

21 November 2006

Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
Health and Care

Life expectancy at age 65 continues to rise

Life expectancy at age 65 in the UK is the highest on record for both men and women, according to figures issued today by the Office for National Statistics.

Men aged 65 could expect to live a further 16.6 years and women a further 19.4 years if mortality rates remain the same as they were in 2003-05 (see Table 1). Women continue to live longer than men, but the gap has been closing in recent years. In 1983-85 there was a difference of 4 years between male and female life expectancy at age 65 in the UK (13.2 and 17.2 years respectively). In 2003-05 this had narrowed to 2.8 years (see Table 2).

Life expectancy at 65 is also at its highest ever in each country of the UK. English men and women have the highest expectancy, at 16.8 years and 19.6 years respectively. Scotland, at 15.5 years and 18.4 years for men and women respectively, has the lowest life expectancy at this age.

Today's data, from the Interim Life Tables 2003-05, include life expectancy at birth. This is 76.6 years for males in the UK in 2003-05 and 81.0 years for females.

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Table 1

Life expectancy, 2003-05

	years			
	At birth		At age 65	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
England	76.9	81.2	16.8	19.6
Wales	76.3	80.7	16.4	19.2
Scotland	74.2	79.3	15.5	18.4
Northern Ireland	76.0	80.8	16.4	19.3
United Kingdom	76.6	81.0	16.6	19.4

Source: Office for National Statistics: Interim life tables 2003-05

ONS also publishes today a report on sub-national life expectancy at birth for local authorities and health authorities in the UK, 2003-05. The South East, South West and East of England continue to have the highest life expectancy. Scotland and the North East and North West of England have the lowest.

Of the ten local authorities with the highest male life expectancy at birth all are in England: five in the South East, three in the East of England, and one each in the South West and London. Eight of the ten local authorities with the lowest male life expectancy are in Scotland. Glasgow City (69.9 years) is the only area in the UK where life expectancy at birth is less than 70 years. The local authority with the highest male life expectancy is Kensington and Chelsea (82.2 years), 12.3 years more than Glasgow City (see Table 3).

Kensington and Chelsea also has the highest life expectancy for females (86.2 years), 9.5 years more than Glasgow City, the lowest at 76.7 years (Table 4).

The report on sub-national life expectancy at birth includes results for the UK and constituent countries which are calculated using the same methods as those for regions and local authorities. These national figures differ slightly from those ONS is releasing today in the Interim Life Tables. The latter are calculated using complete (single year of age) life tables which differ from the abridged (grouped years) life tables used for sub-national figures. ONS has produced the Interim Life Tables for 2003-05 using methods earlier established by the Government Actuary's Department. The figures further differ from the methods used by ONS to produce sub-national figures as they are based on deaths which occurred in each year in England and Wales (rather than deaths registered in each year) and include the deaths of non-residents that occurred in England and Wales in mortality data for England.

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

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=14459>

The report on sub-national life expectancy a birth in the UK is also available at:

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

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Interim Life Tables are produced annually for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries. Responsibility for their production was transferred from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) to the ONS Centre for Demography on 31 January 2006.
2. All figures presented here are period life expectancies. Period expectation of life at a given age for an area in 2003-05 is the average number of years a person could be expected to live, if he or she experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. It is not therefore the number of years someone of that age in the area in that time period 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 some part of their lives.
3. Sub-national results for 2003-05 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 2003-05 are calculated by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and were published in a report released on 5 September 2006, available on the GROS website:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/life-expectancy/le2003-05/index.html>
4. 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.
5. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
6. **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.



