

Ageing, longevity and demographic change:

A factpack of statistics from the International Longevity Centre-UK, July 2013



The International Longevity Centre-UK (ILC-UK) is an independent, non-partisan think-tank dedicated to addressing issues of longevity, ageing and population change. www.ilcuk.org.uk

We develop ideas, undertake research and create a forum for debate



In 2012, ILC-UK found that over one-in-ten of the public did not foresee any growth in the population of oldest old (85+) by 2050. Conversely, a further one-in-ten of the public anticipated that a quarter or more of us would be aged 85+ by 2050.

So who's right, the 'demographic deniers' or the 'ageing alarmists'?

Just how rapidly are we ageing and what impact will this have on our lives?

In this factpack we pull together statistics from public sources as well as our own work, on population ageing in the UK and the way in which this has affected:

- Care needs
- Dementia
- Labour market participation
- Pensions and financial issues
- Housing
- Transport
- New technology
- Intergenerational relations
- The global context

This factpack will help those with an interest in population ageing access statistics quickly, and can serve as a springboard for further research.

How up to date is it? Data varies but the most current references have been used and the pack will be updated periodically.

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How old are we?

- The median age of the population in England and Wales is 39. In 1911, the median age was 25.¹
- One in six of us in England and Wales is now aged 65 and over. This is an increase of 900,000 on 2001. Meanwhile, the population aged over 90 rose from 0.7 per cent (336,000) in 2001 to 0.8 per cent (429,000) in 2011.²

At 12.2 million, the number of pensioners in the UK is equivalent to the combined populations of Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.³



- In 1911, 30.6 per cent of the population of England and Wales was aged 14 or under; in 2011 this percentage fell to under 18 per cent. Over the same period the proportion of the population aged 65-89 rose from 5.2 to 15.7 per cent.⁴
- In Scotland, 16.2 per cent of the population is aged 14 and under and 17.0 per cent are 65 and above.⁵

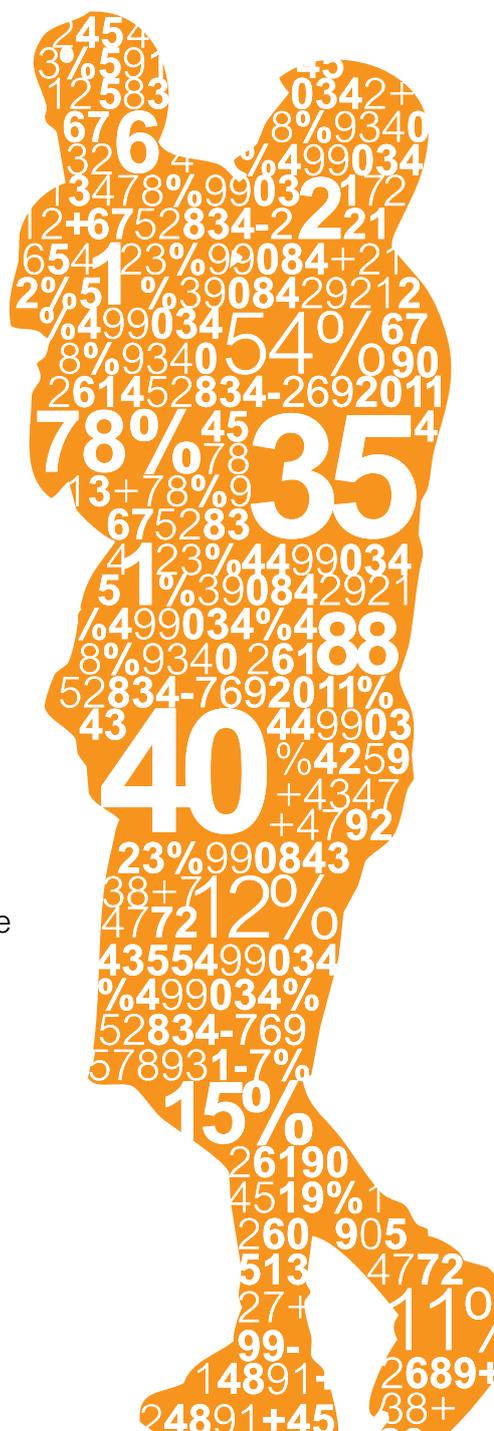
¹ ONSa 2012

² ONSa 2012

³ ONSa 2012

⁴ ONSa 2012

⁵ National Records for Scotland, 2011





In 2010 there were 12,640 centenarians in the UK. This number is projected to increase to 160,000 by 2040 and over half a million by 2066 (equivalent to the population of Luxembourg).⁶

