

Analytical Paper

**Life Tables, Canada, Provinces
and Territories, 1980/1982 to 2018/2020
(three-year estimates), and 1980 to 2020
(single-year estimates)**

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LIFE TABLES, CANADA, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES 1980/1982 TO 2018/2020 (THREE-YEAR ESTIMATES), AND 1980 TO 2020 (SINGLE-YEAR ESTIMATES)¹

For Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, two sets of complete life tables are available:

- **Three-year complete life tables: [Table 13-10-0114](#);**
- **Single-year complete life tables: [Table 13-10-0837](#).**

For Prince Edward Island, Yukon,² Northwest Territories and Nunavut, three-year abridged life tables are available: [Table 13-10-0140](#)

Click [here](#) to obtain the life tables in Excel format.

The life tables include various indicators that can be used to describe mortality in a population at a given point in time: life expectancy, death probabilities, probabilities of survival, survivors at various ages and years lived. It answers many statistical needs, especially in the health, epidemiology and actuarial sectors, and allows for comparisons to be made between regions or over time.

Complete life tables, by single years of age and sex, are produced for Canada as a whole and for nine provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Complete life tables are available for three-year estimates and for single-year estimates.

Single-year life tables can be useful for granular analysis of time variations and for highlighting the most recent trends. However, for comparisons between regions or for the analysis of long-term mortality trends, it is recommended that three-year life tables be used, especially for the less populated provinces. Compared to single-year life tables, three-year life tables provide more robust and more stable estimates of mortality indicators and require less imputation to produce (especially at young ages when the number of deaths is often low).

Abridged life tables (by five-year age groups) by sex are produced for Prince Edward Island, Yukon,² the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The population size of this province and the three territories are too small to allow the calculation of complete life tables or single-year life tables with sufficient accuracy. Northwest Territories and Nunavut are treated separately in the construction of 1998/2000 and 1999/2001 mortality tables, even though Nunavut was officially created on April 1, 1999.

1 Three-year complete and abridged life tables for the periods from 2015/2017 to 2018/2020 and single-year complete life tables for the years from 2017 to 2020 are considered "preliminary". These tables will be updated at a later time to take into account deaths that could have occurred between 2017 and 2020 but have not yet been recorded (late registrations).

2. Data on deaths that occurred in Yukon and deaths of residents of Yukon that occurred in other provinces or territories are not available from 2017 to 2020. Owing to that lack, three-year abridged life tables have not been calculated for Yukon for the periods from 2015/2017 to 2018/2020. Additionally, data for Yukon was not included in the imputation process for these periods (used when the population or death numbers were insufficient for a combination of sex, age and province or territory) and for calculation of complete life tables for Canada.

Changes for this release

Description	Effective period
Three-year complete life tables^{1, 2}	
New estimates	2018/2020
Updates on death counts	2015/2017 to 2017/2019
Updates on population estimates	2017 to 2021
Adjustments for missing data in Yukon ²	2015/2017 to 2018/2020
Single-year complete life tables^{1,2}	
New series	1980 to 2020
Three-year abridged life tables^{1,2}	
New estimates	2018/2020
Updated deaths count	2015/2017 to 2017/2019
Updates on population estimates	2017 to 2021
Adjustments for missing data in Yukon ²	2015/2017 to 2018/2020

Note: See footnotes 1 and 2 on previous page.

Methods

The methods used for the life tables are described in the document *Methods for Constructing Life Tables for Canada, Provinces and Territories*, catalogue no. 84-538. All of the Statistics Canada life tables computed in this series are based on this revised methodology which takes into account recent progress in the field of mortality studies.

Definitions of the elements included in the life tables

The following elements are available in all life tables included in this document.

Age (age interval):

The major visual difference between the complete and abridged life tables lies in the age groupings for which the estimates have been produced.

In complete life tables, there is only one age value per row, which indicates the exact age for the number of survivors, the cumulative number of life years lived and the life expectancy. For the number of deaths, death and survival probabilities, as well as the number of life years lived, the interval in the life table represent the interval between two exact ages. For example, death at age 30 means that the death occurred on or after the 30th birthday but before reaching the 31st birthday.

The presentation is the same in abridged life tables, but the age intervals are of the form $(x, x+(n-1))$; that is, both ages x and $x+(n-1)$ are included in the interval. For example, the age interval 40 to 44 comprises deaths occurring among 40 to 44 year-olds. Most age intervals in abridged life tables span five years. The exceptions occur in the first two rows of these tables and for the last row: the first row (age 0) represents a one-year interval and the second row, a four-year interval (ages 1 to 4). The last row is an open age interval, 90 years and over.

l_x (number of survivors at age x):

Number of persons in an initial cohort of 100,000 live births who are still alive at the beginning of each subsequent age interval. The number of survivors decreases as age increases, under the effect of mortality.

It is possible to compute, from the number of survivors, probabilities of survival between two ages. For example, if the number of survivors is 99,297 at age 10 and 98,935 at age 20, the probability of surviving from age 10 to age 20 is $98,935 / 99,297$, that is, 0.99635.

d_x (number of deaths between age x and $x+n$):

Number of deaths which occur in each age interval among the initial cohort of 100,000 live births at age 0.

q_x (death probability between age x and $x+n$):

Probability that a person of age x dies before reaching age $x+n$.

m.e. (q_x) (margin of error associated with the death probability):

Margin of error associated with the death probability. For example, a margin of error of 0.00020 for a death probability at age 0 of 0.00556 enables the construction of a 95% confidence interval with lower and upper limits of 0.00536 and 0.00576.

p_x (probability of survival between age x and $x+n$):

Probability that a person of age x survives up to year $x+n$.

L_x (number of life years lived between age x and $x+n$):

Number of life years lived by persons between age x and $x+n$. Life years lived are also considered as the stationary population of the life table. Except for ages from 0 to 4 where a separation factor is computed (see the document *Methods for Constructing Life Tables for Canada, Provinces and Territories*, catalogue no. 84-538), the assumption made is that the deaths are distributed evenly over time within the age interval.

T_x (cumulative number of life years lived beyond age x):

Total number of life years lived by persons of age x and all those included in subsequent age intervals.

e_x (life expectancy at age x):

Average number of years remaining to be lived by persons at age x if these persons would experience, during their life, the mortality observed over the reference period.

m.e. (e_x) (margin of error associated with the life expectancy):

Margin of error associated with the life expectancy at age x . For example, a margin of error of 0.2 on a life expectancy at birth of 81.9 years enables the construction of a 95% confidence interval with lower and upper limits of 81.7 years and 82.1 years.