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Population



Life expectancy at birth remains highest in the South of England

Life expectancy at birth in the UK for 2006-08 was highest in the South of England, according to new figures released today by the Office for National Statistics. Life expectancy was 79.2 years for males in the South East and 83.1 years for females in the South West. In contrast, Scotland had the lowest life expectancy at birth in the UK at 75.0 years for males and 79.9 years for females. (Table 1)

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth, 1991-93 and 2006-08

Region	Years			
	Males		Females	
	1991-93	2006-08	1991-93	2006-08
United Kingdom	73.4	77.4	78.8	81.6
England	73.6	77.7	79.0	81.9
North East	72.0	76.4	77.4	80.6
North West	72.4	76.3	77.9	80.6
Yorkshire and The Humber	73.1	77.1	78.6	81.3
East Midlands	73.7	77.8	79.0	81.8
West Midlands	73.2	77.2	78.7	81.6
East of England	75.0	78.9	80.1	82.7
London	73.3	78.2	79.3	82.7
South East	74.9	79.2	80.1	83.0
South West	74.9	79.0	80.3	83.1
Wales	73.2	76.9	78.8	81.2
Scotland	71.5	75.0	77.1	79.9
Northern Ireland	72.7	76.3	78.6	81.2

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Over the period 1991-93 to 2006-08 life expectancy at birth has improved in all countries and regions of the UK. The biggest improvements were in London, which had increases of 4.9 years for males and 3.4 years for females. The smallest increases were in Scotland for males (3.5 years) and in Wales for females (2.4 years).

In the same period the gap between male and female life expectancy at birth narrowed. For the UK it decreased by 1.2 years from 5.4 years in 1991-93 to 4.2 years in 2006-08. In 2006-08 the widest gaps between males and females were in Northern Ireland and Scotland (4.9 years).

Life expectancy at birth for the UK in 2006-08 was 77.4 years for males and 81.6 years for females. These figures are 4.0 years and 2.8 years respectively higher than the results for 1991-93.

In 2006-08, life expectancy at age 65 for the UK was 17.4 years for males and 20.0 years for females. Since 1991-93 these figures have increased by 3.2 years and 2.1 years respectively. (Table 2)

Among the constituent countries of the UK, life expectancy at birth and at age 65 in 2006-08 was longest in England at 77.7 years and 17.5 years respectively for males and 81.9 years and 20.2 years respectively for females. Life expectancy at age 65 was shortest in Scotland at 16.2 years for males and 18.8 years for females.

Table 2: Period life expectancy at age 65, 1991-93 and 2006-08

Country	Years			
	Males		Females	
	1991-93	2006-08	1991-93	2006-08
United Kingdom	14.2	17.4	17.9	20.0
England	14.3	17.5	18.0	20.2
Wales	14.1	17.1	17.8	19.8
Scotland	13.3	16.2	16.8	18.8
Northern Ireland	14.0	16.8	17.9	19.8

Figures for local areas in the UK for 2006-08 show that life expectancy at birth was highest in Kensington and Chelsea for males (84.3 years) and females (88.9 years). The area with the lowest figures was Glasgow City; 70.7 years for men and 77.2 years for women. (Tables 3 and 4)

At age 65, life expectancy for both males and females was highest in Kensington and Chelsea (23.1 years and 26.3 years respectively) and lowest in Glasgow City (13.8 years and 17.4 years respectively). (Tables 5 and 6).

National Interim Life Tables for the UK and constituent countries are available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14459

The results for subnational life expectancy at birth and at age 65 are available on the Office for National Statistics website at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. National Interim Life Tables are produced annually for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries. The link above includes tables from 1980-82 to 2006-08.
2. All figures presented here are period life expectancies. Period expectation of life at a given age for an area in 2006-08 is an estimate of the average number of years a person would live if he or she experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout the rest of his or her life. It is not therefore the number of years a person in the area could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because people may live in other areas for at least part of their lives.
3. Cohort life expectancies, which allow for actual or projected changes in mortality in future years, are available for the UK and constituent countries. The 2008-based cohort and period life expectancy figures are also released today and can be found at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15098>
4. Subnational life expectancy results for 2006-08 for government office regions and counties in England, local and unitary authorities in England and Wales, and local government district areas and health and social service boards in Northern Ireland are calculated by ONS and are released for the first time today. Figures for council areas and health boards in Scotland for 2006-08 are calculated by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and were published in a report released on 24 September 2009, available on the GROS website at:
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-admin-areas-scotland-06-08/index.html>

All subnational results are available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841>

5. For comparability, the subnational life expectancy data also include results for the UK and constituent countries, but these differ slightly from the equivalent results in the National Interim Life Tables, which have been used in this release. This is because the subnational figures are calculated using abridged (age bands) life tables, whereas the Interim Life Tables use complete (single year of age) data. Also, deaths of non-residents of England and Wales are all included in the England mortality data in the Interim Life

Table method. These deaths are excluded at the constituent country level in the subnational figures.