- Northern Ireland has a younger population structure. 19.9 per cent of the population is aged 14 and under whilst 14.7 per cent 65 and above.⁷

Population by age and sex, mid 2012, England and Wales

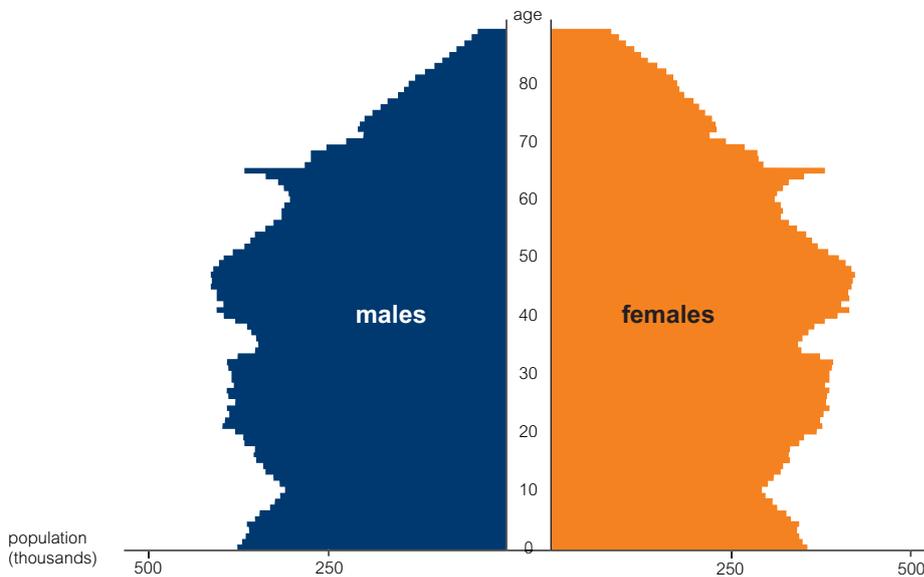


Figure 1: Population by age and sex, 2012 (Source, Office for National Statistics, Annual Mid-Year Population Estimates for England and Wales, 2013)

The wide bars for those ages 40-49 and 63-64 represent the 1960s baby boom and the post WWII spike in births and the widening base shows that birth have increased over the last ten years.

⁶ ONSb 2012
⁷ NISRA 2012

54%
40

How long will we live?

- Around one-third of babies born in 2012 in the United Kingdom are expected to survive to celebrate their 100th birthday.⁸
- The number of people of State Pension Age (SPA) in the UK is projected to increase by 28 per cent to 15.6 million by 2035. This reflects the higher number of people born immediately after the Second World War and also those who were born in the 1960s 'baby boom'.⁹
- In 2009-2011 in England and Wales, life expectancy at age 65 was 18.2 years for men and 20.8 years for women.¹⁰



Centenarians in the UK

12,640 **160,000**¹¹
in 2010 in 2040

9%
340
4-2692011

Life expectancy at birth¹²



Males
78.2

Females
82.3



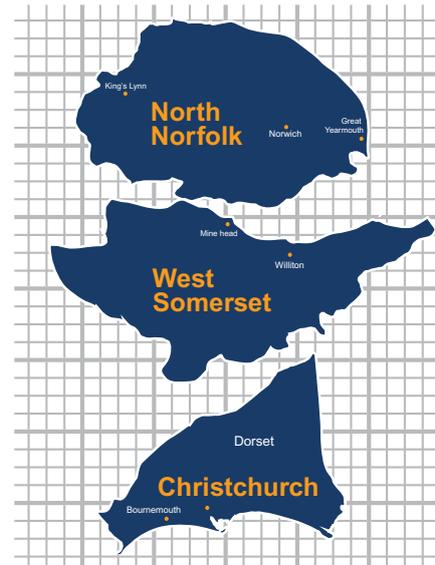
⁸ ONSc 2012
⁹ ONS 2011
¹⁰ ONSa 2013

¹¹ ONSb 2012
¹² ONSa 2012

Where are we ageing?

