



Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics team update

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|--|---|
| Security marking | None |
| Can this be shared wider than PAMS? | Yes |
| Key questions for PAMS members | We would welcome feedback on anything in this paper. In particular, let us know if you have specific needs around timings of future publications, and if you have any suggestions around variant population projections that would be useful. |

**Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee
(Scotland)**

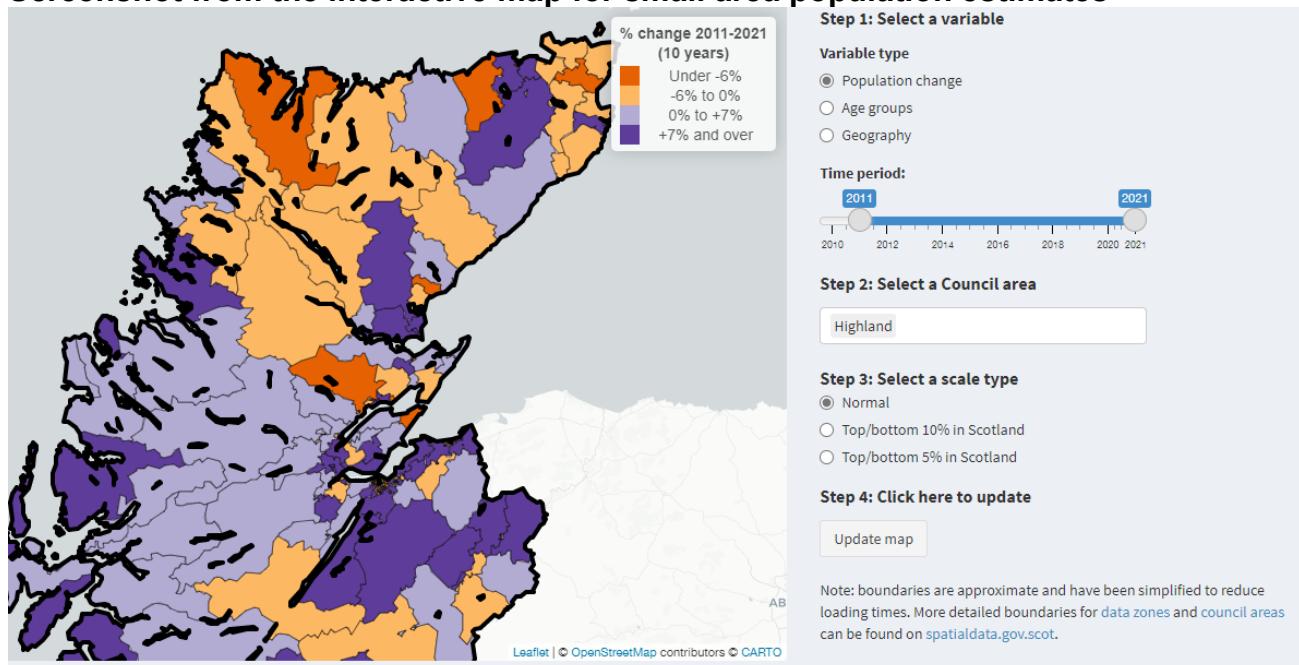
Population and Migration Statistics team update

Publications since the last PAMS meeting

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|-------------------|--|
| 13 July 2022 | <u>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2021</u> |
| 13 July 2022 | <u>Migration Statistics, Mid 2021</u> |
| 11 August 2022 | <u>Local Area Migration, 2021</u> |
| 1 September 2022 | <u>Small Area Population Estimates, Mid-2021</u> |
| 22 September 2022 | <u>Population Estimates for Scottish Centenarians, 2011-2021</u> |

