

# AA British Insurance Premium Index – 2016 quarter 4

24 January 2017

The AA British Insurance Premium Index (Index) has been tracking the quarterly movement of car and home insurance since 1994. It measures the five cheapest quotes for each 'customer' to provide an average or Shoparound index.

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# Motor insurance premiums – 2016 quarter 4

## Car premiums jump £35 over three months

- AA Index shows steady two-year rise in premiums
- Premiums up 11.7% over 2016 five times more than train fares
- Injury claims, accident damage, IPT and uninsured cars drive costs up

The average quote for car insurance jumped by 5.8% over the last quarter of 2016 according to the latest benchmark AA British Insurance Premium Index. The Shoparound premium for a typical policy increased by nearly £35 to £633.06, and by more than £66 (11.7%) over the year.<sup>1</sup>

This latest increase has taken the Shoparound premium to a four-year high.

### Shoparound premium summary

	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change	2015 Q4	Change
Comprehensive	£598.37	£633.06	+5.8%	£566.71	+11.7%
Third Party, Fire & Theft	£863.51	£940.56	+8.9%	£787.64	+19.4%

Third Party, Fire and Theft appears to have a higher premium than comprehensive because the basket of risks reflects the type of driver that buys such cover, typically young drivers.

According to Michael Lloyd, director of AA Insurance, several factors are influencing premiums.

"Uninsured driving is rising, partly because of the increases in Insurance Premium Tax, plus fraud, particularly whiplash claims, continues to dog the industry." (Insurance Premium Tax, or IPT, will increase by another 2% in June.)<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, David Brown, Insurance Partner at KPMG UK, says: "The cost of repairs for accidental damage is rising fast, and I believe it's a much bigger threat to motor policy price inflation than whiplash claims.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The AA Shoparound index is an average of the five cheapest premiums, quoted from the broker, the direct market and price comparison sites, for each risk in a nationwide basket of risks representative of the insurance buying public. This method gives accurate quarterly price tracking.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Insurance Premium Tax rose from 6% to 9.5% from 1 November 2015, then rose to 10% from 1 September 2016. It will rise to 12% from 1 June 2017.



"As of a year ago, insurers were seeing 20% rises in the average cost of repairs for damage to policyholders' cars.

"I expect that when new figures come out over the next few months there could be more bad news, with even costlier repairs for accidental damage, which may well lead to premiums going up."

The AA says that accidental damage claims inflation is currently adding around £25 per year to the average car insurance quote.

On personal injury claims, Lloyd says: "The number of personal injury claims has started to show signs of slowing, and the Ministry of Justice has embarked on fresh reforms to curb the cold-call culture which contributes to Britain's unwelcome status as 'whiplash capital of Europe'.

"Our recent research has shown that 63% of drivers had been cold-called by a claims management company in the last 12 months about personal injury claims, regardless of whether they were involved in an accident. In fact 34% of the respondents were contacted more than 10 times.<sup>3</sup>

"Not surprisingly, 95% of those contacted by a claims management company regarded the calls as a nuisance.

"What's more, claiming for an injury even if none was suffered is becoming embedded in our motoring culture. So 44% of respondents agreed that making a claim for injury has become 'an easy way to make money', although 85% consider doing so to be morally wrong."

Detected insurance fraud currently costs the insurance industry  $\pounds$ 1.3bn a year.<sup>4</sup> And while the number of road traffic collisions has fallen by 39% over the past 15 years, the number of injury claims – largely whiplash – has risen by 90%, adding around £40 to the average car insurance premium.<sup>5</sup>

"Insurance is based on claims experience. It's also extremely competitive, and I have little doubt that if the number and cost of claims falls, then the cost of an annual insurance policy will also fall," adds Lloyd.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> AA-Populus survey 15–22 November 2016, conducted among 19,317 AA Members. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> British Insurance Brokers' Association Manifesto 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Source: Association of British Insurers.

The AA Index also shows that quoted premiums for young drivers rose by slightly less than the average, but those aged between 17–22 still pay by far the highest cost for their cover.

"Paying an average of over £1,400 for a year's cover, compared with £380 for those in their 60s, young drivers have been particularly hard hit by the rise in IPT, which by June will have doubled in less than two years.

"I believe that IPT is fuelling the rise in uninsured driving. This isn't a victimless crime because compensation for injury and damage to third parties, caused by uninsured drivers, is ultimately paid for by insurers to the tune of around £35 per policy.

