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# THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Streets ahead

We all know London leads the way when it comes to house-price recovery — and exclusive data from the property analyst Hometrack shows that 89% of the capital's postcodes have seen price increases over the past six months, while in the southeast, 64% have seen rises. By contrast, the north, northwest and Yorkshire & Humber have seen more areas fall than rise in the past half year. "That said, pricing is holding up much better across the country compared to a year ago," says Richard Donnell, director at Hometrack.

### A screw loose

How much does it cost for someone else to change a lightbulb? £932,400 a month, according to the website [RatedPeople.com](http://RatedPeople.com), which says its tradesmen attend nonemergency callouts costing £140m a year. Eight per cent of these were for bulbs; other odd jobs included "locating noises" and freeing people trapped in cupboards.

### Charity boxes

Moving house? Get your boxes from the Depaul Box Company, which uses the proceeds to help young homeless people. Boxes cost £30 for 10, £40 for 20 and £60 for 30 — just two packs can take someone off the street for a night. [depaulbox.co.uk](http://depaulbox.co.uk)