OECD Health Statistics 2018
Definitions, Sources and Methods

Life expectancy at birth and at various ages (40, 60, 65, and 80 years old)

Life expectancy at birth and at ages 40, 60, 65 and 80 years old is the average number of years that a person at that age can be expected to live, assuming that age-specific mortality levels remain constant.

Sources and Methods

The Eurostat database (dataset Life expectancy by age and sex [demo_mlexpec] accessed in May 2018) is the main data source for all European countries, except Turkey. Time series are also completed with national data for selected years, see details below.

⚠️ Note: Life expectancy at birth for the total population is estimated by the OECD Secretariat for all countries, using the unweighted average of life expectancy of men and women.

Australia

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Life Tables, States, Territories and Australia. ABS Cat. No. 3302.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS.
Methodology: From 1995 onwards, data represent 3-year averages, e.g. 1995 is actually 1993-95. Farr's method has been used to calculate life expectancies.

Austria

Sources:
Until 1969: Statistics Austria.

Belgium

⚠️ Break in time series in 2011 due to a methodological change in the process of measuring population and demographic events.

Canada

Methodology:
- Life expectancy is calculated for a three year period. From 1982, the data year in the table relates to the last year of that period (e.g. data for 2012 in the table are from the 2010-2012 period).
Break in time series in 1982: A revision to the methodology was undertaken in 2013. First, a logistic model based on the work of Kannisto (1992) replaced the quadratic model of Coale-Kisker (1990) first used in the construction of the tables for the period 1995 to 1997. This change was made because studies showed that in countries with high-quality data, the increase, from one age to the next, in mortality rates tended to follow a logistic curve (Kannisto et al. 1994; Thatcher et al. 1998). Second, the method of smoothing age-specific death probabilities was replaced by a method based on spline curves. The full methodology is described in the publication: Methods for Constructing Life Tables for Canada, Provinces and Territories (84-538) available at http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=84-538-XWE&lang=eng. Life expectancy estimates from 1982 have been revised using this methodology.


Rates used in this table for the calculation of life expectancy are calculated with data that exclude births to mothers not resident in Canada, births to mothers resident in Canada for which province or territory of residence is unknown, deaths of non-residents of Canada, deaths of residents of Canada whose province or territory of residence was unknown, and deaths for which age or sex of decedent was unknown.

Chile

Sources:
Methodology:
- Life expectancy at birth data from 1990 to 2000 were obtained from the estimated population and vital statistics. Those of 2001 were calculated based on the updated population from CENSUS 2002 as well as vital statistics of the corresponding year.
- Population projections for 2002-2012 were updated and new population projections for 2013-2020 were performed in 2014. For the updated period (2002-2012), we used: 1) data of numbers of births and deaths from Vital registries 2002-2012; 2) information about international immigration from the Department of Immigration of the Ministry of Interior; 3) Socioeconomic characterisation survey (CASEN) and employment survey about internal migration.
- For the population projection period (2013-2020), estimations of future evolution of the level and structure of the three components of population growth - Fertility, Mortality and Migration - were performed.
- 2015 figures are up to date with official information from the National Statistics Institute, based on the official death database.

Czech Republic


Denmark

Sources:

Estonia


**Finland**

Sources:
Until 1979: Statistics Finland.


**France**

Sources:
Until 1985: Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (Insee).

Coverage: Metropolitan France.


**Germany**


**Greece**


**Hungary**


⚠️ Break in time series in 2012 due to a methodological change in the process of measuring population and demographic events.


**Iceland**


**Ireland**

Sources:


**Israel**

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics. Based on birth and death registrations.

Methodology: Life expectancy data are based on abridged life tables (by five-year age groups) which are produced for every calendar year using MORTPAK software package.

⚠️ Break in time series in 2009: Life tables were calculated based on mortality rates up to age 95 and over after the 2008 census. Previously, the highest age rate was 85 and over.
Further information:
http://www.cbs.gov.il/reader/shnatonnew_site.htm

Note: The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

Italy

Sources:
Until 1984: ISTAT, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (National Institute of Statistics),

Japan

Methodology: Figures every 5 years from 1960 are complete life tables. Intervening years are abridged life tables.

Korea

Methodology: Chiang’s method was used.
Further information: http://kosis.kr/eng/.

Latvia


Luxembourg

Sources:
From 1968 (for women) and from 1971 (for men): Eurostat database. Data extracted on May 29, 2018.
1960: Ministry of Health.
!, Break in time series in 2012 due to a methodological change in the process of measuring population and demographic events.

Mexico

Methodology:
, The method used for calculating mortality tables is derived from an exercise performed by the National Population Council (CONAPO). The method is not directly based upon the death records. The method uses the II Population and Housing Count of 2005, as well as information from the Population and Housing Census from 1960 to 2010 and the socio-demographic surveys carried out in the country since the 1970s such as:
In addition, the method uses since 1990 information from births database of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, 
- Data were updated from 1990, with the Demographic estimations 1990-2009 and Population projections 2010-2030 (CONAPO 2013).


Netherlands

Sources:
Until 1984: Statistics Netherlands, Maandstatistiek van de bevolking (Monthly bulletin of population statistics).


