

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Life Expectancy in Scotland, 2018-2020
Description	Annual publication of life expectancy for Scotland and Scottish areas, including the national life tables for Scotland.
Theme	Vital Events
Topic	Life Expectancy
Format	Excel workbooks, Comma Separated Value (CSV) files and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files
Data source(s)	Deaths and births from the civil registration system Mid-year population estimates Small area population estimates The Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
Date that data is acquired	June-August
Publication Release date	23 September 2021
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.
Continuity of data	<p>Historical life expectancy estimates are available as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy by single year of age from 1980-1982 • Decennial life tables from 1929-1931 to 2000-2002 (graduated period life tables) • 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 • for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020) from 2017-2020 <p>Council, NHS Board and CHP areas have changed during these timescales, as has the Urban Rural Classification and SIMD.</p>

	<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 for 2013-2015 to 2018-2020 use the 90 years and older age group.</p> <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> <p>The time-series estimates used in the 2018-2020 publication were calculated using corrected mid-year population estimates for 2012, 2013 and 2014 which were published by NRS in April 2016.</p> <p>Population estimates between 2001 and 2010 were revised after the 2011 Census and corrected in 2018 following the discovery of a small error.</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	<p>Further information can be found in the Life tables for Scotland publication on the National Records of Scotland</p>

	(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>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 2022 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 are presented by age by sex
Comparability	Time-series comparisons are appropriate with Life tables back to 1980-1982
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 May 2011 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.
Help email	<p>statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk</p> <p>There is also a contact form on the NRS website.</p>
Date this form was published	23 September 2021