

Summary

Whilst 1.9 million pensioners nationally are still experiencing relatively low incomes, pensioner poverty has fallen drastically over the last 15 years, with pensioner households less likely to be on a low income than households with working age adults or households with children. Despite this, Reading still has a higher than average rate of older people in poverty.

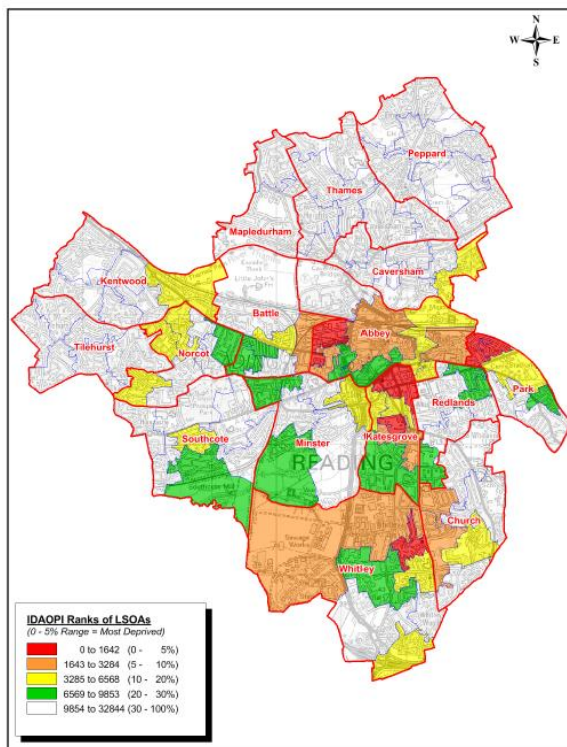
Census overview

	Number	%
All usual residents	155,698	100.0
Age 60 to 64	6,373	4.1
Age 65 to 74	9,058	5.8
Age 75 to 84	6,132	3.9
Age 85 to 89	1,704	1.1
Age 90 and over	938	0.6
All residents 60+	24,205	15.5

The 60-74 age group has increased by 8% since 2001. There has been a slight decrease in the 75+ age group.

Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

Index of income deprivation affecting older people



The 2015 IMD indicates that relative deprivation amongst older people has increased since 2010, with 30 Lower Super Output Areas in the 20% most deprived, 14 LSOAs in the 10% most deprived, and 6 LSOAs in the 5% most deprived nationally.

Reading ranks 81st on this indicator out of 326 local authorities.

Population projections

According to the ONS 2014-based population projections, the proportion of the population aged 60+ will rise from 15.9% in 2016 to 22.3% by 2039.

Benefits claimants

Although pensioner poverty may have fallen at a national level, the proportion of deprived people aged 65 and over in Reading is above the average for South East.

Benefit claimants over 65

Benefit	May 2017		May 2016	
	No claimants	Rate	No claimants	Rate
Disability Living Allowance	890	4.5%	1,010	5.2%
Pension Credits	3,490	17.8%	3,620	18.6%
Carers Allowance	60	0.3%	50	0.3%
Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disablement	30	0.2%	40	0.2%

Source: NOMIS and ONS 2016 & 2015 mid-year estimates

JSA claimant count

The rate for JSA claimants in Reading over 50 is higher than the rate for the South East but in line with the national average, and has increased since Dec 2016.

JSA claimant rate over 50

	Dec 2017	Dec 2016
Reading	0.5%	0.4%
South East	0.3%	0.3%
England	0.5%	0.4%

Source: NOMIS

Excess winter deaths

The ratio of excess winter deaths to expected deaths¹ increased in Reading to the highest in the country in the period 2008-2011 (3 year average). Since then, the ratio has fallen to around the national average. Both the Reading and national ratios have decreased since the previous period.

Excess winter deaths

	2013-16	2012-15	2011-14	2010-13
Reading	17.7	25.7	19.1	23.3
England	17.9	19.6	15.6	17.4

Source: Public Health England Health Profile 2017

¹ the number of additional deaths that occurred between December and March expressed as a percentage of the number of deaths expected to occur in a different four month period