



Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics update

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Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Actions for PAMS members ahead of meeting	Review the paper and provide comments/feedback
Aims for discussion	To update PAMS members on developments in population and migration statistics, and seek feedback.
Key questions for PAMS members	Let us know if you would like to talk to us about your needs for population and migration statistics.
What is required from PAMS members	Comments/feedback on the paper, or any other aspects of our work.

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee

Population and Migration Statistics update

Introduction

1. This paper provides an update on recent work and developments in population and migration statistics.

Publications

2. Publications since the last PAMS meeting:
 - [Mid-2020 Population Estimates Scotland](#) published on 25 June, alongside detailed [migration statistics](#). These were published at the same time as other parts of the UK, and incorporated the new, modelled estimates of international migration produced by ONS, for the period from March 2020 onwards, when the International Passenger Survey was suspended.
 - [Mid-2020 Small Area Population Estimates for Scotland](#) was published on 24 August. This included a new [interactive map](#), to let you see population change or age structure in all data zones across a council area.
 - [Centenarians in Scotland 2020](#) published on 23 September.
 - [Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, 2020](#) published on 17 September. As with the equivalent statistics produced by other parts of the UK, the publication was delayed in order to use the new reweighting methods used for the Labour Force Survey, and the publication explained that this reweighting could affect the figures and how they can be interpreted.
 - [Local area migration statistics, Scotland](#), published on 24 August and updated on 29 September with additional data. This publication brings together migration-related indicators, for councils and NHS Board areas, from different sources. It includes time series data up to 2020 to help understand migration trends at a local level.

3. Future publications:

25 November 2021	Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, July 2020 to June 2021
6 December 2021	National Population Projections for Scotland, 2020-based

March 2022	Mid-Year Population Estimates, settlements and localities - Mid-2020
April 2022	Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2021 (provisional – date is dependent on receiving international migration statistics from ONS)
April 2022	Migration Statistics, Mid 2021 (provisional – see above)

Mid-year Population Estimates

Mid-2020 population estimates were published on 25th June. These took into account changes up to 30 June 2020 meaning only part of the year (March to June 2020) was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data source most affected by the pandemic was international migration estimates. In March 2020, the International Passenger Survey (IPS) was suspended. This was previously the main data source for measuring international migration at Scotland level. For the mid-2020 population estimates, international migration for Scotland was estimated using the established IPS method up to February 2020. For March 2020 onwards, we used modelled estimates of international migration developed by the ONS.

Work on the mid-2021 population estimates has begun. These are provisionally planned for release in April 2022, however the publication date is dependent on the availability of international migration estimates (see migration statistics update below).

Migration Statistics

Detailed migration flow tables were published alongside the mid-year estimates on 25 June; this included part-modelled estimates of international migration (see Mid-year Population Estimates update above). Work on the next set of migration flow estimates for mid-2021 has started.

Local Area Migration statistics for 2020 were published on 24 August. An interactive tool is also available.

As part of the ongoing transformation programme for migration statistics (being led by ONS), the International Passenger Survey (IPS) being stretched beyond its initial purpose, and the impact of COVID-19, the IPS will no longer be used to measure migration. The suspension of the IPS in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has meant the approach for delivering new measures of migration based on administrative data has been accelerated. In the absence of the IPS, statistical modelling has been used to estimate international migration from March 2020. Going forward, administrative-based migration estimates, supported by statistical modelling, will be used to measure international migration. On 25 November, ONS are publishing experimental statistics on UK international migration for 2020. These will be provisional figures.

More information on [using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration](#) and the [transformation programme](#) can be found on the ONS website.

Population Projections

National Population Projections (NPPs) for Scotland 2020-based will be released on Monday 6 December, 2021, alongside ONS' NPPs for the UK and constituent countries.

The 2020-based NPPs are being labelled as '**interim**' projections. This reflects the uncertainty arising from setting demographic assumptions while the full demographic impacts from Brexit and the coronavirus continue to unfold, and risks around some input data caused by the pandemic. The projections will support the forthcoming State Pension Age Review. Note that these projections will only be produced at the level of Scotland and the other UK countries; projections at local authority level won't be produced for this set of projections.

