

Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

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Metadata information

Information on metadata

Document title

Metadata for Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

Document ID

META_WB_WDI_SP_DYN_LE00_IN

Metadata producers

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Development Economics Data Group	DECDG	World Bank

Version

1.1.1

Version notes

Updated metadata ID for consistency with indicator code.

Version date

2026-05-06

Indicator description

Title statement

Indicator code

WB_WDI_SP_DYN_LE00_IN

Indicator name

Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

Alternate identifiers

Type	Identifier	Database	URL	Notes
Male Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	Male Life Expectancy at Birth (years)		https://population.un.org/wpp/	
DCS code	SP.DYN.LE00.IN	DCS		Identifier in DCS database

Database ID

WB_WDI

Database name

World Development Indicators (WDI)

Language

Name	Code
English	EN

Version date

2026-07-01

Description

Definition

Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.

Definition references

Source	URL
United Nations Population Division; or derived from male and female life expectancy at birth from sources such as national statistical offices and Eurostat.	https://population.un.org/wpp/

Development relevance

Mortality rates for different age groups (infants, children, and adults) and overall mortality indicators (life expectancy at birth or survival to a given age) are important indicators of health status in a country. Because data on the incidence and prevalence of diseases are frequently unavailable, mortality rates are often used to identify vulnerable populations. And they are among the indicators most frequently used to compare socioeconomic development across countries.

Measurement unit

Years

Dimensions

Label	Description
Year	
Geographic area	Country/economy, country group, region

Periodicity

Annual

Topics

ID	Label	Parent ID	Vocabulary
	Health: Mortality		WDI topics
P2	People		WB Practice Groups
P2_000003	Health, Nutrition & Population	P2	Data360 Topic L1
P2_000044	Mortality	P2_000003	Data360 Topic L2

Links

Type	Description	URL
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WDI API	Data in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/sp.dyn.le00.in?date=1960:2021&format=json
WDI API	Data in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/sp.dyn.le00.in?date=1960:2021
WDI API	Metadata in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/sp.dyn.le00.in/metadata?format=json
WDI API	Metadata in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/sp.dyn.le00.in/metadata

Quality

Limitations

Annual data series from United Nations Population Division's World Population Prospects are interpolated data from 5-year period data. Therefore they may not reflect real events as much as observed data.

Concepts and methods

Statistical concept

Life expectancy at birth used here is the average number of years a newborn is expected to live if mortality patterns at the time of its birth remain constant in the future. It reflects the overall mortality level of a population, and summarizes the mortality pattern that prevails across all age groups in a given year. It is calculated in a period life table which provides a snapshot of a population's mortality pattern at a given time. It therefore does not reflect the mortality pattern that a person actually experiences during his/her life, which can be calculated in a cohort life table.

High mortality in young age groups significantly lowers the life expectancy at birth. But if a person survives his/her childhood of high mortality, he/she may live much longer. For example, in a population with a life expectancy at birth of 50, there may be few people dying at age 50. The life expectancy at birth may be low due to the high childhood mortality so that once a person survives his/her childhood, he/she may live much longer than 50 years.

Related concepts

Name
Life table concept

Methodology

Life expectancy at birth is derived from life tables and is based on sex- and age-specific death rates, or derived from male and female life expectancy at birth.

Methodology references

Source	URL
United Nations Population Division	https://population.un.org/wpp/

Aggregation method

Weighted average

Geographic and time coverage

Time coverage

Start	End
1960	2024

Economies

Name	Code
Aruba	ABW
Afghanistan	AFG
Angola	AGO
Andorra	AND
United Arab Emirates	ARE
Albania	ALB
Armenia	ARM
Argentina	ARG
American Samoa	ASM
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG
Australia	AUS
Austria	AUT
Azerbaijan	AZE
Burundi	BDI
Belgium	BEL
Benin	BEN
Burkina Faso	BFA
Bangladesh	BGD
Bulgaria	BGR
Bahrain	BHR
Bahamas, The	BHS
Belarus	BLR
Belize	BLZ
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Bolivia	BOL
Bermuda	BMU
Barbados	BRB
Brunei Darussalam	BRN
Botswana	BWA
Bhutan	BTN
Central African Republic	CAF
Brazil	BRA
Canada	CAN
Switzerland	CHE
Chile	CHL
Channel Islands	CHI