"So we join the British Insurance Brokers' Association in calling on the government cut IPT from the premiums paid by young drivers for the first two years of their cover. This will help with the affordability of cover as they build up a no-claim bonus as well as ensuring that they start driving legally."

### Winners and losers – Shoparound by region

All regions saw premium increases with the exception of Northern Ireland, where the Shoparound premium fell by 3.0%. This makes the region the third most expensive region to insure a car.

The biggest climber was London, where quoted premiums rose 8.6% to just over £800, making it the second most expensive region to insure a car after the north-west (Granada), where the average quoted premium is £887.35. Scotland remains the cheapest region to insure a car, which after an increase of 5.5% has an average quoted premium of £458.75

TV region	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Anglia	£568.32	£604.29	+6.3%
Border & TyneTees	£598.52	£624.79	+4.4%
Central	£606.77	£649.80	+7.1%
Granada	£836.89	£887.35	+6.0%
London	£736.60	£800.09	+8.6%
Meridian	£505.74	£527.88	+4.4%
STV (Scotland)	£434.73	£458.75	+5.5%
UTV (N Ireland)	£819.40	£794.87	-3.0%
Wales	£539.57	£576.96	+6.9%
West & West Country	£492.18	£527.10	+7.1%
Yorkshire	£669.38	£714.83	+6.8%

Continued



### Winners and losers – Shoparound by age

Drivers aged 17–22 pay the highest premiums, and they suffered an average increase of 5.7% to nearly £1,436 for a comprehensive policy.

Those aged 50–59 saw their premiums rise by 8.1% to £452.54. Drivers between 60 and 69 suffered the smallest average premium increase – just 2.6%, to £462.32 – and paid the lowest quote for their cover.

Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17–22	£1,358.53	£1,435.87	+5.7%
23–29	£746.96	£805.37	+7.8%
30–39	£501.12	£537.49	+7.3%
40–49	£461.52	£489.31	+6.0%
50–59	£418.74	£452.54	+8.1%
60–69	£370.75	£380.26	+2.6%
70+	£442.97	£462.32	+4.4%

Although male and female drivers should be quoted the same premium if all other elements of the quote are identical (car, mileage, occupation, address, driving record), men nevertheless can expect to be quoted a higher Shoparound premium than women. For example, young men paid just over £365 more than young women.

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## Motor insurance premiums – summary tables and charts 2016 Q4

Download the Index (Excel file) for motor insurance

2,800 risks for car insurance

AA British Insurance Premium Index – Motor insurance trends since 1994 (chart)

### All channels combined

Motor insurance Shoparound premium movements (chart)

Motor insurance Shoparound premium movements (table)

Motor insurance Shoparound premium movements - region and age (tables)

Comprehensive insurance Shoparound premium trend (chart)

Third-party insurance Shoparound premium trend (chart)



# Home insurance premiums – 2016 quarter 4

### Home premiums rise due to pressure on insurance

- IPT, flooding and Flood Re, plus Brexit add to insurer costs
- Premiums expected to rise during 2017, says AA

As households face rising bills for fuel, car insurance and train fares, the cost of home insurance too has also risen over 2016 according to the AA.

The Shoparound premium for buildings cover rose by 7.6%, increasing by 1.1% over the last quarter to £114.43. Meanwhile the cost of contents cover rose by 3.5% over the year, but rallied over the final quarter to drop by 5.7% to £60.69.<sup>6</sup>

The benchmark AA British Insurance Premium Index shows that the Shoparound premium for a new combined home buildings and contents policy rose by 4.4% over 2016. In the last quarter the Shoparound premium increased by 0.3% from £156.76 to £157.27.

Michael Lloyd, director of AA Insurance, says: "2016 has been a year when home insurance has not been far from the headlines. It began with more than 16,000 homes flooded. Then in April Flood Re was launched. Flood Re is the government supported, industry-led and financed scheme to deliver affordable home insurance for households at flood risk.

"Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) also increased to 10% from October, and will rise again to 12% in June 2017.

Lloyd believes that the rise in the cost of buildings cover over the last quarter – albeit little more than a £1 added to the Shoparound premium – and of combined policies suggests that premiums are now unlikely to fall.

