

| About this publication | Description |
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| Publication title | Life Expectancy for Areas in Scotland, 2016-2018 |
| Description | <p>Annual publication of 'life expectancy at birth' estimates for administrative areas, including Council areas, NHS board areas and Scottish Parliamentary constituencies.</p> <p>Also including estimates for special areas in Scotland (urban/rural and deprivation using SIMD 2016).</p> <p>Estimates of healthy life expectancy are also included for council areas, health boards, deprivation deciles and quintiles and urban rural classification</p> |
| Theme | Population and Migration/vital events |
| Topic | Life Expectancy |
| Format | Excel workbooks, Comma Separated Value (CSV) files and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files |
| Data source(s) | <p>Deaths from the civil registration system</p> <p>The Registrar General's Mid-year population estimates</p> <p>The Registrar General's Small area population estimates</p> <p>The annual population survey health question</p> <p>The 2011 census health question</p> <p>The Scottish Government's Urban Rural classification</p> <p>The Scottish Government's Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) classification</p> |
| Date that data is acquired | October |
| Publication Release date | 11 December 2019 |
| Frequency | Annual |
| Timeframe of data and timeliness | The estimates are based on the mortality probabilities indicated by the death records for the three years prior to the date of publication. For example, the 2016-2018 estimates were published in December 2019. |
| Continuity of data | <p>Historical life expectancy estimates are available as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -for council areas from 1991-1993 onwards -for NHS Board areas from 1991-1993 onwards -for Community Health Partnership (CHP) areas from 1996-1998 to 2012-2014 -for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2012) from 2001-2003 to 2011-2013 -for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2016) from 2013-2015 to 2015-2017 <p>Council, NHS Board and CHP areas have changed during these timescales, as has the Urban Rural Classification and SIMD.</p> |

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| | <p>CHP areas were replaced with Integration Authorities (also called Health and Social Care Partnerships) from 1 April 2016. Estimates of life expectancy in Integration Authorities are available on request.</p> <p>In previous publications, life expectancy was calculated in age groups up to 85 years. The final age group was for people aged 85 years and older. From the 2013-2015 publication, we have moved the final age group to include people aged 90 years and older. This improves the estimates and is in line with changes by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).</p> <p>Life expectancy estimates for council areas and Scotland from 1991-1993 to 2015-2017 and for NHS Board areas for 1991-1993 to 2015-2017 use the new 90 years and older age group. These estimates also use the corrected 2012 to 2014 mid-year population estimates and the correct mid-year population estimates 2001-2011. The life expectancy estimates by Urban-rural and SIMD 2016 for 2013-2015 to 2015-2017 use the 90 years and older age group.</p> <p>T</p> <p>Life expectancy estimates by Council areas split by Deprivation are calculated for five years of data and are available as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2003-2007 to 2009-2013 using the 85 years and older age group and SIMD 2012. These estimates are reported for the 15 per cent most deprived and 85 per cent least deprived - 2011-2015 using the 90 years and older age group and SIMD 2016. These estimates are reported for the 15 per cent most deprived and 85 per cent least deprived - 2012-2016 to 2014-2018 using the 90 years and older age group and SIMD 2016. These estimates are reported for SIMD quintiles (20 per cent groups). <p>Healthy life expectancy estimates for Scotland are available on the ONS website from 2009-2011. The health survey question changed in 2009 so it is not possible to compare estimates from before this time. In 2018, the ONS published a new method for calculating healthy life expectancy. In 2019, NRS aligned the Scottish healthy life expectancy data with this method. Previously, healthy life expectancy had been calculated by the NHS information services division using a different methodology.</p> |
| Revisions statement | <p>Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections, a copy of which is available on the Scottish Government website.</p> |

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| | <p>Life expectancy estimates between 2001 and 2010 were revised after the 2011 Census and have been corrected again in 2018.</p> <p>Revisions will also be carried out in accordance with the Revisions policy for population, migration and life events statistics available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website.</p> |
| Concepts and definitions | Further information can be found in the Life Expectancy for areas in Scotland, 2015-2017 publication on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website. |
| Relevance and key uses of the statistics | Used in monitoring and investigating health inequality issues within Scotland, setting public health targets, informing pensions policy, research and teaching. |
| Accuracy | <p>Life expectancy at birth is an estimate which is subject to a margin of error. The accuracy of the results can be indicated by calculating a confidence interval within which the true underlying life expectancy would be expected to lie. Further information is available from the methodology section of the NRS website.</p> <p>The National Records of Scotland (NRS) have published research papers assessing the quality of the administrative data sources that are used in the production of mid-year population estimates. Mid-year population estimates are an important input in calculating life expectancy estimates. For more information go to the Research for the 2021 Census section of the NRS website.</p> <p>The quality of deaths data which are part of the inputs in computing life expectancy estimates is available on the Vital Events section of the NRS website.</p> |
| Completeness | Life expectancies and healthy life expectancies for administrative and special areas are presented in the form of abridged life tables. This means that estimates are available for grouped ages rather than at single years of age (as are found at the Scotland level in the National Life Tables). |
| Comparability | <p>Time-series comparisons are currently appropriate at the council and health board level.</p> <p>Urban Rural and SIMD Classifications change over time. Comparisons are most suitable when the life expectancy estimate uses the same version of the classification as it will refer to the same areas.</p> <p>Further information can be found in Life Expectancy for Areas in Scotland, 2016-2018 publication on the NRS website.</p> |

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| | There are differences between complete life tables (calculated for single year of age) and abridged life tables (calculated for grouped ages). Therefore abridged life tables at the Scotland-level are calculated in this publication to use as a comparator against the sub-national estimates. |
| Accessibility | It is the policy of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website. |
| Coherence and clarity | The statistics are provided in Excel, CSV and PDF formats. They are designed to be consistent and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate. Notations used within the tables and charts are given in footnotes. |
| Value type and unit of measure | Estimated (speculative) lifespan in years. |
| Official Statistics designation | These statistics were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and have been designated as National Statistics. |
| UK Statistics Authority Assessment | These statistics were assessed in 2013 using the UK Statistics Authority Assessment of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (PDF document) available from the UK Statistics Authority website. Since the assessment, responsibility for HLE statistics has moved from ISD to NRS and the method for calculation has changed. These changes mean that all life expectancy and HLE statistics in Scotland are now comparable with each other and can be found in one place. They are also comparable with the UK wide figures that are produced by ONS. The method changes also reduces volatility for estimates of small populations and mean that sub-national breakdowns for Scotland will be available on a more frequent basis. |
| Help email | statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk Further details are available from the Contact Us page on the NRS website |
| Date this form was published | 11 December 2019 |