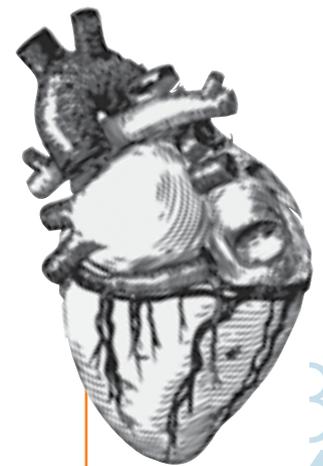
Although there are some ageing 'hotspots' (on the Local Authority level), notably in **North Norfolk**, **West Somerset** and **Christchurch in Dorset** where over 28 per cent of residents are 65 and over, older people comprise a relatively consistent proportion of the population throughout England and Wales at around 16 per cent.¹³

The proportion of over 65s in Northern Ireland is 14.7 per cent¹⁴ and higher in Scotland at 20 per cent.¹⁵



Are we getting healthier?

- In 2008-10, Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE, defined as life spent in good or very good health) for males at birth in the UK was 63.5 years, equivalent to more than 81 per cent of total Life Expectancy (LE) spent in very good or good general health.¹⁶
- For UK females, HLE at birth was more than two years higher at 65.7 years, equivalent to 80 per cent of total life expectancy.¹⁷
- Males at age 65 in the UK could expect to live for a further 10.1 years in very good or good general health - equivalent to 56.8 per cent of their remaining lives.¹⁸
- Females in the UK at age 65 could expect to live for a further 11.6 years in very good or good general health - also equivalent to 56.8 per cent of their remaining lives.¹⁹
- Coronary heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death for both men and women aged 65 years and older in England and Wales.²⁰
- Gains in life expectancy have outstripped gains in healthy life expectancy meaning that increasingly life is lived in ill-health. Meanwhile, the gap in LE and HLE between social classes persisted between 1971 and 2005. Lower social classes continue to have shorter life expectancy and healthy life expectancy.²¹



Healthy life expectancy

Median age of the UK population is 39.7 years.²²

¹³ ONSa 2012

¹⁴ NISRA 2012

¹⁵ National Records for Scotland

¹⁶ ONSd 2012

¹⁷ ONSd 2012

¹⁸ ONSd 2012

¹⁹ ONSd 2012

²⁰ ONSe 2012

²¹ Marmot 2010

²² ONSd 2012

Care needs

- 3 per cent of older people aged 65 years and above live in residential care in the UK.²³ An estimated 1 per cent live in housing with care.²⁴
- Spending on health care is projected to see the largest rise of all elements of age related spending, by 2.3 per cent by 2061/62 (equivalent to a rise of around £36bn in today's money).²⁵
- Spending on long term care is projected to rise by around £14bn by 2061/62.²⁶
- There are estimated to be over six and a half million carers in the UK. This is an increase of over 600,000 people since the last census.²⁷
- Three in five people will be carers at some point in their lives.²⁸
- The vast majority of care is provided by family, friends and relatives and the care they provide is worth an estimated £119bn per year – considerably more than total spending on the NHS.²⁹

Dementia

- Dementia cost the UK economy £23bn in 2008 - greater than the costs of cancer and heart disease combined.³⁰
- Of the top four diseases in the UK (dementia, cancer, stroke and heart disease), dementia contributes 52% of the costs, but receives only 6% of the funding.³¹
- The average cost of dementia care per person is £24,647 per annum, more than the average UK salary.³²
- £121 million could be saved on care home places every month if residents were supported to remain at home.³³

Only 40% of people with dementia are being diagnosed. If there is no improvement in diagnosis, there will be 1/2 million people undiagnosed in 10 years.³⁴

