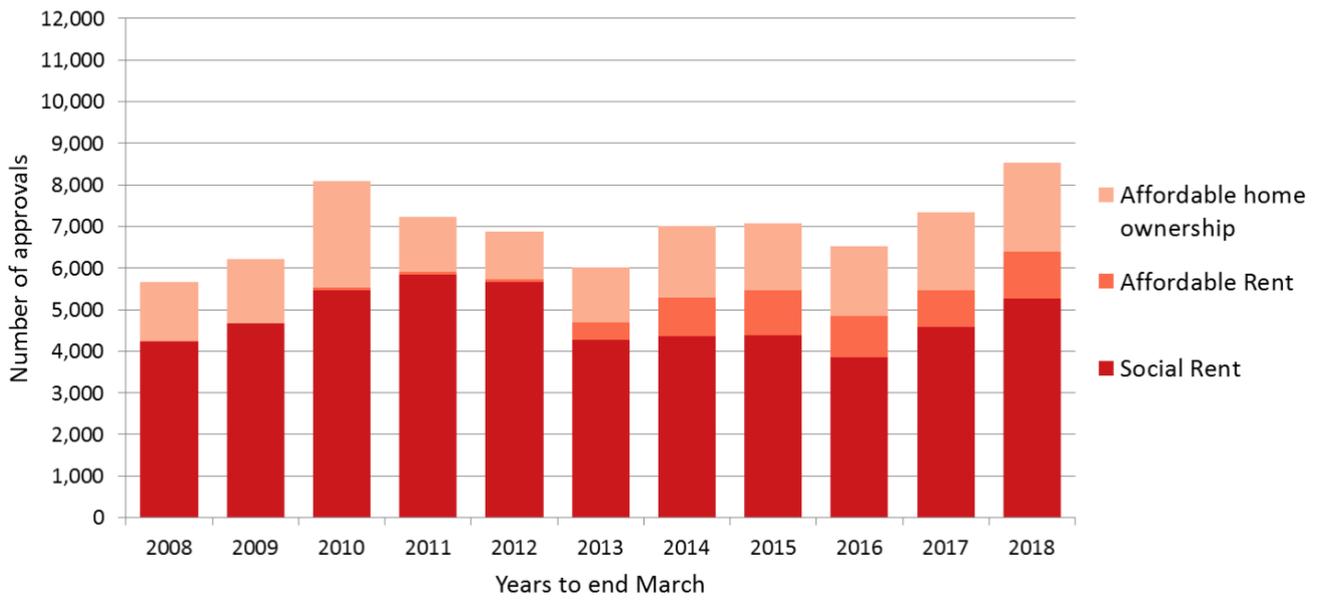
There were 3,206 affordable homes started in the quarter between January and March 2018, a 13% decrease, or 499 fewer homes than the same quarter last year. This brings the total for the year to end March 2018 to 10,569, up 14% on the 9,308 starts in the previous year.

Chart 11 below shows that total affordable housing supply programme completions increased by 16% in 2018 (year to end March). In the latest year, social rent completions accounted for 62% of all completions, with affordable rent and affordable home ownership making up 13% and 25% of the total, respectively.

