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Coverage

United Kingdom

Themes

Health and Care

Population and Migration



Life expectancy at birth is longest in the South of England

Children born in the South East and South West in 2005–07 had the longest life expectancy at birth in the UK, according to new figures published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Life expectancy at birth in 2005–07 was 78.9 years for males in the South East and 82.9 years for females in the South West. This compares with life expectancy at birth in Scotland – the shortest in the UK – of 74.8 years for males and 79.7 years for females. (Table 1)

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth, 1991–93 and 2005–07

Region	Years			
	Males		Females	
	1991-93	2005-07	1991-93	2005-07
United Kingdom	73.4	77.2	78.8	81.5
England	73.6	77.5	79.0	81.7
North East	72.0	76.3	77.4	80.4
North West	72.4	76.0	77.9	80.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	73.1	76.9	78.6	81.1
East Midlands	73.7	77.6	79.0	81.6
West Midlands	73.2	76.9	78.7	81.4
East of England	75.0	78.7	80.1	82.6
London	73.3	77.9	79.3	82.4
South East	74.9	78.9	80.1	82.7
South West	74.9	78.7	80.3	82.9
Wales	73.2	76.7	78.8	81.1
Scotland	71.5	74.8	77.1	79.7
Northern Ireland	72.7	76.2	78.6	81.2

In the period between 1991–93 and 2005–07, life expectancy at birth has improved in all countries and regions of the UK. The biggest improvements in life expectancy at birth during this period were in London, which saw an increase of 4.6 years for males and 3.1 years for females. The second largest increases were in the North East, 4.3 years for males and 3.0 years for females.

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For males, the smallest overall increase in life expectancy at birth was in Scotland (3.3 years), while for females the smallest increase was in Wales (2.3 years).

In all countries and regions the gender gap in life expectancy at birth has narrowed. In the UK as a whole the gap between female life expectancy at birth and male life expectancy at birth reduced from 5.4 years to 4.3 years between 1991–93 and 2005–07. The gap is currently greatest in Northern Ireland (5.0 years) and smallest in the South East (3.8 years).

In the UK as a whole in 2005–07 men at 65 could expect to live another 17.2 years, and women 19.9 years (Table 2). Among the countries of the UK, life expectancy at 65 was longest in England, at 17.3 years for men and 20.0 years for women, but shortest in Scotland, at 16.0 years for men and 18.7 years for women.

Over the period from 1991–93 to 2005–07 life expectancy at age 65 increased by 3.0 years for men and 2.0 years for women in the UK as a whole. The increase was slightly greater in England than in the other countries of the UK.

Table 2
Period life expectancy at age 65, 1991–93 and 2005–07

	Years			
	Males		Females	
	1991-93	2005-07	1991-93	2005-07
United Kingdom	14.2	17.2	17.9	19.9
England	14.3	17.3	18.0	20.0
Wales	14.1	16.9	17.8	19.6
Scotland	13.3	16.0	16.8	18.7
Northern Ireland	14.0	16.8	17.9	19.7

Figures for 2005–07 for local authorities in the UK show:

- Glasgow City had the shortest life expectancy at birth for both sexes while Kensington and Chelsea had the longest (Table 3 and Table 4)
- Glasgow City had a life expectancy at 65 of 13.8 years for men and 17.4 years for women. The corresponding figures for Kensington and Chelsea were 22.7 years for men and 25.2 years for women (Table 5 and Table 6)

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

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

The data for subnational life expectancy for the UK are available 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 life tables webpage (link above) includes annual tables as far back as 1980–82.
2. All figures presented here are period life expectancies. Period expectation of life at a given age for an area in 2005–07 is the average number of years a person would live if he or she experienced that area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. It is therefore not the number of years someone of that age 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 and can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15098>

A guide to period and cohort life expectancy can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=1898>

4. Subnational results for 2005–07 for England, Wales and Northern Ireland are calculated by ONS and are released for the first time today. Figures for local areas in Scotland for 2005–07 are calculated by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and were published in a report released on 25 September 2008, available on the GROS website: www.gros-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/
5. The subnational life expectancy data also include results for the UK and constituent countries, but these differ slightly from the equivalent results in the 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. Two local authorities, City of London and Isles of Scilly, are excluded from the results because of small numbers of deaths and populations in these areas.
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 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.