Côte d'Ivoire	CIV
Congo, Dem. Rep.	COD
Congo, Rep.	COG
Comoros	COM
Cabo Verde	CPV
Costa Rica	CRI
China	CHN
Cuba	CUB
Curaçao	CUW
Cyprus	CYP
Cayman Islands	CYM
Colombia	COL
Germany	DEU
Cameroon	CMR
Dominica	DMA
Dominican Republic	DOM
Denmark	DNK
Algeria	DZA
Egypt, Arab Rep.	EGY
Eritrea	ERI
Czechia	CZE
Ecuador	ECU
Djibouti	DJI
Spain	ESP
Estonia	EST
Ethiopia	ETH
Faroe Islands	FRO
Finland	FIN
France	FRA
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	FSM
Gabon	GAB
Georgia	GEO
Ghana	GHA
United Kingdom	GBR
Guinea	GIN
Gambia, The	GMB
Gibraltar	GIB
Greenland	GRL
Grenada	GRD
Guinea-Bissau	GNB
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ
Fiji	FJI

Greece	GRC
Guatemala	GTM
Guam	GUM
Croatia	HRV
Guyana	GUY
Hong Kong SAR, China	HKG
Hungary	HUN
Indonesia	IDN
Ireland	IRL
India	IND
Isle of Man	IMN
Israel	ISR
Haiti	HTI
Iran, Islamic Rep.	IRN
Iraq	IRQ
Honduras	HND
Iceland	ISL
Japan	JPN
Cambodia	KHM
Jordan	JOR
Kiribati	KIR
Kazakhstan	KAZ
Kenya	KEN
Kyrgyz Republic	KGZ
Lao PDR	LAO
St. Kitts and Nevis	KNA
Italy	ITA
Korea, Rep.	KOR
Libya	LBY
Kuwait	KWT
Lebanon	LBN
Liberia	LBR
Jamaica	JAM
St. Lucia	LCA
Lesotho	LSO
Sri Lanka	LKA
Lithuania	LTU
Macao SAR, China	MAC
Latvia	LVA
Luxembourg	LUX
Monaco	MCO
Morocco	MAR

Maldives	MDV
St. Martin (French part)	MAF
Mexico	MEX
Moldova	MDA
Malta	MLT
Liechtenstein	LIE
Madagascar	MDG
Marshall Islands	MHL
North Macedonia	MKD
Mongolia	MNG
Mali	MLI
Mozambique	MOZ
Northern Mariana Islands	MNP
Mauritania	MRT
Myanmar	MMR
Montenegro	MNE
Malawi	MWI
Namibia	NAM
Netherlands	NLD
Mauritius	MUS
Malaysia	MYS
Niger	NER
Nauru	NRU
Norway	NOR
Pakistan	PAK
Nicaragua	NIC
New Zealand	NZL
Nepal	NPL
Oman	OMN
Philippines	PHL
Peru	PER
Panama	PAN
New Caledonia	NCL
West Bank and Gaza	PSE
Portugal	PRT
Nigeria	NGA
Puerto Rico	PRI
Paraguay	PRY
Palau	PLW
Poland	POL
Papua New Guinea	PNG
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	PRK

French Polynesia	PYF
Qatar	QAT
Romania	ROU
Russian Federation	RUS
El Salvador	SLV
Singapore	SGP
Senegal	SEN
Saudi Arabia	SAU
Sierra Leone	SLE
Rwanda	RWA
Sudan	SDN
San Marino	SMR
South Sudan	SSD
Somalia, Federal Republic of	SOM
Serbia	SRB
Sweden	SWE
Suriname	SUR
Syrian Arab Republic	SYR
São Tomé and Príncipe	STP
Chad	TCD
Slovak Republic	SVK
Slovenia	SVN
Togo	TGO
Tajikistan	TJK
Seychelles	SYC
Eswatini	SWZ
Solomon Islands	SLB
Thailand	THA
Turks and Caicos Islands	TCA
Turkmenistan	TKM
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	SXM
Tonga	TON
Uganda	UGA
Tunisia	TUN
Türkiye	TUR
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT
British Virgin Islands	VGB
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	VIR
Venezuela, RB	VEN
Uzbekistan	UZB
Uruguay	URY

Samoa	WSM
Yemen, Rep.	YEM
Vanuatu	VUT
Zimbabwe	ZWE
Vietnam	VNM
Timor-Leste	TLS
Tanzania	TZA
South Africa	ZAF
Zambia	ZMB
Kosovo	XKX
Tuvalu	TUV
Ukraine	UKR
United States	USA

