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Coverage
United Kingdom

Theme
Population and Migration

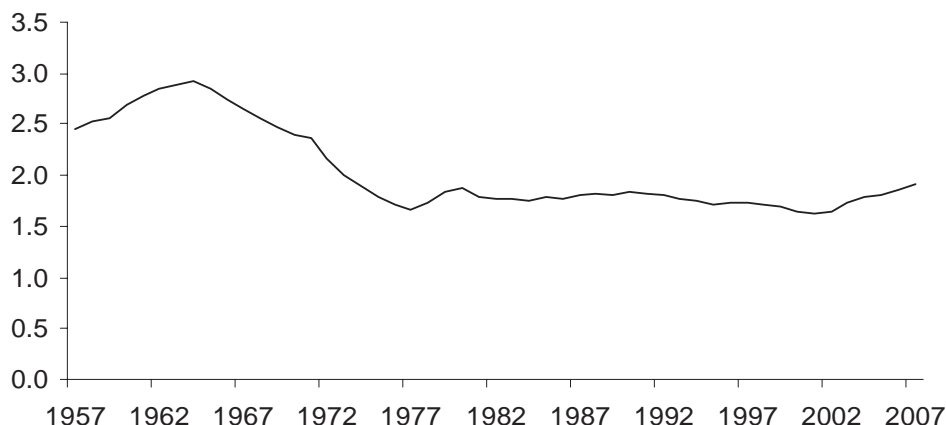


Fertility rate is highest for 34 years

Provisional fertility rates for 2007 give an average number of 1.91 children per woman in England and Wales, the highest since 1973 when there was an average of 2.00 children per woman, according to data released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The 2007 total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.91 has increased from 1.86 children per woman in 2006, the sixth consecutive annual increase from a low point of 1.63 in 2001. However, the TFR in 2007 is notably lower than it was in the 1960s when it reached a peak of 2.93 in 1964.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in England and Wales, 1957 - 2007



In 2007, there were 3,345 infant deaths registered giving a rate of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is the lowest rate ever recorded in England and Wales.

Other key statistics on births and deaths in 2007:

Births in England and Wales, 2007

There were 690,013 live births in England and Wales in 2007 compared with 669,601 in 2006, an increase of 3.0 per cent. The number of live births has been increasing since 2001 and has now reached the highest level since 1991 (699,217).

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Compared with 2006, there have been increases in fertility rates for all age groups except for women under 20. The highest percentage increase was observed for women aged 40 and over with an increase of 6.0 per cent compared with the previous year.

Fertility rates for women aged 40 and over have more than doubled in 15 years since 1992 and in 2007 reached 12.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 40 and over. Over the last decade, the number of live births to mothers aged 40 and over has also nearly doubled from 12,914 in 1997 to 25,350 in 2007.

The proportion of live births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom continued to rise. In 2007, 23 per cent (160,358) of live births were to mothers born outside the United Kingdom compared with 22 per cent (146,956) in 2006.

For every 1,000 live females born in 2007 there were 1,057 live males born. This is an increase compared with 2006 when for every 1,000 live females born there were 1,047 live males born. This is the highest sex ratio at birth since 1979 when there were 1060 live males born for every 1,000 live females born.

Live births in England and Wales, 2007: area of residence

The West Midlands had the highest TFR among the Government Office Regions of England in 2007 with 2.04 children per woman. The North East had the lowest TFR (1.82).

Among the local authorities in England, Newham had the highest TFR with 2.71 children per woman, while Westminster had the lowest TFR (1.24).

In Wales, the highest TFR in 2007 was 2.15 which was observed in both the Isle of Anglesey and Powys. The lowest TFR was observed in Ceredigion (1.68).

Death registrations in England and Wales, 2007

The 2007 age-standardised all-age mortality rates, for both males and females, are the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales.

Since 1997, these rates have decreased by 24 per cent for males and 18 per cent for females to (provisional) rates in 2007 of 6,957 and 4,926 deaths per million population for males and females respectively.

The number of deaths registered increased for the first time since 2003. In 2007, there were 504,052 deaths registered in England and Wales representing an increase of 0.3 per cent compared with 2006 (see background note 6).

Circulatory diseases, such as heart disease, are still the most common major cause of death contributing to over one third (34 per cent) of all deaths registered in 2007. However, the overall downward trend in circulatory disease death rates has continued. Between 1997 and 2007, they fell by 40 per cent to 2,303 per million population for males and by 38 per cent to 1,460 per million for females.

Cancer accounted for just over a quarter (28 per cent) of all deaths registered in 2007, with a rate of 2,133 per million population for males and 1,545 for females. Since 1997 death rates for cancer have fallen, by 16 per cent for males and 12 per cent for females.

Death registrations in England and Wales, 2007: area of residence

Among the English regions the North East and North West Government Office Regions jointly had the highest level of mortality in 2007 as measured by standardised mortality ratios (SMRs). In 2007 the SMRs in the North East and the North West for all persons were 12 per cent above the national level, while the lowest were in the South West and the South East (8 per cent below the national level).

Among local authorities in England, mortality levels were highest in Blackburn and Darwen (31 per cent above the national level) and lowest in Kensington and Chelsea (38 per cent below the national level). Kensington and Chelsea has remained the local authority with the lowest SMR since 2003.

In Wales, the highest SMR was observed in Blaenau Gwent (27 per cent above the national level) and the lowest observed in Ceredigion (17 per cent below the national level).

More detailed data for births can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408>

More detailed data for deaths can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14409>

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Further commentary on 2007 births will be published on 25 September 2008 as a report in *Population Trends* 133. This will give numbers of live births, total fertility rates and general fertility rates by mother's usual area of residence.
2. Further information on parents' country of birth will be published on 21 August 2008.
3. The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children that a group of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. The TFR provides an up-to-date measure of the current intensity of child-bearing. Changes in timing of births means that it can often be a poor indicator of the actual average number of children women will eventually have. The TFR for 2007 is provisional as it was calculated using the 2006-based population projections for 2007. It will be revised in autumn 2008 when the 2007 mid-year population estimates are available.
4. Data collected on the number of births for 1981 were affected by a registrars strike. Figures for this year are based on a 10 per cent sample of registrations.
5. All deaths figures in this release are based on deaths registered in 2007. It is planned that statistics on deaths that occurred in 2007 will be published before the end of 2008.
6. The small increase of 1,453 (0.3 per cent) in the total number of deaths registered in 2007 may have been due to an extra day available in which deaths could be registered compared with the previous year.

7. Further statistics on 2007 death registrations will be published on 28 August 2008 in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 39. This publication will give the numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales in 2007 by age and sex, and for selected causes of death. Deaths by area of usual residence will appear in a report in *Population Trends* 133 to be published on 25 September 2008.
8. The age-standardised all-age death rates in this release are directly age-standardised to the European Standard Population, which allows comparisons between populations with different age structures, including between males and females and over time. Age-standardised rates for 2007 in this release are provisional as they were calculated using the 2006-based population projections for 2007. They will be revised later in 2008 when 2007 mid-year population estimates are available.
9. Standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) compare mortality in one population with mortality in a 'standard' population, while allowing for differences in age structure. The ratio is of 'observed' to 'expected' deaths. 'Expected' deaths are the number that would have occurred if the sex and age-specific mortality rates of the standard year had applied to the population of interest.
10. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Press Office.
11. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2008.