

After the Fall (II)

Brian Ridsdale suggests that life expectancy in the UK isn't declining so much as increasing at a slower rate ([Letters, 30 August](#)). On 7 August the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released a comparison of mortality trends in twenty countries. It reveals that life expectancy in the UK peaked in 2014 at 82.99 years for women and 79.25 years for men. Both figures fell in 2015 and dropped lower still in 2016. Figures for 2017 are not yet available. The ONS report also showed that the UK and US had the worst recent record of all twenty countries. Life expectancy is still rising in the other 18 countries that have released data for 2016. It has been rising most steeply in Finland, Norway and Denmark for men, and in the Czech Republic, Denmark and Japan for women.

Danny Dorling
Oxford

Sources : ONS Analysis of 7 August 2018:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/articles/changingtrendsintortalityaninternationalcomparison/2000to2016>

Source of data within that source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/articles/changingtrendsintortalityaninternationalcomparison/2000to2016>

Letter written in response to: <https://www.lrb.co.uk/v40/n16/letters#letter11>