"A report by analysts Ernst and Young [EY] last year suggested that 2017 will see home insurers making underwriting losses as costs of claims including managing fraud overtakes premium income. Insurers have been using their reserves to help stay competitive which is unsustainable in the longer term." <sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The AA Shoparound index is an average of the five cheapest premiums, quoted from the broker, the direct market and price comparison sites, for each risk in a nationwide basket of risks representative of the insurance buying public. This method gives accurate quarterly price tracking.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> According to the Ernst & Young home insurance report (September 2016), the home insurance market is expected to move from a small underwriting profit in 2016 to losses during 2017. It



Lloyd also points to uncertainty about the future impact of Brexit, including a weaker pound, and poorer insurer-investment returns as interest rates remain at a record low. "All this points to the likelihood of premium increases," he says.

"I also understand that many hard-pressed families have to buy on price, though it is important that they do calculate the value of their contents carefully to avoid under-insurance.

"Informal industry estimates suggest that up to a third of those who have insurance are underinsured. This means that in the event of a large claim, they are likely to find the payout is reduced by the percentage shortfall of cover."

### Shoparound premium summary

	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change	2015 Q4	Change
Buildings	£113.16	£114.43	+1.1%	£106.36	+7.6%
Contents	£64.36	£60.69	-5.7%	£58.67	+3.5%
Combined	£156.76	£157.27	+0.3%	£150.67	+4.4%

All channels: based on GFK channel preference and arrangement data – June 2016.

#### Winners and losers - combined buildings and contents policies

#### Shoparound by region

Scotland benefited most over the last quarter of 2016 with the Shoparound premium falling by 1.1% to £150.40. Nonetheless, the cheapest region to insure a property remains the West and West Country, despite a premium rise of 0.3% to £146.58. The most expensive region to insure a property is London and the south-east, where premiums rose by 0.5% to £165.93.

#### Shoparound by age insured

The biggest fall in the Shoparound premium for a buildings and contents policy this quarter was for those aged 17–22, who saw a drop of 0.4% to £168.47. The biggest rise was at the opposite end of the age scale, where quoted premiums for those aged 70 and above jumped by 1.4%. Even so, this age group still pays the lowest premiums, typically £135.07.

Continued

assumes that there will be no major flooding or other widespread weather-related claims which would necessitate a release of insurance company reserves.



## Home insurance premiums – summary tables and charts 2016 Q4

Download the Index (Excel file) for home insurance:

750 risks for home insurance

AA British Insurance Premium Index - Home insurance trends since 1994 (chart)

### All channels combined

Home insurance Shoparound premium movements (chart) Home insurance Shoparound premium movements (table) Home insurance Shoparound premium movements – region (tables) Home insurance Shoparound premium movements – age (tables) Home insurance Shoparound premium movements – property type (tables) Home insurance Shoparound premium movements – year built (tables) Buildings insurance Shoparound premium trend (chart) Contents insurance Shoparound premium trend (chart) Buildings and contents insurance Shoparound premium trend (chart)



# AA British Insurance Premium Index - Car Insurance Shoparound Average Trends



## AA British Insurance Premium Index - Home Insurance Market Average Trends



#### AA British Insurance Premium Index - Motor Shoparound Premium All Channels

A base rate of 100 was set at July 1994. The British Insurance Premium Index gives a quarterly update on the movements of home insurance on 750 risks each for buildings and contents, and on 2,800 car insurance risks -2,500 comprehensive and 300 TPFT. July 1994 and subsequent premiums are assumed average premiums rebased in line with BIPI production methods over time.

The Index shows average car insurance premiums based on open market rates from 80 of the UK's leading insurers and home premiums across 58 insurers. Composites, direct writers and online providers are included.

The quarterly movement compares the market average premium this quarter with the previous quarter.

The shoparound premium is the average of the five lowest premiums quoted by the insurers in the market survey. This more closely reflects the price paid, but does not take account of discretionary discounts offered.

All premiums shown include Insurance Premium Tax at the prevailing rate. Premiums shown for July 1994 alone are free of IPT

While it is not possible to include risks from every town in the UK, those selected are typical risks, reflecting a cross section of the insurance market. Movements by specific towns are checked separately using a basket of 250,000 risks.

All channels<sup>\*</sup>

	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change	2015 Q4	Change
Comprehensive	£598.37	£633.06	+ 5.8%	£566.71	+ 11.7%
Third Party, Fire & Theft	£863.51	£940.56	+ 8.9%	£787.64	+ 19.4%

\* Based on GFK channel preference and arrangement data - June 2016.