²³ Sutherland 2011

²⁴ see ILC-UK, *Establishing the extra in Extra Care* 2011

²⁵ see ILC-UK, *'Living Beyond 100': A report on centenarians* 2011

²⁶ see ILC-UK, *The cost of our ageing society* 2012

²⁷ Carers UK 2012

²⁸ Carers UK 2012

²⁹ Carers UK 2012

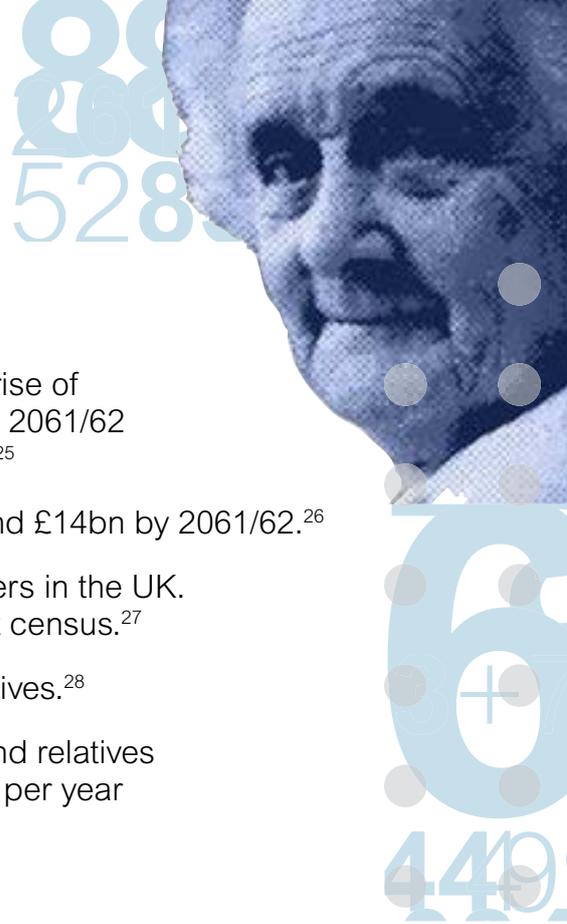
³⁰ Alzheimer's Research Trust 2010

³¹ Luengo-Fernandez et al. 2010, see also ILC-UK 2010 *The Impact of Demographic Change on Public Services* 2012

³² Luengo-Fernandez et al. 2010

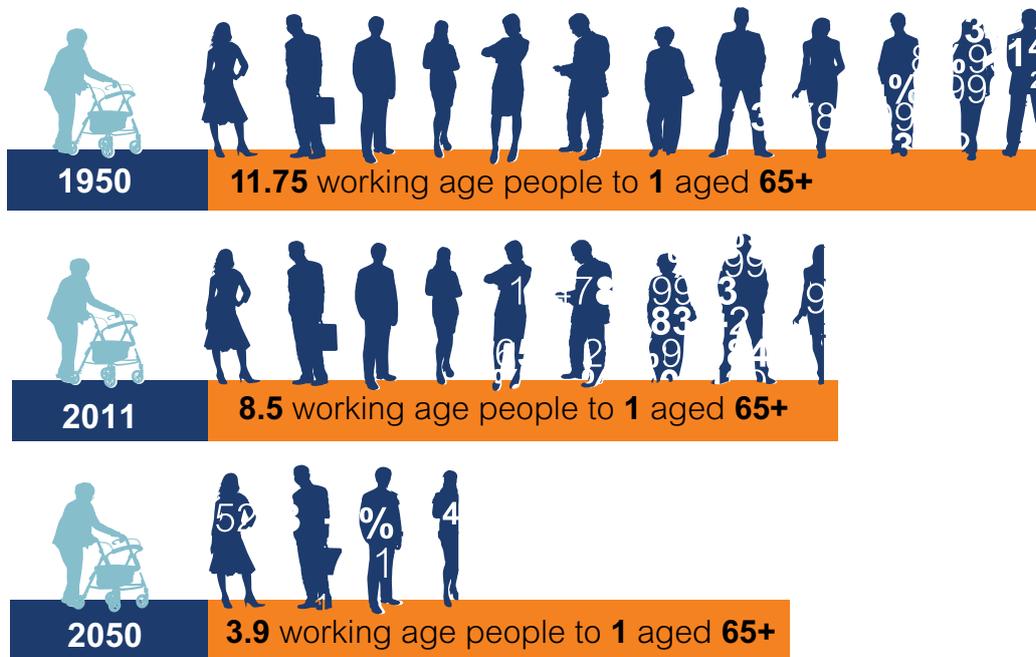
³³ Alzheimer's Society 2011a

³⁴ Alzheimer's Research Trust 2010



Labour market participation

The number of people of working age (15- 64) to number aged 65+ (figures for a world population)³⁵



