# Change in life expectancy, UK compared with other high income nations

Table R1.1 shows the average annual change in life expectancy by decade for XX HMD nations including the UK. Figure R1.1A in the webappendix R1.A shows the same results graphically, with countries arranged by average annual improvement in the 2010s.

The countries with the fastest average improvement in life expectancies in the 2010s include Belarus (0.38 years/year for females, 0.61 years/year for males), Ukraine (0.34 females, 0.49 males), Russia (0.34 females, 0.48 males), Lithuania (0.23 females, 0.45 males), and Poland (0.25 females, 0.32 males). By contrast, the countries with the slowest improvements in the 2010s include the USA (0.05 females, 0.03 males), Iceland (0.04 females, 0.09 males), the United Kingdom (0.09 females, 0.16 males), Netherlands (0.07 females, 0.19 males), and Germany (0.10 females, 0.17 males).

In general, there appears a tendency for those countries with the worst changes in the 1980s and 1990s to have the fastest rates of improvement in the 2010s, and vice-versa, with the fastest recent gains seen in Russia and Eastern European nations, and the slowest gains in the USA, the UK, and other rich Western European nations. For many countries - including the USA, Iceland, the UK, Canada, Taiwan, Spain, Ireland and Estonia – there were faster rates of improvement in the 2000s than in earlier decades, especially for males. However not all of these countries with fast rates of improvements in the 2000s then saw exceptionally low rates of improvement in the 2010s.

The similarity between average rates of improvement in the 2010s in Germany and the UK is noteworthy, with average sex specific improvement rates within 0.01 years per year of each other (0.09 compared with 0.10 for females in the UK and Germany respectively; 0.16 compared with 0.17 for males). The German data covers 2010-2017 inclusive, whereas for the UK the data extends to 2016. Further analysis of annual improvement rates in the USA, the UK, the Netherlands and Germany is presented in appendix R1.B.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Female** | | | | **Male** | | | |
| Country | 1980s | 1990s | 2000s | 2010s | 1980s | 1990s | 2000s | 2010s |
| USA | 0.120 | 0.079 | 0.165 | 0.047 | 0.180 | 0.232 | 0.217 | 0.029 |
| Iceland | 0.003 | 0.127 | 0.223 | 0.040 | 0.302 | 0.133 | 0.222 | 0.091 |
| United Kingdom | 0.168 | 0.168 | 0.244 | 0.091 | 0.230 | 0.229 | 0.316 | 0.164 |
| Netherlands | 0.086 | 0.053 | 0.221 | 0.067 | 0.136 | 0.167 | 0.321 | 0.191 |
| Germany |  | 0.259 | 0.173 | 0.101 |  | 0.297 | 0.266 | 0.165 |
| Sweden | 0.190 | 0.133 | 0.144 | 0.099 | 0.222 | 0.229 | 0.227 | 0.174 |
| Bulgaria | 0.112 | 0.019 | 0.223 | 0.126 | -0.018 | -0.009 | 0.197 | 0.150 |
| Israel | 0.310 | 0.220 | 0.272 | 0.134 | 0.280 | 0.181 | 0.303 | 0.147 |
| Luxembourg | 0.314 | 0.275 | 0.220 | 0.123 | 0.154 | 0.306 | 0.386 | 0.180 |
| Canada | 0.186 | 0.118 | 0.169 | 0.131 | 0.252 | 0.225 | 0.270 | 0.176 |
| Taiwan | 0.216 | 0.216 | 0.335 | 0.170 | 0.181 | 0.173 | 0.292 | 0.138 |
| Japan | 0.337 | 0.212 | 0.244 | 0.119 | 0.286 | 0.121 | 0.236 | 0.199 |
| Australia | 0.129 | 0.267 | 0.199 | 0.127 | 0.224 | 0.339 | 0.299 | 0.191 |
| France | 0.251 | 0.185 | 0.190 | 0.109 | 0.256 | 0.249 | 0.281 | 0.211 |
| Greece | 0.186 | 0.149 | 0.216 | 0.122 | 0.135 | 0.109 | 0.193 | 0.240 |
| Austria | 0.291 | 0.217 | 0.202 | 0.130 | 0.328 | 0.288 | 0.262 | 0.235 |
| Belgium | 0.251 | 0.195 | 0.157 | 0.139 | 0.272 | 0.205 | 0.279 | 0.229 |
| Spain | 0.217 | 0.194 | 0.221 | 0.163 | 0.120 | 0.199 | 0.314 | 0.239 |
| Finland | 0.116 | 0.213 | 0.208 | 0.136 | 0.181 | 0.287 | 0.274 | 0.274 |
| Switzerland | 0.231 | 0.154 | 0.171 | 0.150 | 0.203 | 0.272 | 0.285 | 0.271 |
| Norway | 0.074 | 0.128 | 0.194 | 0.157 | 0.110 | 0.228 | 0.298 | 0.268 |
| Czechia | 0.168 | 0.265 | 0.222 | 0.195 | 0.146 | 0.321 | 0.283 | 0.231 |
| Hungary | 0.107 | 0.178 | 0.263 | 0.143 | -0.031 | 0.143 | 0.345 | 0.305 |
| Slovenia | 0.393 | 0.203 | 0.301 | 0.175 | 0.410 | 0.249 | 0.402 | 0.291 |
| Italy | 0.303 | 0.205 | 0.199 | 0.192 | 0.324 | 0.247 | 0.311 | 0.276 |
| Portugal | 0.333 | 0.171 | 0.288 | 0.212 | 0.332 | 0.163 | 0.374 | 0.258 |
| Ireland | 0.212 | 0.155 | 0.355 | 0.166 | 0.201 | 0.169 | 0.423 | 0.305 |
| Slovakia | 0.113 | 0.181 | 0.186 | 0.201 | 0.011 | 0.204 | 0.254 | 0.296 |
| Latvia | 0.111 | -0.013 | 0.263 | 0.242 | 0.177 | -0.114 | 0.332 | 0.286 |
| New Zealand | 0.244 | 0.238 | 0.215 | 0.228 | 0.198 | 0.357 | 0.320 | 0.302 |
| Denmark | 0.064 | 0.113 | 0.215 | 0.250 | 0.090 | 0.222 | 0.263 | 0.301 |
| Poland | 0.110 | 0.223 | 0.253 | 0.251 | 0.078 | 0.217 | 0.298 | 0.319 |
| Lithuania | 0.064 | 0.073 | 0.160 | 0.229 | 0.140 | -0.051 | 0.079 | 0.447 |
| Estonia | 0.069 | 0.123 | 0.392 | 0.281 | 0.164 | -0.052 | 0.481 | 0.460 |
| Russia | 0.170 | -0.207 | 0.236 | 0.340 | 0.312 | -0.433 | 0.298 | 0.482 |
| Ukraine | 0.126 | -0.158 | 0.124 | 0.338 | 0.168 | -0.352 | 0.174 | 0.490 |
| Belarus | 0.083 | -0.242 | 0.245 | 0.379 | 0.087 | -0.454 | 0.248 | 0.613 |

Table R.1 Average annual life expectancy changes by decade, arranged by average gain in 2010s. (Lowest at top.) Source: Human Mortality Database