Geographic areas

Name	Code
Africa Eastern and Southern	AFE
Africa Western and Central	AFW
Arab World	ARB
Central Europe and the Baltics	CEB
Caribbean small states	CSS
East Asia & Pacific	EAS
Europe & Central Asia (excluding high income)	ECA
Europe & Central Asia	ECS
Euro area	EMU
East Asia & Pacific (excluding high income)	EAP
European Union	EUU
Early-demographic dividend	EAR
Fragile and conflict affected situations	FCS
High income	HIC
Heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC)	HPC
IDA total	IDA
IDA & IBRD total	IBT
IDA blend	IDB
IDA only	IDX
IBRD only	IBD
Latin America & Caribbean (excluding high income)	LAC
Lower middle income	LMC
Latin America & Caribbean	LCN
Least developed countries: UN classification	LDC
Low income	LIC
Low & middle income	LMY

Late-demographic dividend	LTE
Middle income	MIC
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan	MEA
North America	NAC
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan (excluding high income)	MNA
OECD members	OED
Other small states	OSS
Pre-demographic dividend	PRE
Pacific island small states	PSS
Post-demographic dividend	PST
South Asia	SAS
Small states	SST
Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding high income)	SSA
Sub-Saharan Africa	SSF
Europe & Central Asia (IDA & IBRD)	TEC
Latin America & Caribbean (IDA & IBRD)	TLA
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan (IDA & IBRD)	TMN
Sub-Saharan Africa (IDA & IBRD)	TSS
South Asia (IDA & IBRD)	TSA
Upper middle income	UMC
East Asia & Pacific (IDA & IBRD)	TEA
World	WLD

Access and use

License

Name	URL
CC BY-4.0	https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Confidentiality status

PU

API documentation

Description	URL
Developer Information webpage (detailed documentation of the WDI API)	https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/topics/125589-developer-information

Sources and citation

Authoring entity

Affiliation	URL
United Nations Population Division, Eurostat, National Statistical Office	https://population.un.org/wpp/

Sources of data

Sources of data

Title

World Population Prospects

Author (Organization)

United Nations (UN)

Electronic location or identifier

UN Population Division

Sources of data

Title

Statistical databases and publications from national statistical offices

Author (Organization)

National Statistical Offices (NSOs)

Notes

Derived from male and female life expectancy at birth from sources such as statistical databases and publications from national statistical offices.

Sources of data

Title

Demographic Statistics

Author (Organization)

Eurostat (ESTAT)

Notes

Derived from male and female life expectancy at birth from sources such as Eurostat: Demographic Statistics.

Tags

Tags

Tag	Tag group
P2_000003	feature-topic-profile
Line Chart	feature-topic-profile-chart
P2	feature-theme-profile
Line Chart	feature-theme-profile-chart
AFG	overview-country-profile-country
ALB	overview-country-profile-country
DZA	overview-country-profile-country
AGO	overview-country-profile-country
ATG	overview-country-profile-country

ARG	overview-country-profile-country
ARM	overview-country-profile-country
ABW	overview-country-profile-country
AUS	overview-country-profile-country
AUT	overview-country-profile-country
AZE	overview-country-profile-country
BHS	overview-country-profile-country
BHR	overview-country-profile-country
BGD	overview-country-profile-country
BRB	overview-country-profile-country
BLR	overview-country-profile-country
BEL	overview-country-profile-country
BLZ	overview-country-profile-country
BEN	overview-country-profile-country
BMU	overview-country-profile-country
BTN	overview-country-profile-country
BOL	overview-country-profile-country
BIH	overview-country-profile-country
BWA	overview-country-profile-country
BRA	overview-country-profile-country
VGB	overview-country-profile-country
BRN	overview-country-profile-country
BGR	overview-country-profile-country
BFA	overview-country-profile-country
BDI	overview-country-profile-country
CPV	overview-country-profile-country
KHM	overview-country-profile-country
CMR	overview-country-profile-country
CAN	overview-country-profile-country
CAF	overview-country-profile-country
TCD	overview-country-profile-country
CHI	overview-country-profile-country
CHL	overview-country-profile-country
CHN	overview-country-profile-country
COL	overview-country-profile-country
COM	overview-country-profile-country
COD	overview-country-profile-country
COG	overview-country-profile-country
CRI	overview-country-profile-country
CIV	overview-country-profile-country
HRV	overview-country-profile-country
CUB	overview-country-profile-country