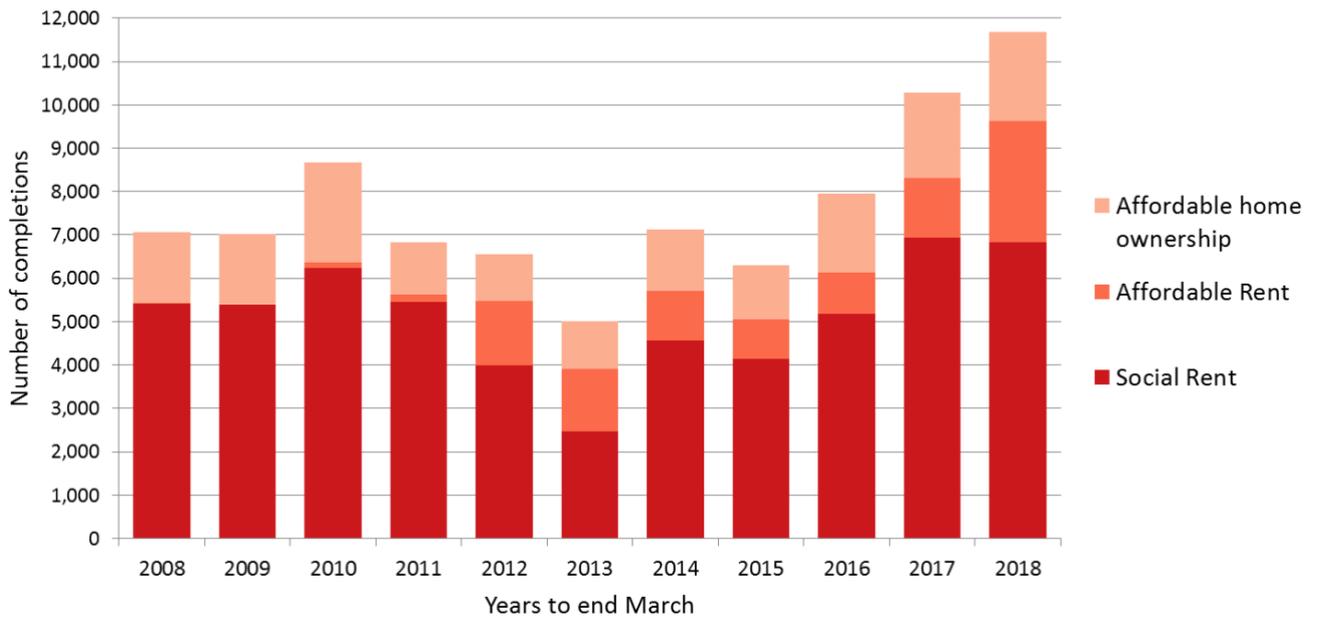
Chart 12 below shows that the total affordable housing supply programme approvals increased by 14% in 2018 (year to end March). In the latest year, social rent approvals accounted for 58% of all approvals, with affordable rent and affordable home ownership making up 24% and 18% of the total, respectively.

Quarterly affordable housing supply statistics are used to inform the Scottish Government target to deliver 50,000 affordable homes, including 35,000 homes for social rent, over the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