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Table 2
Life expectancy at birth and at selected ages

	Males at age								Females at age								Years
	0	5	20	30	50	65	70	80	0	5	20	30	50	65	70	80	
	England																
1983-85	71.8	67.7	53.1	43.5	24.8	13.3	10.4	5.9	77.6	73.4	58.6	48.8	29.8	17.3	13.7	7.7	
1988-90	72.9	68.7	54.0	44.5	25.8	14.0	10.9	6.3	78.4	74.1	59.3	49.5	30.5	17.8	14.2	8.1	
1993-95	74.1	69.7	55.0	45.4	26.7	14.6	11.4	6.5	79.3	74.8	60.0	50.2	31.1	18.2	14.5	8.3	
1998-2000	75.3	70.9	56.1	46.6	27.9	15.5	12.1	6.9	80.1	75.6	60.8	50.9	31.8	18.8	14.9	8.5	
2003-05	76.9	72.4	57.6	48.0	29.3	16.8	13.2	7.5	81.2	76.6	61.8	51.9	32.8	19.6	15.6	8.9	
Wales																	
1983-85	71.2	67.1	52.4	42.8	24.2	12.9	10.1	5.8	77.1	73.0	58.2	48.3	29.4	17.1	13.5	7.7	
1988-90	72.6	68.3	53.7	44.1	25.3	13.7	10.7	6.2	78.3	73.9	59.1	49.3	30.2	17.6	14.1	8.1	
1993-95	73.4	69.0	54.3	44.8	26.1	14.2	11.1	6.4	78.9	74.4	59.5	49.7	30.7	17.9	14.3	8.2	
1998-2000	74.7	70.2	55.5	46.1	27.4	15.1	11.9	6.8	79.6	75.1	60.2	50.4	31.3	18.4	14.6	8.4	
2003-05	76.3	71.8	57.0	47.4	28.8	16.4	12.8	7.3	80.7	76.0	61.2	51.3	32.2	19.2	15.2	8.7	
Scotland																	
1983-85	69.9	65.8	51.2	41.6	23.3	12.5	9.8	5.7	75.8	71.6	56.8	47.1	28.2	16.3	12.9	7.4	
1988-90	70.8	66.6	51.9	42.5	24.1	13.0	10.2	5.9	76.6	72.2	57.4	47.6	28.7	16.6	13.2	7.6	
1993-95	71.9	67.5	52.8	43.4	25.0	13.5	10.6	6.2	77.4	73.0	58.2	48.4	29.4	17.0	13.5	7.9	
1998-2000	72.8	68.4	53.7	44.4	26.0	14.4	11.3	6.6	78.4	73.8	59.0	49.2	30.3	17.6	14.0	8.1	
2003-05	74.2	69.7	55.0	45.6	27.3	15.5	12.2	7.0	79.3	74.7	59.9	50.1	31.1	18.4	14.7	8.4	
Northern Ireland																	
1983-85	70.3	66.3	51.7	42.3	23.8	12.9	10.2	6.1	76.7	72.5	57.8	48.0	29.0	16.7	13.2	7.6	
1988-90	71.7	67.5	52.9	43.5	24.9	13.5	10.6	6.1	77.6	73.3	58.5	48.7	29.7	17.4	13.8	7.9	
1993-95	73.1	68.8	54.2	44.7	26.0	14.3	11.2	6.6	78.7	74.2	59.4	49.6	30.6	17.9	14.3	8.4	
1998-2000	74.5	70.0	55.4	45.9	27.2	15.0	11.7	6.6	79.6	75.1	60.2	50.4	31.3	18.4	14.6	8.2	
2003-05	76.0	71.6	56.9	47.4	28.7	16.4	12.8	7.3	80.8	76.3	61.4	51.6	32.5	19.3	15.4	8.7	
England and Wales																	
1983-85	71.8	67.7	53.0	43.4	24.7	13.3	10.4	5.9	77.6	73.4	58.6	48.8	29.8	17.3	13.7	7.7	
1988-90	72.8	68.7	54.0	44.4	25.7	14.0	10.9	6.3	78.4	74.1	59.3	49.5	30.4	17.8	14.2	8.1	
1993-95	74.0	69.6	54.9	45.4	26.6	14.6	11.4	6.5	79.3	74.8	60.0	50.2	31.1	18.2	14.5	8.3	
1998-2000	75.3	70.8	56.1	46.5	27.8	15.5	12.1	6.9	80.1	75.6	60.7	50.9	31.8	18.8	14.9	8.5	
2003-05	76.9	72.4	57.6	48.0	29.2	16.8	13.2	7.4	81.1	76.6	61.7	51.9	32.7	19.6	15.6	8.9	
Great Britain																	
1983-85	71.6	67.5	52.9	43.3	24.6	13.2	10.3	5.9	77.4	73.2	58.4	48.6	29.6	17.2	13.6	7.7	
1988-90	72.6	68.5	53.8	44.3	25.6	13.9	10.9	6.2	78.3	73.9	59.1	49.3	30.3	17.7	14.1	8.1	
1993-95	73.8	69.4	54.7	45.2	26.5	14.5	11.3	6.4	79.1	74.6	59.8	50.0	30.9	18.1	14.4	8.3	
1998-2000	75.1	70.6	55.9	46.3	27.7	15.4	12.1	6.9	79.9	75.4	60.6	50.7	31.6	18.6	14.8	8.5	
2003-05	76.6	72.1	57.4	47.8	29.1	16.6	13.1	7.4	81.0	76.4	61.5	51.7	32.6	19.4	15.5	8.8	
United Kingdom																	
1983-85	71.5	67.5	52.8	43.2	24.6	13.2	10.3	5.9	77.4	73.2	58.4	48.6	29.6	17.2	13.6	7.7	
1988-90	72.6	68.4	53.8	44.2	25.6	13.9	10.9	6.2	78.2	73.9	59.1	49.3	30.3	17.7	14.1	8.1	
1993-95	73.8	69.4	54.7	45.2	26.5	14.5	11.3	6.5	79.1	74.6	59.8	50.0	30.9	18.1	14.4	8.3	
1998-2000	75.0	70.6	55.9	46.3	27.6	15.4	12.0	6.8	79.9	75.4	60.5	50.7	31.6	18.6	14.8	8.5	
2003-05	76.6	72.1	57.4	47.8	29.0	16.6	13.1	7.4	81.0	76.4	61.5	51.7	32.6	19.4	15.5	8.8	