#### Summary by region - all channels

		Shoparound	
Region	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Anglia	£568.32	£604.29	+ 6.3%
Border & TyneTees	£598.52	£624.79	+ 4.4%
Central	£606.77	£649.80	+ 7.1%
Granada	£836.89	£887.35	+ 6.0%
London	£736.60	£800.09	+ 8.6%
STV	£434.73	£458.75	+ 5.5%
Meridian	£505.74	£527.88	+ 4.4%
UTV	£819.40	£794.87	- 3.0%
Wales	£539.57	£576.96	+ 6.9%
West & West Country	£492.18	£527.10	+ 7.1%
Yorkshire	£669.38	£714.83	+ 6.8%

#### Summary by age - all channels

		Shoparound	
Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17-22	£1,358.53	£1,435.87	+ 5.7%
23-29	£746.96	£805.37	+ 7.8%
30-39	£501.12	£537.49	+ 7.3%
40-49	£461.52	£489.31	+ 6.0%
50-59	£418.74	£452.54	+ 8.1%
60-69	£370.75	£380.26	+ 2.6%
70+	£442.97	£462.32	+ 4.4%

#### Summary by age and gender - all channels

Female		Shoparound	
Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17-22	£1,182.90	£1,249.32	+ 5.6%
23-29	£696.08	£733.83	+ 5.4%
30-39	£487.42	£513.17	+ 5.3%
40-49	£465.99	£492.88	+ 5.8%
50-59	£424.06	£449.37	+ 6.0%
60-69	£366.99	£375.09	+ 2.2%
70+	£415.31	£428.73	+ 3.2%

Male		Shoparound	
Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17-22	£1,527.62	£1,614.96	+ 5.7%
23-29	£802.42	£880.88	+ 9.8%
30-39	£514.58	£561.18	+ 9.1%
40-49	£457.58	£486.17	+ 6.2%
50-59	£412.67	£456.55	+ 10.6%
60-69	£373.93	£384.69	+ 2.9%
70+	£478.76	£505.79	+ 5.6%



### **AA BIPI - Motor Comprehensive Shoparound Premium**



### AA BIPI - Motor Third Party, Fire & Theft Shoparound Premium

#### AA British Insurance Premium Index - Home Shoparound Premium All Channels

	2016 Q3	2016 Q4
Buildings	£113.16	£114.43
Contents	£64.36	£60.69
Combined	£156.76	£157.27



A base rate of 100 was set at July 1994. The British Insurance Premium Index gives a quarterly update on the movements of home insurance on 750 risks each for buildings and contents, and on 2,800 car insurance risks -2,500 comprehensive and 300 TPFT. July 1994 and subsequent premiums are assumed average premiums rebased in line with BIPI production methods over time.

The Index shows average car insurance premiums based on open market rates from 80 of the UK's leading insurers and home premiums across 58 insurers. Composites, direct writers and online providers are included.

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The shoparound premium is the average of the five lowest premiums quoted by the insurers in the market survey. This more closely reflects the price paid, but does not take account of discretionary discounts offered.

All premiums shown include Insurance Premium Tax at the prevailing rate. Premiums shown for July 1994 alone are free of IPT

While it is not possible to include risks from every town in the UK, those selected are typical risks, reflecting a cross section of the insurance market. Movements by specific towns are checked separately using a basket of 250,000 risks.

All channels<sup>\*</sup>

	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change	2015 Q4	Change
Buildings	£113.16	£114.43	+ 1.1%	£106.36	+ 7.6%
Contents	£64.36	£60.69	- 5.7%	£58.67	+ 3.5%
Combined	£156.76	£157.27	+ 0.3%	£150.67	+ 4.4%

\*Based on GFK channel preference and arrangement data - June 2016.

Buildings summary by region - all channels

	Shoparound		
Region	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Border & TyneTees	£113.20	£113.57	+ 0.3%
Central & Granada	£110.32	£111.70	+ 1.2%
London & Meridian	£118.77	£120.04	+ 1.1%
STV	£111.70	£112.92	+ 1.1%
Wales	£117.84	£118.97	+ 1.0%
West & West Country	£106.58	£108.20	+ 1.5%
Yorkshire & Anglia	£110.11	£111.48	+ 1.2%

#### Contents summary by region - all channels

	Shoparound		
Region	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Border & TyneTees	£60.72	£57.40	- 5.5%
Central & Granada	£67.09	£63.02	- 6.1%
London & Meridian	£65.80	£62.09	- 5.6%
STV	£58.38	£55.33	- 5.2%
Wales	£61.65	£58.69	- 4.8%
West & West Country	£59.55	£56.51	- 5.1%
Yorkshire & Anglia	£65.57	£61.60	- 6.1%