CUW	overview-country-profile-country
CYP	overview-country-profile-country
CZE	overview-country-profile-country
DNK	overview-country-profile-country
DJI	overview-country-profile-country
DMA	overview-country-profile-country
DOM	overview-country-profile-country
ECU	overview-country-profile-country
EGY	overview-country-profile-country
SLV	overview-country-profile-country
GNQ	overview-country-profile-country
ERI	overview-country-profile-country
EST	overview-country-profile-country
SWZ	overview-country-profile-country
ETH	overview-country-profile-country
FJI	overview-country-profile-country
FIN	overview-country-profile-country
FRA	overview-country-profile-country
PYF	overview-country-profile-country
GAB	overview-country-profile-country
GMB	overview-country-profile-country
GEO	overview-country-profile-country
DEU	overview-country-profile-country
GHA	overview-country-profile-country
GIB	overview-country-profile-country
GRC	overview-country-profile-country
GRD	overview-country-profile-country
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GTM	overview-country-profile-country
GIN	overview-country-profile-country
GNB	overview-country-profile-country
GUY	overview-country-profile-country
HTI	overview-country-profile-country
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HUN	overview-country-profile-country
ISL	overview-country-profile-country
IND	overview-country-profile-country
IDN	overview-country-profile-country
IRN	overview-country-profile-country
IRQ	overview-country-profile-country
IRL	overview-country-profile-country

IMN	overview-country-profile-country
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JPN	overview-country-profile-country
JOR	overview-country-profile-country
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LBY	overview-country-profile-country
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MAC	overview-country-profile-country
MDG	overview-country-profile-country
MWI	overview-country-profile-country
MYS	overview-country-profile-country
MDV	overview-country-profile-country
MLI	overview-country-profile-country
MLT	overview-country-profile-country
MHL	overview-country-profile-country
MRT	overview-country-profile-country
MUS	overview-country-profile-country
MEX	overview-country-profile-country
FSM	overview-country-profile-country
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MNG	overview-country-profile-country
MNE	overview-country-profile-country
MAR	overview-country-profile-country
MOZ	overview-country-profile-country
MMR	overview-country-profile-country
NAM	overview-country-profile-country
NRU	overview-country-profile-country
NPL	overview-country-profile-country

NLD	overview-country-profile-country
NCL	overview-country-profile-country
NZL	overview-country-profile-country
NIC	overview-country-profile-country
NER	overview-country-profile-country
NGA	overview-country-profile-country
MKD	overview-country-profile-country
NOR	overview-country-profile-country
OMN	overview-country-profile-country
PAK	overview-country-profile-country
PAN	overview-country-profile-country
PNG	overview-country-profile-country
PRY	overview-country-profile-country
PER	overview-country-profile-country
PHL	overview-country-profile-country
POL	overview-country-profile-country
PRT	overview-country-profile-country
PRI	overview-country-profile-country
QAT	overview-country-profile-country
ROU	overview-country-profile-country
RUS	overview-country-profile-country
RWA	overview-country-profile-country
WSM	overview-country-profile-country
STP	overview-country-profile-country
SAU	overview-country-profile-country
SEN	overview-country-profile-country
SRB	overview-country-profile-country
SLE	overview-country-profile-country
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SXM	overview-country-profile-country
SVK	overview-country-profile-country
SVN	overview-country-profile-country
SLB	overview-country-profile-country
SOM	overview-country-profile-country
ZAF	overview-country-profile-country
SSD	overview-country-profile-country
ESP	overview-country-profile-country
LKA	overview-country-profile-country
KNA	overview-country-profile-country
LCA	overview-country-profile-country
MAF	overview-country-profile-country
VCT	overview-country-profile-country

SDN	overview-country-profile-country
SUR	overview-country-profile-country
SWE	overview-country-profile-country
CHE	overview-country-profile-country
SYR	overview-country-profile-country
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ZWE	overview-country-profile-country
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SYC	overview-country-profile-country
PLW	overview-country-profile-country
PSE	overview-country-profile-country
LIE	overview-country-profile-country
CYM	overview-country-profile-country
P2	benchmark-country-profile-pillar
P2	overview-country-profile-pillar
WB_WDI	feature-dataset-profile

EAS	overview-region-profile-region
ECS	overview-region-profile-region
MEA	overview-region-profile-region
NAC	overview-region-profile-region
SAS	overview-region-profile-region
SSF	overview-region-profile-region
AFE	overview-region-profile-region
AFW	overview-region-profile-region
P2	overview-region-profile-pillar
P2	benchmark-region-profile-pillar
P2	feature-region-profile-pillar