- In June 2013, there were over 1 million workers over the age of 65 in the UK – the highest number since records began.³⁷
- In 2011 there were 8.5 working age people to 1 person aged over 65. However, it is incorrect to assume that all over 65s are ‘dependent’ and no longer economically active just as it is to assume that all people of ‘working age’ are in employment.³⁸
- Lower dependency ratios are found in areas with lower proportions of older people such as Northern Ireland and urban centres. Higher support ratios can be found along the Southern and Eastern coastal regions.³⁹
- The level of self-employment in the 50+ age group is about 1 in 5, considerably higher than levels across all ages.⁴⁰ Years of experience and expertise means that this group of start-up entrepreneurs is more likely to succeed, with over 70% lasting more than 5 years, compared with 28% of younger entrepreneurs.⁴¹

Within the UK, the proportion of 55 to 64 year olds in work is expected to increase from 60 per cent to around 70 per cent between 2010 and 2060.³⁶

³⁵ ONSg 2012

³⁶ European Commission 2012

³⁷ ONSb 2013

³⁸ ILC-UK, The cost of our ageing society 2012

³⁹ ONSa 2012

⁴⁰ Age UK 2012

⁴¹ Age UK 2012

Pensions and financial issues

- Spending in the UK on public pensions (state pension, benefits and public service pensions) is projected to rise from an annual cost of 8.9 per cent to 10.8 per cent of GDP between 2016/17 and 2061/62, a rise of 1.9 percentage points. This is equivalent to a rise of around £33bn.⁴²
- In 2010-11 over 80 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women were actively contributing to private pensions, receiving income from private pensions or had contributed at some time in the past.⁴³
- Starting to draw a private pension income is not synonymous with leaving the labour market: in 2010–11, 47 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women aged 60–64 who were in receipt of an income from a private pension were still in work.⁴⁴
- From October 2012, it is compulsory for larger employers to enrol their workers into a workplace pension scheme to help them save for retirement and automatic enrolment will be gradually introduced over the next five years for all employers.

The pension pot

The number of people of state pension age is

12.2 million.

By **2035** it is projected to be

15.6 million.⁴⁵



Housing

- 76 per cent of older households are owner-occupiers and most own outright.⁴⁷ However, older people are also more likely than younger people to live in social housing.⁴⁸
- 18 per cent of those 60 and older in the UK are living in fuel poverty (defined as spending more than 10 per cent of income on heating).⁴⁹
- The proportion of men who own their own home does not decrease with age whilst for women, there is a fall in home ownership from 71 to 59 per cent between the ages of 80-84 and 85+.⁵⁰
- Retirement housing is defined as grouped dwellings designated for older people (55/65+). In 2010, there were around 610,000 retirement housing units in the UK; 90 per cent were 'with support' (e.g. sheltered housing), and 10 per cent 'with care' (e.g. extra-care housing).⁵¹
- Over 3.4 million over 65s live alone, representing 44 per cent of the total population living alone in the UK in 2011.⁵²



Around one-third of all households are older (55+) households. This proportion applies across most regions except for the South West (40 per cent) and London (22 per cent).⁴⁶

⁴² See ILC-UK, *The cost of our ageing society* 2012

⁴³ ELSA 2012

⁴⁴ Marmot & Steptoe 2012

⁴⁵ ONSg 2012

⁴⁶ JRFa 2012

⁴⁷ JRFb 2012

⁴⁸ See ILC-UK, *Establishing the extra in Extra Care* 2011

⁴⁹ JRFb 2012

⁵⁰ Gjonca et al. 2008

⁵¹ JRFb 2012

⁵² ONSh 2012



Transport

- The percentage of over 70 year olds holding a driving licence in Great Britain has grown from 15 per cent in 1985 to almost 54 per cent in 2009.⁵³
- It is predicted that 10 million people over the age of 70 in Great Britain will have a driving licence by 2050.⁵⁴
- In 2011/12, there were around 9.8 million older and disabled concessionary bus passes in England, with an average of 109 bus journeys per pass per year.⁵⁵