6. The term 'local area' refers to local and unitary authorities in England and Wales, council areas in Scotland and local government district areas in Northern Ireland. Two local areas, City of London and Isles of Scilly, are excluded from the results because of small numbers of deaths and populations.
7. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.
8. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2009.

Table 3: Local areas with the highest and lowest male life expectancy at birth, 2006-08

United Kingdom			
Rank	Local area	Country/ English Government Office Region	Life expectancy at birth (years)
Highest life expectancy at birth			
1	Kensington and Chelsea	London	84.3
2	Westminster	London	82.9
3	Fareham	South East	81.4
4	Hart	South East	81.3
5	Elmbridge	South East	81.3
6	South Bucks	South East	81.2
7	East Dorset	South West	81.2
8	Epsom and Ewell	South East	81.2
9	Wokingham	South East	81.1
10	South Cambridgeshire	East of England	81.1
Lowest life expectancy at birth			
1	Glasgow City	Scotland	70.7
2	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	72.1
3	Inverclyde	Scotland	72.8
4	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	73.1
5	Belfast	Northern Ireland	73.4
6	Eilean Siar	Scotland	73.5
7	Blackpool	North West	73.6
8	Renfrewshire	Scotland	73.6
9	Dundee City	Scotland	73.7
10	Manchester	North West	73.8

Table 4: Local areas with the highest and lowest female life expectancy at birth, 2006-08

United Kingdom			
Rank	Local area	Country/ English Government Office Region	Life expectancy at birth (years)
Highest life expectancy at birth			
1	Kensington and Chelsea	London	88.9
2	Westminster	London	85.8
3	Hart	South East	85.4
4	East Dorset	South West	85.1
5	Chiltern	South East	85.0
6	Christchurch	South West	84.8
7	Vale of White Horse	South East	84.6
8	Guildford	South East	84.6
9	Rochford	East of England	84.6
10	New Forest	South East	84.5
Lowest life expectancy at birth			
1	Glasgow City	Scotland	77.2
2	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	78.1
3	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	78.4
4	East Ayrshire	Scotland	78.5
5	Inverclyde	Scotland	78.6
6	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	78.8
7	Renfrewshire	Scotland	78.8
8	Blackpool	North West	78.8
9	Liverpool	North West	78.8
10	Halton	North West	78.8

Table 5: Local areas with the highest and lowest male life expectancy at age 65, 2006-08

United Kingdom			
Rank	Local area	Country/ English Government Office Region	Life expectancy at age 65 (years)
Highest life expectancy at age 65			
1	Kensington and Chelsea	London	23.1
2	Westminster	London	22.3
3	Crawley	South East	20.6
4	Rutland	East Midlands	19.8
5	Ceredigion	Wales	19.8
6	Lewes	South East	19.8
7	Tandridge	South East	19.7
8	East Dorset	South West	19.7
9	Christchurch	South West	19.7
10	South Cambridgeshire	East of England	19.6
Lowest life expectancy at age 65			
1	Glasgow City	Scotland	13.8
2	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	15.1
3	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	15.2
4	Inverclyde	Scotland	15.4
5	Renfrewshire	Scotland	15.5
6	Liverpool	North West	15.5
7	Belfast	Northern Ireland	15.6
8	Halton	North West	15.7
9	Hartlepool	North East	15.7
10	Clackmannanshire	Scotland	15.7

Table 6: Local areas with the highest and lowest female life expectancy at age 65, 2006-08

United Kingdom			
Rank	Local area	Country/ English Government Office Region	Life expectancy at age 65 (years)
Highest life expectancy at age 65			
1	Kensington and Chelsea	London	26.3
2	Westminster	London	23.5
3	East Dorset	South West	23.0
4	Hart	South East	22.8
5	West Somerset	South West	22.7
6	Lewes	South East	22.6
7	Brent	London	22.6
8	Hammersmith and Fulham	London	22.5
9	Christchurch	South West	22.4
10	North Dorset	South West	22.3
Lowest life expectancy at age 65			
1	Glasgow City	Scotland	17.4
2	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	17.8
3	Halton	North West	17.8
4	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	17.8
5	Renfrewshire	Scotland	17.9
6	Falkirk	Scotland	18.0
7	West Lothian	Scotland	18.1
8	Liverpool	North West	18.1
9	Burnley	North West	18.1
10	East Ayrshire	Scotland	18.2