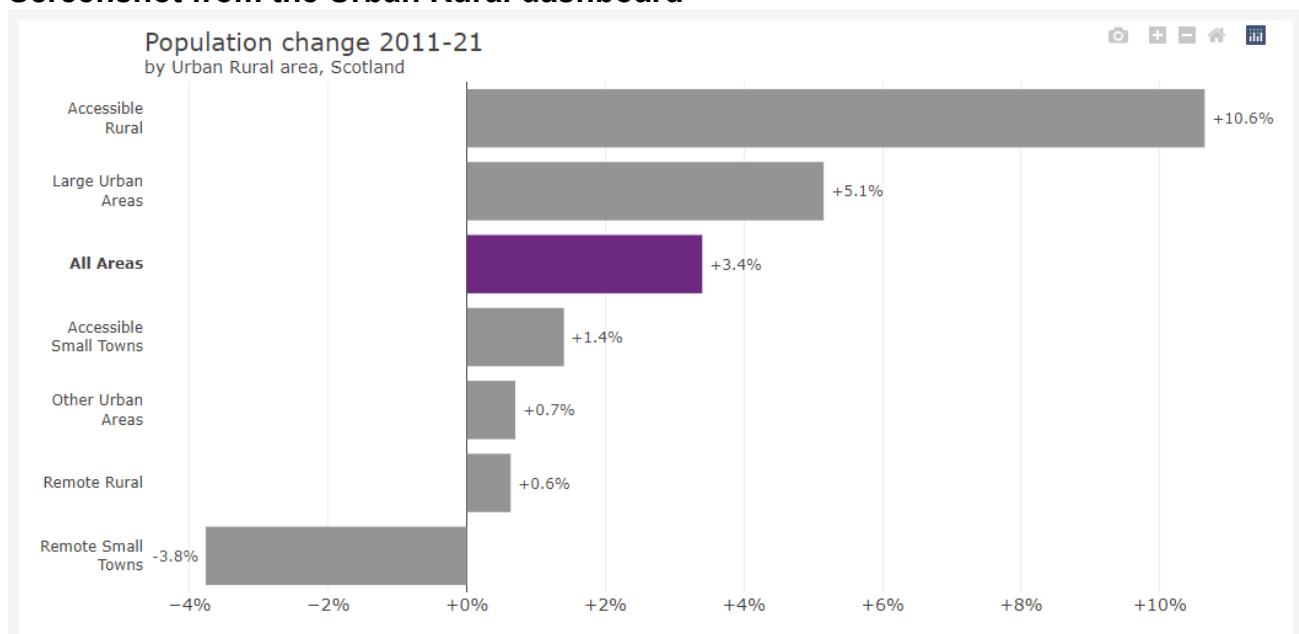
1. The population estimates, and small area population estimates, showed an interesting change to previous trends - the number of people living in large urban areas fell in the year to mid-2021. In contrast, the populations of rural areas, small towns, and other urban areas have either increased or fallen more slowly than the previous year. There are several possible reasons which are discussed in the publications. It is too soon to say if this is the start of a long-term change, or if patterns will revert to previous trends.
2. The Centenarians publication showed that there were over 1,000 centenarians (people aged 100 and over) in Scotland in mid-2021, for the first time. Numbers increased by 16% in the year to mid-2021. This reflects the increase of births which occurred in Scotland after the end of World War I.
3. We have updated the [interactive map](#) for the small area population statistics. As well as adding the new data, you can now choose which two years you want for viewing population change over time. And we have now added data on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and the Urban Rural classification, to give context to the figures.

Screenshot from the interactive map for small area population estimates



4. We have also produced a new [Urban Rural dashboard](#), to make it easier to see population changes by area type.

Screenshot from the Urban Rural dashboard



Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

5. The next release for population by country of birth and nationality estimates for the year ending June 2022, scheduled for November 2022, will not go ahead. This is due to an underlying data issue with one of the data sources feeding into these estimates. Previous releases are not affected by this issue. More information is on the [NRS website](#).

Plans for future publications and incorporating census data

6. Instead of publishing to our usual timetable next year, we are planning to wait until we can incorporate the new census data. There is a separate PAMS paper which outlines plans for census outputs, as well as publications from the Demographic Statistics and Vital Events teams.
7. The mid-2022 population estimates, and the population statistics that follow them (small area population estimates, and population aged 90+), will be published after the Scottish census data becomes available, and will incorporate the new census data.
8. For national population projections, the plans are:

| Base year | Potential date of publication |
|------------------------|---|
| 2021-based projections | Second half of 2023. For Scotland, these projections will be based on data rolled forward from the 2011 census. |
| 2023-based projections | Second half of 2024. For Scotland, these projections will be based on data rolled forward from the 2022 census. |
| Future publications | Likely to revert to a 2-yearly cycle |

9. The latest, [2020-based population projections](#) were 'interim' projections, which didn't include variant projections, and weren't followed by sub-national projections. Both the upcoming sets are planned as 'full' projections, with variant projections. Sub-national population projections will be published a few months after the national population projections, with household projections a few months after that.
10. As well as the principal population projections, several variant projections will be produced. These are based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. The variants are useful for illustrating plausible alternative scenarios and are not intended to represent upper or lower limits for future demographic behaviour. There will be a review of the variant projections that could be included – if you have a specific need or suggestion, let us know. For context, you can see the variant projections used in the [2018-based population projections](#).
11. **Please let us know if any of the planned dates for any of these publications would cause difficulties for you, or if you have specific needs around timings. For the population projections, we are also interested to know if you have a need for specific variant projections.**

BBC Scotland documentary, 'Who lives in Scotland?'

12. BBC Scotland has made a 2-part documentary, 'Who lives in Scotland?'. It covers many aspects of demography, including population trends, birth rates, migration, health, and ageing. It gives an excellent overview of the subject, and it is a great way of showing

others why this work is so important. And you may recognise some of the experts being interviewed, including a number of statisticians from National Records of Scotland! (Esther Roughsedge, Alan Ferrier and Daniel Burns). Both episodes are now available on [BBC iPlayer](#).

Other developments

13. Accessibility: Along with colleagues in other teams, we are implementing a rolling programme for each publication to improve accessibility of spreadsheets and reports. This has changed the way a number of tables look, and in some cases we have combined tables, so the table numbering may be different to previous publications. **We would welcome feedback on whether there have been any unexpected consequences so far.**
14. We have a team email address which you can use to contact us:
population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk

NRS: Population and migration statistics team
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