New technology

- 85 per cent of households below the state pension age have internet access at home. This drops to 56 per cent of 65-74 year olds and 28 per cent of 75+ year olds.⁵⁶
- In the UK there are 7.1 million people who have never used the internet, with people aged 75 and over making up 43% of this group.⁵⁷
- Nearly all (99 per cent) 25-34s own a mobile phone, four out of five 65-74 year olds and three in five over-75s.⁵⁸
- More than a third (37%) of 45-64 year olds now own a smartphone; amongst 65-74s this figure is less than one in ten (8%) and 3% in the over-75s.⁵⁹



⁵³ DfT 2010, see also ILC-UK, *Can older drivers be nudged?* 2011
⁵⁴ Box et al. 2010
⁵⁵ DfT 2012
⁵⁶ Ofcom 2013
⁵⁷ ONSc 2013
⁵⁸ Ofcom 2012
⁵⁹ Ofcom 2012

The global context

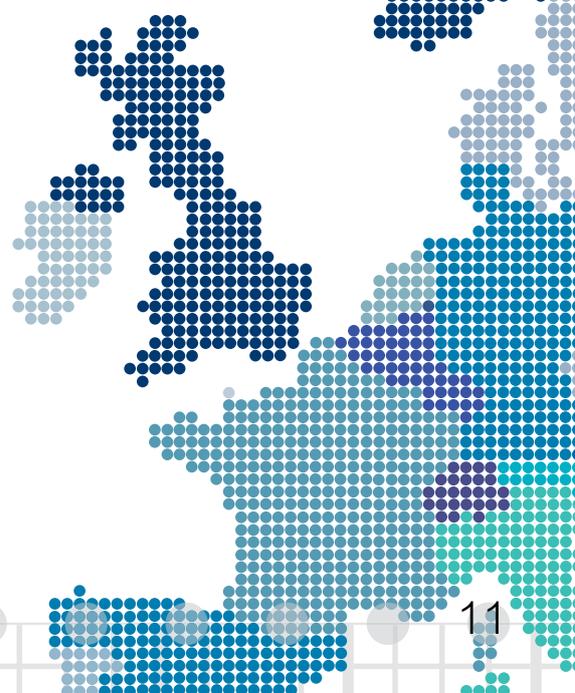
- Global life expectancy at birth in 2011 stood at 70 years,⁶⁷ and is expected to reach 75 in 2050.⁶⁸
- Life expectancy is at 80 or above in 32 countries.⁶⁹
- Ageing is not solely a phenomenon of high income countries; the current rate of ageing in less developed countries is greater than that in more developed countries. The number of people aged 60 and over is expected to increase almost fourfold in low income countries from 2012 by 2050, which is more than double the rate of increase in high income countries.⁷⁰
- By 2050, the number of people aged 60 and over will reach 2 billion and make up 22 per cent of the population; by 2030 they will number 1.4 billion and make up 17 per cent; in 2012 older people aged 60 number 0.8 billion and make up 11 per cent of the population.⁷¹
- By 2047, for the first time in human history, a higher proportion of people in the world will be aged 60 and over (21.0 per cent) than under 15 (20.8 per cent).⁷²
- If age-specific dementia prevalence rate remains constant, global ageing of populations will result in an almost doubling in the prevalence of dementia world-wide, from 35.6 million people with dementia to 65.7 million in 2030.⁷³
- The global cost of dementia is 1 per cent of global GDP or \$604 billion.⁷⁴



Euro 11th

Life expectancy

The UK's ranking in terms of life expectancy in the EU.⁷⁵



⁶⁸ WHOa 2013
⁶⁹ Wilmoth & Horiuchi 1999
⁷⁰ WHOb 2013
⁷¹ UN 2011

⁷² UN, 2011
⁷³ UN 2011
⁷⁴ ADI, 2009
⁷⁵ ADI, 2010
⁷⁶ Eurostat 2013

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