New Zealand

Source: Statistics New Zealand.
Methodology:
- Life expectancy data are calculated from data based on a three-year period centered on the reference year.
- From 1962 to 2012, figures for intermediate years were estimated by the OECD Secretariat and Statistics New Zealand using a simple linear interpolation between those available from life tables.


Norway


Note: Eurostat and Statistics Norway calculate life expectancy differently for persons aged 90 years and above. Due to this, national figures for life expectancy calculated and published by Eurostat might differ slightly from those published by Statistics Norway.


Poland

Sources:
Until 1989: Statistics Poland, Demographic yearbooks.

Break in time series in 2000 and 2009 due to a methodological change in the process of measuring population and demographic events.

Methodology: 1960-1989 figures are from abridged life tables calculated using Chiang's method.


Portugal


Slovak Republic


Slovenia
Sources:
⚠️ Break in time series in 2008 due to a methodological change in the process of measuring population and demographic events.

Spain
Sources:

Sweden
Sources:

Switzerland
⚠️ Break in time series in 2011 due to a methodological change in the process of measuring population and demographic events.

Turkey
Source: Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT).
Methodology: Until 2012, data based on population projections using the cohort-component method. From 2013, data are based on administrative records.
⚠️ Break in time series in 2013: From 2013, data are based on the results of the "Life Tables" study, which has been implemented for the first time in Turkey and which is based on administrative registers.
⚠️ Break in time series in 1990: New projected life expectancy data released by TURKSTAT. Data for the period 1991-2012 are based on population projections (cohort-component method) that are calculated using the 2008 results of Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) and the 2008 results of Demographic and Health Survey. The values of e(0), e(40), e(60), e(65) and e (80) have been calculated based on e(5) value by using Coale-Demeny Model Life Tables.

United Kingdom
Sources:

United States
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. National vital statistics reports (several years).  
Methodology:  
Estimates were calculated to represent the U.S. civilian non-institutionalised population for each time period.  
- For data years 1997-1999, complete life tables were constructed by single years of age extending to age 100 years using a revised methodology similar to that of the 1989-1991 decennial life tables. The revised methodology offers comparability with decennial life table methodology, greater accuracy, and finer age detail. A comparison of the two methods shows small differences in resulting values for life expectancy. Although the revised method produces complete life tables (by single years of age), the life table data shown in this report are summarised in 5-year age groupings. To calculate the probability of dying at each age, the revised methodology used vital statistics death rates for ages under 85 years, and mortality data from the Medicare program for ages 85 years and over. The Medicare data are shown to be significantly more reliable than vital statistics data when modeling the probability of dying at the oldest ages.  
- Data for 2001-2007 have been updated to reflect the actualisation of the revised US intercensal population estimates. More information can be found at the NCHS Vital Statistics website.  
- Life table data shown in this report for data years 2000-2006 are based on the newly revised methodology and may differ from figures previously published. Complete life tables by single years of age extending to age 100 years were constructed using a methodology similar to that developed for the 1999-2001 decennial life tables. To calculate the probability of dying at each age, the newly revised methodology used vital statistics death rates for ages under 66 years, and modeled probabilities of death for ages 66 to 100 based on blended vital statistics and Medicare probabilities of dying. Complete life tables for 2000-2006 based on the newly revised methodology, along with a more comprehensive description of the methodology, are published elsewhere (Wei R, Curtin LR, Arias E, Anderson RN. United States decennial life tables for 1999-2001, methodology of the United States life tables. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol. 57, no 4. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2008).  

NON-OECD ECONOMIES

Brazil

Sources:  
- Life expectancy at birth for total population is derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.  
- Data for life expectancy at age 65 and 80 are not available.  

China

- Life expectancy at birth for total population is derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.  
- Data for life expectancy at age 65 and 80 are not available.

Colombia
Further information: http://www.dane.gov.co/

Costa Rica

Source: The World Bank, World Development Indicators online (accessed on 16 June 2017).
http://databank.worldbank.org/data/
- Life expectancy at birth for total population is derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.
- Data for life expectancy at age 65 and 80 are not available.

India

Source: The World Bank, World Development Indicators online (accessed on 16 June 2017).
http://databank.worldbank.org/data/
- Life expectancy at birth for total population is derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.
- Data for life expectancy at age 65 and 80 are not available.

Indonesia

Source: The World Bank, World Development Indicators online (accessed on 16 June 2017).
http://databank.worldbank.org/data/
- Life expectancy at birth for total population is derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.
- Data for life expectancy at age 65 and 80 are not available.

Lithuania


Russian Federation

Methodology:
- Life expectancy at 65 and 80 years old: data calculated from tables of mortality in Russia, available in Statistical Compendium "Demographic Yearbook of the Russian Federation", Table 5.3. "Main Indices of Mortality Tables".
Note: This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

South Africa

Sources:
Life expectancy at birth: The World Bank, World Development Indicators online (accessed on 16 June 2017).
http://databank.worldbank.org/data/
- Life expectancy at birth for total population is derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.
- Data for life expectancy at age 65 and 80 are not available.
Life expectancy at age 65: Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA model 2008).

http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm