



News Release

12 February 2010

## REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index

The REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index decreased by 1.6 percent to 3201.8 in the January 2010 month. In the three months to January, housing prices increased by 0.6 percent. Compared to 12 months earlier, the REINZ Housing Price Index increased by 6.9 percent. Housing prices are 5.3 percent below their November 2007 peak.

In Christchurch, housing prices in January were 12.9 percent above those in January 2009 with housing prices in Auckland (up 8.5 percent), Wellington (up by 4.8 percent), other North Island suburbs (up 5.1 percent) and Other South Island suburbs (up by 4.9 percent) also up from the year earlier levels.

The REINZ Monthly Residential Section Price Index increased by 7.9 percent in the January month. Residential section prices are 11.4 percent lower than the same month last year.

### **Further details on the REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index**

The REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index is put together using a technique known as stratification; basically it is an average of sale prices for common groups.

The approach used to calculate the REINZ Housing Price Index is very similar to that outlined in the Reserve Bank of New Zealand discussion paper “Developing stratified housing price measures for New Zealand” (see [www.rbnz.govt.nz](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz)). However, as a further improvement the REINZ housing price index is now calculated using sales for all transactions reported by REINZ members (rather than the median price for each suburb) within the stratum. The resultant measure will provide an even more accurate reading of housing price trends.

How stratification works:

- Dwelling sales from approximately 1800 New Zealand suburbs are ranked according to their median sales price over the relevant comparison period (currently January 2005 - June 2009).
- The suburbs are allocated into ten different groups (or strata). Suburbs accounting for 10 percent of the lowest sales by price are grouped into stratum 1; suburbs with 10 percent of the most

expensive sales price are in stratum 10. The allocation of suburbs to each stratum is fixed over the comparison period.

- Using sales data for the individual transactions within the stratum, a median sales price is derived.
- The median sales price for each stratum is averaged to produce a housing price measure from which the housing price index is derived.

The REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index is based on a value of 1000 in January 1992, the first month for which electronic information is available. Changes in the index represent movements in housing prices, where the mix of sales between the groups is held constant and are more likely to reflect genuine property price movements.

Monthly movements in the REINZ Housing Price Index can be volatile, particularly for periods or geographical areas where there are fewer transactions. To aid comparison it may be advisable to convert the monthly data to 3-monthly averages.

The REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index is a new development and further improvements to the methodology and other refinements will be introduced periodically.

Historical data and additional charts are available on the REINZ Website [www.reinz.co.nz](http://www.reinz.co.nz).

Ends

Editors: Following are the dates for the release of the REINZ Residential Market Report and REINZ Monthly Housing Price Index for 2010: 18 January, 12 February, 12 March, 16 April, 14 May, 15 June, 14 July, 13 August, 14 September, 14 October, 12 November and 14 December.

For further information, please contact:

*REINZ National President:*

*Peter McDonald*

*Real Estate Institute of New Zealand*

*0274 434 506*