Table 3**Local areas with the highest and lowest male period life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom, 2005-2007**

Rank	Local area	Country/English Government Office Region	Life expectancy at birth (years)
Highest Life expectancy at birth			
1	Kensington and Chelsea	London	83.7
2	Westminster	London	81.5
3	East Dorset	South West	81.3
4	Elmbridge	South East	81.1
5	Hart	South East	81.0
6	Fareham	South East	80.9
7	Wokingham	South East	80.8
8	Sevenoaks	South East	80.7
9	Three Rivers	East of England	80.6
10	Cotswold	South West	80.6
Lowest Life expectancy at birth			
432	Glasgow City	Scotland	70.8
431	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	71.9
430	Inverclyde	Scotland	72.5
429	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	72.7
428	Eilean Siar	Scotland	72.9
427	Blackpool	North West	73.2
426	Manchester	North West	73.4
425	Belfast	Northern Ireland	73.6
424	Renfrewshire	Scotland	73.7
423	North Ayrshire	Scotland	73.7

Table 4**Local areas with the highest and lowest female period life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom, 2005-2007**

Rank	Local area	Country/English Government Office Region	Life expectancy at birth (years)
Highest Life expectancy at birth			
1	Kensington and Chelsea	London	87.8
2	East Dorset	South West	85.0
3	Rutland	East Midlands	84.7
4	Hart	South East	84.7
5	Westminster	London	84.6
6	Christchurch	South West	84.5
7	Chiltern	South East	84.4
8	Rochford	East of England	84.4
9	South Cambridgeshire	East of England	84.4
10	Epsom and Ewell	South East	84.4
Lowest Life expectancy at birth			
432	Glasgow City	Scotland	77.1
431	East Ayrshire	Scotland	77.9
430	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	77.9
429	Hartlepool	North East	78.1
428	Inverclyde	Scotland	78.2
427	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	78.4
426	Halton	North West	78.6
425	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	78.7
424	Liverpool	North West	78.7
423	Renfrewshire	Scotland	78.7

Table 5**Local areas with the highest and lowest male period life expectancy at age 65 in the United Kingdom, 2005-2007**

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	22.7
2	Westminster	London	21.2
3	Crawley	South East	20.3
4	South Shropshire	West Midlands	19.7
5	Christchurch	South West	19.7
6	Lewes	South East	19.5
7	East Dorset	South West	19.4
8	Guildford	South East	19.4
9	Rutland	East Midlands	19.4
10	Tandridge	South East	19.3
Lowest Life expectancy at age 65			
432	Glasgow City	Scotland	13.8
431	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	14.9
430	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	15.0
429	Inverclyde	Scotland	15.1
428	Renfrewshire	Scotland	15.2
427	North Ayrshire	Scotland	15.4
426	Manchester	North West	15.5
425	East Ayrshire	Scotland	15.5
424	Liverpool	North West	15.5
423	Hartlepool	North East	15.5

Table 6**Local areas with the highest and lowest female period life expectancy at age 65 in the United Kingdom, 2005-2007**

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	25.2
2	East Dorset	South West	22.7
3	Rutland	East Midlands	22.7
4	Westminster	London	22.6
5	Hammersmith and Fulham	London	22.3
6	Brent	London	22.3
7	Lewes	South East	22.2
8	Christchurch	South West	22.2
9	Purbeck	South West	22.2
10	West Somerset	South West	22.1
Lowest Life expectancy at age 65			
432	Glasgow City	Scotland	17.4
431	West Dunbartonshire	Scotland	17.6
430	West Lothian	Scotland	17.7
429	East Ayrshire	Scotland	17.8
428	Renfrewshire	Scotland	17.8
427	North Lanarkshire	Scotland	17.8
426	Hartlepool	North East	18.0
425	Halton	North West	18.0
424	Liverpool	North West	18.1
423	Burnley	North West	18.1