Source: Government Actuary's Department, Office for National Statistics: Interim life tables 1980-82 to 2003-05
Enquiries: lifetables@ons.gov.uk

Table 3

Local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom, 2003-05.

Males

Highest life expectancy 2003-2005

Rank Order	Local authority	Years
1	Kensington and Chelsea	82.2
2	East Dorset	80.9
3	Hart	80.2
4	Uttlesford	80.0
5	Wokingham	80.0
6	South Norfolk	80.0
7	Chiltern	80.0
8	Horsham	79.9
9	Brentwood	79.8
10	Crawley	79.8

Lowest life expectancy 2003-2005

Rank Order	Local authority	Years
432	Glasgow City	69.9
431	West Dunbartonshire	71.0
430	Inverclyde	71.1
429	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	72.1
428	Manchester	72.5
427	Renfrewshire	72.6
426	North Lanarkshire	72.7
425	Dundee City	73.0
424	Blackpool	73.2
423	Clackmannanshire	73.2

Table 4**Local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom, 2003-05.****Females****Highest life expectancy 2003-2005**

Rank Order	Local authority	Years
1	Kensington and Chelsea	86.2
2	Epsom and Ewell	84.5
3	East Dorset	84.1
4	South Cambridgeshire	83.9
5	Rutland	83.8
6	Purbeck	83.7
7	Guildford	83.6
8	New Forest	83.6
9	North Dorset	83.5
10	Horsham	83.4

Lowest life expectancy 2003-2005

Rank Order	Local authority	Years
432	Glasgow City	76.7
431	West Dunbartonshire	77.5
430	North Lanarkshire	77.6
429	Inverclyde	77.9
428	East Ayrshire	78.0
427	Liverpool	78.1
426	Renfrewshire	78.2
425	Halton	78.3
424	Hartlepool	78.3
423	Manchester	78.3