



# Births and Deaths in England and Wales

## 2008

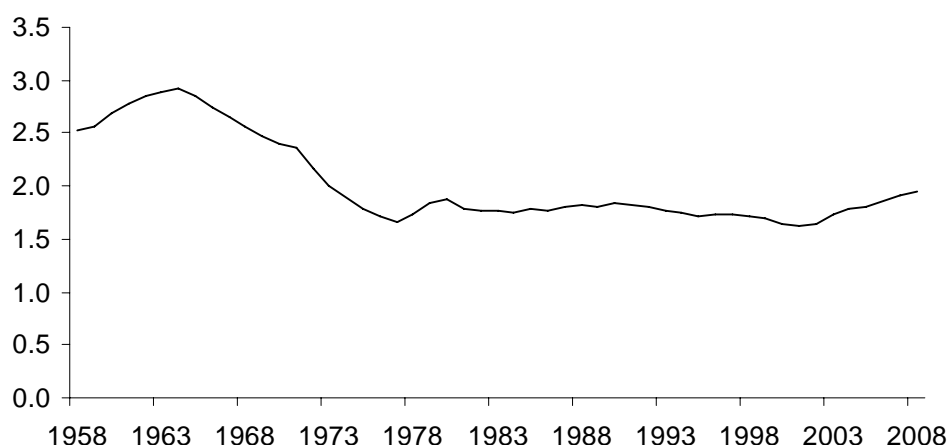
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**Coverage:** England and Wales **Theme:** Population

Provisional fertility rates for 2008 give an average number of 1.95 children per woman in England and Wales, the highest since 1973 when there was an average of 2.00 children per woman, according to provisional figures released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The 2008 total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.95 has increased from 1.92 children per woman in 2007, the seventh consecutive annual increase from a low point of 1.63 in 2001. However, the TFR in 2008 is notably lower than it was in the 1960s when it reached a peak of 2.93 in 1964.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in England and Wales, 1958 - 2008



Other key statistics on births and deaths in 2008:



## **Births in England and Wales, 2008**

There were 708,708 live births in England and Wales in 2008 compared with 690,013 in 2007. The number of live births has been increasing since 2001 and has now reached the highest level since 1972 (725,440).

Compared with 2007, there have been increases in fertility rates for all age groups. The highest percentage increase was observed for women aged 40 and over with an increase of 5 per cent compared with the previous year. For this age group the fertility rate rose from 12.0 live births per 1,000 women aged 40 and over in 2007 to 12.6 live births per 1,000 women aged 40 and over in 2008. Over the last decade, the number of live births to mothers aged 40 and over has nearly doubled from 13,555 in 1998 to 26,419 in 2008.

The proportion of live births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom continued to rise. In 2008, 24 per cent of live births were to mothers born outside the United Kingdom compared with 23 per cent in 2007. In 1998, 14 per cent of births were to non-UK born mothers.

### **Live births in England and Wales, 2008: area of residence**

The West Midlands had the highest TFR among the Government Office Regions of England in 2008 with 2.09 children per woman. The North East had the lowest TFR (1.86).

Among the local authorities in England, Boston had the highest TFR with 2.81 children per woman, while Westminster had the lowest TFR (1.21).

In Wales, the highest TFR in 2008 was 2.30 which was observed in both Merthyr Tydfil and Newport. The lowest TFR was observed in Ceredigion (1.43).

## **Death registrations in England and Wales, 2008**

The provisional 2008 age-standardised mortality rates for both males and females are the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales.

Since 1998, these rates have decreased by 25 per cent for males and 19 per cent for females to (provisional) rates in 2008 of 6,860 and 4,910 deaths per million population for males and females respectively.

There were 509,090 deaths registered in England and Wales in 2008 compared with 504,052 in 2007.



Circulatory diseases, such as heart disease, remain the most common major cause of death contributing to one third of all deaths registered in 2008. However, the overall downward trend in circulatory disease death rates has continued. Between 1998 and 2008, they fell by 40 per cent to 2,216 per million population for males and by 38 per cent to 1,422 per million for females.

Cancer accounted for just over a quarter (28 per cent) of all deaths registered in 2008, with a rate of 2,105 per million population for males and 1,531 for females. Since 1998 death rates for cancer have fallen, by 17 per cent for males and 11 per cent for females.

In 2008, there were 3,370 infant deaths registered giving a rate of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. This rate is unchanged from 2007 and is the lowest rate ever recorded in England and Wales.

### **Death registrations in England and Wales, 2008: area of residence**

Among the English regions the North East Government Office Region had the highest level of mortality in 2008 as measured by standardised mortality ratios (SMRs). In 2008 mortality levels were highest in the North East (13 per cent above the national level) and lowest in the South West and the South East (8 per cent below the national level).

Among local authorities in England, mortality levels were highest in Halton (31 per cent above the national level) and lowest in Kensington and Chelsea (40 per cent below the national level).

In Wales, the highest SMR was observed in Merthyr Tydfil (23 per cent above the national level) and the lowest observed in Ceredigion (17 per cent below the national level).

More detailed data for births can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408>

More detailed data for deaths can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14409>

## Background Notes

1. All figures for 2008 are provisional. Deaths figures are based on deaths registered in the data year. It is planned that figures on deaths that occurred in 2008 will be published before the end of 2009.
  2. The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of live children that a group of women would have if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. The TFR provides an up-to-date measure of the current intensity of child-bearing. Changes in timing of births means that it can often be a poor indicator of the actual average number of children women will eventually have. The TFR is calculated by summing single-year age-specific fertility rates over all ages within the childbearing lifespan (taken to be ages '15 and under' to ages '44 and over'). The TFR for 2008 is provisional. It was calculated using the 2006-based population projections for 2008. It will be revised later in 2009 when the 2008 mid-year population estimates are available.
  3. Further information on parents' country of birth will be published on 27 August 2009.
  4. Further commentary on 2008 births will be published on 24 September 2009 as a report in *Population Trends* 137. This will give numbers of live births, total fertility rates and general fertility rates by mother's usual area of residence.
  5. The age-standardised mortality rates in this release are directly age-standardised to the European Standard Population, which cover all ages and allows comparisons between populations with different age structures, including between males and females and over time. Age-standardised rates for 2008 in this release are provisional as they were calculated using the 2006-based population projections for 2008. They will be revised later in 2009 when 2008 mid-year population estimates are available.
  6. Further statistics on 2008 death registrations will be published in August 2009 in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 43. This publication will give the numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales in 2008 by age and sex, and for selected causes of death. Deaths by area of usual residence will appear in a report in *Population Trends* 137 to be published on 24 September 2009.
  7. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the media office.
  8. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
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**Issued by:** Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport NP10 8XG

**Media contact:**

Tel           **Media Relations Office   0845 6041858**

**Emergency on-call   07867 906553**

E-mail       **press.office@ons.gsi.gov.uk**

**Statistical contact:**

Tel           **Elizabeth McLaren   01329 444553**

E-mail       **elizabeth.mclaren@ons.gsi.gov.uk**

**Website:**

[www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)