#### Combined summary by region - all channels

		Shoparound	l
Region	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Border & TyneTees	£152.18	£152.79	+ 0.4%
Central & Granada	£155.40	£156.33	+ 0.6%
London & Meridian	£165.16	£165.93	+ 0.5%
STV	£152.08	£150.40	- 1.1%
Wales	£158.66	£159.22	+ 0.4%
West & West Country	£146.06	£146.58	+ 0.3%
Yorkshire & Anglia	£153.33	£153.91	+ 0.4%

Buildings summary by age - all channels

		Shoparound	
Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17-22	£114.50	£116.98	+ 2.2%
23-29	£122.60	£124.03	+ 1.2%
30-39	£117.14	£118.38	+ 1.1%
40-49	£115.83	£117.19	+ 1.2%
50-59	£110.51	£111.60	+ 1.0%
60-69	£98.73	£99.97	+ 1.3%
70+	£100.29	£101.21	+ 0.9%

#### Contents summary by age - all channels

	Shoparound		
Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17-22	£77.48	£71.71	- 7.4%
23-29	£74.34	£69.76	- 6.2%
30-39	£69.23	£64.95	- 6.2%
40-49	£64.94	£61.36	- 5.5%
50-59	£60.80	£57.39	- 5.6%
60-69	£55.11	£52.06	- 5.5%
70+	£51.17	£49.04	- 4.2%

#### Combined summary by age - all channels

		Shoparound	Í
Age	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
17-22	£169.12	£168.47	- 0.4%
23-29	£175.73	£176.39	+ 0.4%
30-39	£163.90	£163.87	- 0.0%
40-49	£159.48	£160.32	+ 0.5%
50-59	£152.13	£152.37	+ 0.2%
60-69	£136.36	£136.38	+ 0.0%
70+	£133.25	£135.07	+ 1.4%

#### Buildings summary by property - all channels

		Shoparound	
Property type	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Bungalow	£109.37	£110.93	+ 1.4%
Detached	£130.74	£132.19	+ 1.1%
End Terraced	£102.73	£103.25	+ 0.5%
Flat	£117.44	£116.89	- 0.5%
Semi Detached	£100.99	£102.12	+ 1.1%
Mid-Terraced	£109.97	£111.50	+ 1.4%

#### Contents summary by property - all channels

		Shoparound	
Property type	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Bungalow	£60.03	£56.27	- 6.3%
Detached	£66.42	£62.52	- 5.9%
End Terraced	£65.63	£62.00	- 5.5%
Flat	£68.12	£63.66	- 6.5%
Semi Detached	£62.04	£58.71	- 5.4%
Mid-Terraced	£66.44	£62.74	- 5.6%

#### Combined summary by property - all channels

		Shoparound	l
Property type	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
Bungalow	£147.50	£148.07	+ 0.4%
Detached	£175.68	£176.68	+ 0.6%
End Terraced	£147.60	£147.10	- 0.3%
Flat	£170.65	£171.55	+ 0.5%
Semi Detached	£142.37	£142.36	- 0.0%
Mid-Terraced	£155.60	£156.27	+ 0.4%

#### Buildings summary by year built - all channels

	Shoparound		
Year built	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
<1920	£136.01	£137.82	+ 1.3%
1920-1945	£114.17	£115.47	+ 1.1%
1946-1979	£103.45	£104.46	+ 1.0%
1980-1999	£97.48	£98.68	+ 1.2%
2000+	£90.49	£88.53	- 2.2%

#### Contents summary by year built - all channels

	Shoparound		
Year built	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
<1920	£70.31	£66.27	- 5.8%
1920-1945	£67.40	£63.24	- 6.2%
1946-1979	£60.40	£57.10	- 5.5%
1980-1999	£60.23	£57.05	- 5.3%
2000+	£64.48	£57.61	- 10.7%

#### Combined summary by year built - all channels

	Shoparound		
Year built	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Change
<1920	£186.67	£186.91	+ 0.1%
1920-1945	£159.57	£160.19	+ 0.4%
1946-1979	£143.13	£144.00	+ 0.6%
1980-1999	£136.45	£136.28	- 0.1%
2000+	£136.10	£136.37	+ 0.2%



### **AA BIPI - Home Buildings Shoparound Premium**



### **AA BIPI - Home Contents Shoparound Premium**



### **AA BIPI - Home Combined Shoparound Premium**