Table 7: Period life expectancy at birth and at selected ages

	Years																
	Males at age								Females at age								
	0	5	20	30	50	65	70	80	0	5	20	30	50	65	70	80	
England																	
1985-87	72.1	68.0	53.4	43.8	25.1	13.5	10.6	6.1	77.9	73.6	58.8	49.0	30.0	17.5	13.9	7.9	
1990-92	73.4	69.1	54.4	44.9	26.2	14.3	11.2	6.4	78.9	74.5	59.7	49.9	30.8	18.0	14.4	8.3	
1995-97	74.5	70.1	55.4	45.8	27.1	14.9	11.7	6.6	79.6	75.1	60.3	50.4	31.3	18.4	14.6	8.4	
2000-02	75.9	71.4	56.7	47.1	28.4	16.0	12.6	7.1	80.6	76.0	61.2	51.4	32.2	19.2	15.2	8.7	
2005-07	77.5	73.0	58.2	48.6	29.8	17.3	13.7	7.7	81.7	77.1	62.3	52.4	33.3	20.0	16.0	9.2	
Wales																	
1985-87	71.5	67.5	52.8	43.2	24.6	13.3	10.3	6.0	77.5	73.3	58.5	48.6	29.7	17.3	13.7	7.8	
1990-92	73.1	68.8	54.1	44.6	25.8	14.0	11.0	6.4	78.8	74.3	59.5	49.7	30.6	17.9	14.3	8.3	
1995-97	73.8	69.4	54.7	45.3	26.6	14.5	11.3	6.4	79.1	74.6	59.7	49.9	30.9	18.0	14.4	8.3	
2000-02	75.3	70.8	56.0	46.6	28.0	15.7	12.3	7.0	80.0	75.4	60.6	50.8	31.7	18.7	14.9	8.5	
2005-07	76.7	72.1	57.4	47.8	29.3	16.9	13.4	7.6	81.1	76.5	61.6	51.8	32.7	19.6	15.7	9.0	
Scotland																	
1985-87	70.2	66.0	51.4	41.9	23.5	12.6	9.9	5.7	76.2	71.9	57.1	47.3	28.4	16.4	13.0	7.5	
1990-92	71.4	67.1	52.5	43.0	24.6	13.3	10.4	6.0	77.1	72.7	57.9	48.1	29.2	16.9	13.5	7.9	
1995-97	72.2	67.8	53.1	43.7	25.3	13.9	10.9	6.3	77.9	73.3	58.5	48.8	29.8	17.3	13.8	8.0	
2000-02	73.3	68.8	54.2	44.8	26.6	14.9	11.7	6.8	78.8	74.2	59.4	49.6	30.7	18.0	14.3	8.2	
2005-07	74.8	70.3	55.5	46.1	27.9	16.0	12.6	7.2	79.7	75.1	60.3	50.5	31.5	18.7	15.0	8.6	
Northern Ireland																	
1985-87	70.9	66.8	52.2	42.7	24.2	13.2	10.4	6.2	77.1	72.9	58.1	48.3	29.3	16.9	13.4	7.8	
1990-92	72.5	68.2	53.6	44.1	25.5	13.9	11.0	6.4	78.4	74.0	59.2	49.4	30.3	17.8	14.2	8.3	
1995-97	73.8	69.4	54.7	45.3	26.6	14.6	11.4	6.6	79.2	74.7	59.9	50.0	30.9	18.1	14.4	8.4	
2000-02	75.2	70.7	56.1	46.6	27.9	15.7	12.2	6.9	80.1	75.6	60.7	50.9	31.8	18.7	14.9	8.4	
2005-07	76.2	71.7	57.1	47.6	29.1	16.8	13.1	7.3	81.2	76.6	61.8	52.0	32.8	19.7	15.7	8.9	
England and Wales																	
1985-87	72.1	68.0	53.4	43.8	25.0	13.5	10.5	6.1	77.9	73.6	58.8	49.0	30.0	17.5	13.9	7.9	
1990-92	73.4	69.1	54.4	44.8	26.1	14.2	11.2	6.4	78.9	74.5	59.7	49.8	30.8	18.0	14.4	8.3	
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2000-02	75.9	71.4	56.7	47.1	28.4	16.0	12.5	7.1	80.5	76.0	61.2	51.3	32.2	19.1	15.2	8.7	
2005-07	77.4	72.9	58.2	48.5	29.8	17.3	13.7	7.7	81.7	77.1	62.2	52.4	33.2	20.0	16.0	9.2	
Great Britain																	
1985-87	71.9	67.8	53.2	43.6	24.9	13.4	10.5	6.0	77.7	73.4	58.7	48.8	29.8	17.4	13.8	7.8	
1990-92	73.2	68.9	54.2	44.7	26.0	14.2	11.1	6.3	78.7	74.3	59.5	49.7	30.6	17.9	14.3	8.2	
1995-97	74.3	69.8	55.1	45.6	26.9	14.8	11.6	6.6	79.4	74.9	60.1	50.3	31.2	18.3	14.5	8.3	
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2005-07	77.2	72.7	57.9	48.3	29.6	17.2	13.6	7.7	81.5	76.9	62.0	52.2	33.1	19.9	15.9	9.1	
United Kingdom																	
1985-87	71.9	67.8	53.1	43.6	24.9	13.4	10.5	6.0	77.7	73.4	58.6	48.8	29.8	17.4	13.8	7.8	
1990-92	73.2	68.9	54.2	44.7	26.0	14.1	11.1	6.4	78.7	74.3	59.5	49.7	30.6	17.9	14.3	8.2	
1995-97	74.2	69.8	55.1	45.6	26.9	14.8	11.6	6.6	79.4	74.9	60.1	50.2	31.2	18.2	14.5	8.3	
2000-02	75.6	71.2	56.4	46.9	28.2	15.9	12.5	7.1	80.4	75.8	61.0	51.2	32.1	19.0	15.1	8.7	
2005-07	77.2	72.7	57.9	48.3	29.6	17.2	13.6	7.7	81.5	76.9	62.0	52.2	33.1	19.9	15.9	9.1	

Source: Office for National Statistics: Interim life tables 1980–82 to 2005–07