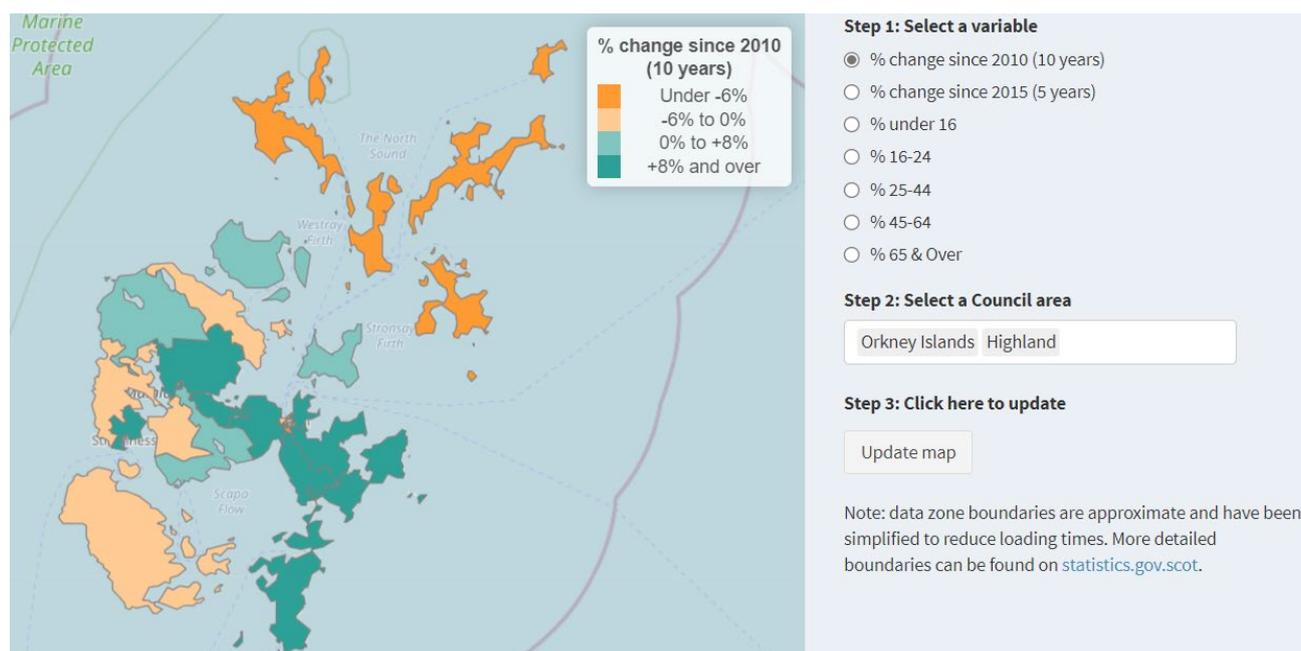
After the 2020-based NPPs, it is provisionally proposed the next round of NPPs be published in winter 2022 to 2023, using 2021 Census data for other parts of the UK and mid-2021 population estimates for Scotland, and to include projection variants. This will be followed by projections at local authority level, and household projections.

Provisional first results from the Scottish Census are due to be made available in spring 2023 and will be incorporated in a subsequent round of the NPPs.

We will consult further with users as these plans develop, but are interested in any comments PAMS members may have on them at this stage.

Small Area Population Estimates

[Mid-2020 Small Area Population Estimates for Scotland](#) were published on 24 August. This included a new [interactive map](#), to let you see population change or age structure in all data zones across a council area. Here is an example from it, illustrating population change in Orkney Islands:



Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities

Work is ongoing on the Settlements and Localities publication due in March 2022. This project takes the mid-2020 population estimates at the postcode level to determine the boundaries of Scottish Settlements and Localities. Settlements are contiguous groups of high-density postcode areas that sum to 500 people or more. Localities are the towns located within settlement boundaries. Tony is currently working with the Geography team to quality assure the initial draft of Settlement boundaries. In around December and January, Tony will consult with councils and receive their views on the boundary decisions, which can then be fed back into the final publication.

Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

Population estimates by country of birth and nationality for 2020 were published on 17 September 2021. This was delayed from May 2021 as the survey these estimates are based on, the Labour Force Survey (LFS), has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A new weighting methodology to reflect the change in survey operation during COVID-19 was implemented for this update. Reweighted estimates for the year to June 2020 were also published.

Work is currently underway on the next Population by Country of Birth and Nationality for July 2020 to June 2021 publication, to be published on 25 November 2021. This publication takes LFS data by ONS and summarises the estimated population by country of birth and nationality for Scottish council areas and rural-urban areas. The data estimates how many people in Scotland are of EU and non-EU nationalities or countries of birth. This update will also use the new weighting method introduced due to the pandemic. More information on the new methodology can be found in [ONS' latest release](#).

Other work

User consultations: We are planning a programme of work to talk to our users about what your needs are, in terms of population and migration statistics. PAMS members will of course be part of this. Please get in touch if you would like to have a conversation with us about your needs.

ONS developments: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are doing a lot of development work on population and migration statistics, which we are involved with, along with statisticians from other parts of the UK. They publish helpful updates on this, including this overview: [Population and migration statistics system transformation – overview](#).

They will be publishing a number of blogs, research papers and statistics during late November – early December, including a summary blog on 8 December.

Population Programme: The [population programme](#) brings together all strands of work on population across the Scottish Government. It includes:

- [A Scotland for the future: opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population](#) which is a population strategy looking at demographic challenges and opportunities at a national and local level.

- An [interactive population dashboard](#) has been developed to monitor progress and understand demographic challenges across Scotland.

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