**Chart 11: AHSP Completions, years to end March, 2008 to 2018**



**Chart 12: AHSP Approvals, years to end March, 2008 to 2018**

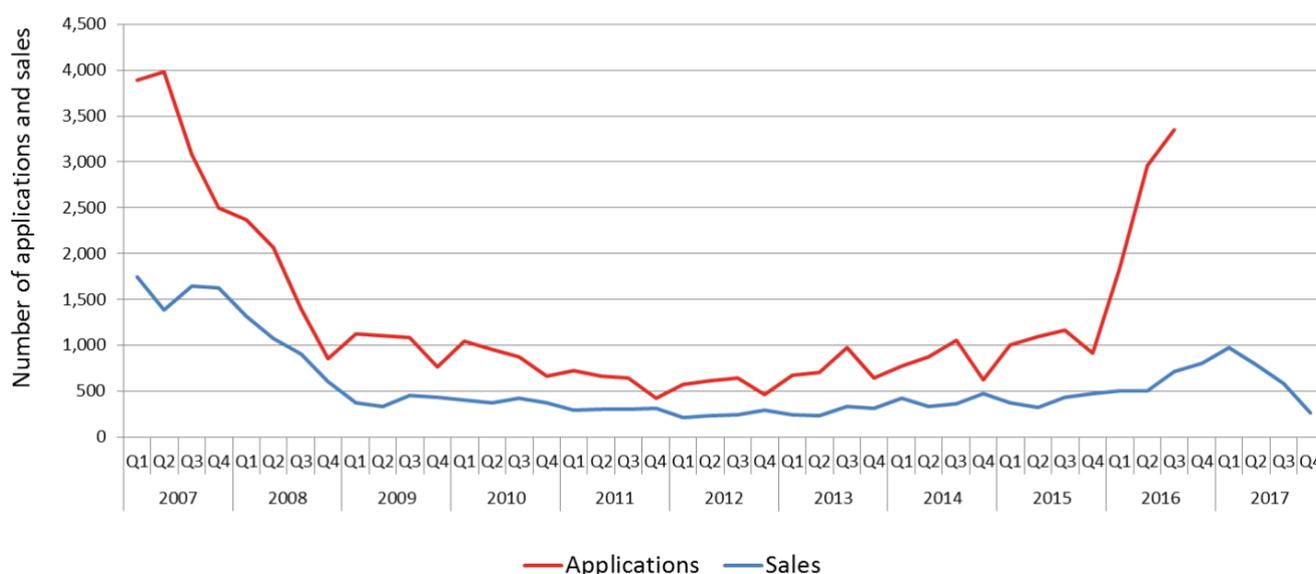


## Sales of Local Authority Dwellings to Sitting Tenants (Right to Buy)

Most sales of local authority housing to tenants are sales under Right to Buy although a small number cover other sales such as voluntary sales by local authorities to sitting tenants.

In July 2013 the Scottish Government announced that the Right to Buy scheme was to end for all tenants. Immediately following this announcement the number of applications and the number of sales between July and September 2013 both increased (by 39% and 44%, respectively) compared to the previous quarter.

**Chart 13: Local Authority Sales to Sitting Tenants, Quarterly Applications and Sales, 2007 up to end December 2017**



Note: The Right to Buy scheme closed to all new applicants on 31 July 2016, therefore application figures for 2016 Q3 (July - September) relate to applications for the single month of July 2016 only and there are no applications in subsequent quarters. Sales figures can occur in a period later than that in which the application was made.

The Right to Buy scheme subsequently closed to all new applicants on 31 July 2016, therefore there have been no **Right to Buy applications** made during the last five quarters (October 2016 to December 2017). Throughout the final year of the scheme (the year to end September 2016), there were 9,060 applications made, more than double the 3,890 applications that were made in the previous year to end September 2015. This increase is likely to have been because this was the last chance for social housing tenants with an entitlement to exercise their Right to Buy before the scheme closed.

It can take a period of time for applications to be processed and for sales to be made, and therefore **Right to Buy sales** are still being recorded. In the latest available quarter, October to December 2017, there were 266 Right to Buy sales, 67% less than the 801 sales in the same quarter in the previous year, and 55% less than the 587 sales in the previous quarter, July to September 2017.

It is expected that sales will continue to fall further in future quarters as the number of applications remaining in the system falls closer to zero. Given the fall in the number of applications left in the system, **we are intending that the quarterly collection and reporting on Right to Buy sales will cease after the publication of sales figures for the next quarterly period January to March 2018, i.e. that the Quarterly Housing Statistics update due to be published in September 2018 will be the final time that Right to Buy figures are reported on.** If you have any queries or comments on this please get in touch with us at [housingstatistics@gov.scot](mailto:housingstatistics@gov.scot) or 0131 244 7229.

## Notes

This document should be read along with the [explanation of the statistics](#) which provides information on how the statistics are collected and how they should be interpreted are provided below.

### Starts and completions

New build information is provided for starts (when the foundations are begun) and completions (when a building inspector deems the property complete). In general, the number of starts will be a strong indicator of the likely trend in completions over the longer term, but there may well be differences over the short and medium term depending on factors such as the housing market, economic climate, access to finance, and speed of construction. A wide range of factors can influence the length of time it takes for a new private dwelling to be constructed, including the type of property (house, flat etc.), and the overall size of the site. Depending on the size of the site, the average time from start to completion of the entire site can range from anywhere between around 1.5 years to 2.75 years. Individual homes, or blocks of homes, might be completed in shorter timescales if parts of the site are completed in advance of the rest.

### Comparing over time

New build figures are not seasonally adjusted and so it's not always appropriate to compare the latest quarter's figure with the previous one. In particular Housing Association approvals tend to peak in Quarter 1 of each year due to the way in which funding is allocated to these projects. This document generally compares the latest quarter's figures with those for the equivalent quarter in previous years or it compares the latest 12 month period with the previous one. For series where there is no obvious seasonal pattern it may also compare with the average quarterly figure over a period of time.

## **A National Statistics publication for Scotland**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

### **Correspondence and enquiries**

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Katrina Caldwell,  
Communities Analysis Division,  
Telephone: 0131 244 7229,  
e-mail: [housingstatistics@gov.scot](mailto:housingstatistics@gov.scot)

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,  
e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### **How to access background or source data**

The data collected for this statistical bulletin are available via an alternative route:  
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration>

### **Complaints and suggestions**

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

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