

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Population and Migration Statistics Update

Introduction

1. This paper provides an update on recent work and developments in population and migration statistics. The Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee is asked to note the paper and offer any comments. We would also be very keen to hear back from PAMS members about how you use our statistics and what impact they have. Written comments are also very welcome and can be sent to denise.patrick@nrscotland.gov.uk.

Staffing

2. Recent staffing changes over the past few months include:
 - Annemarie Ersten, Assistant Statistician, has joined working on mid-year population estimates
 - Thomas Pennock, Assistant Statistician, has joined working on population estimates for settlements and localities.
 - Maya Clayton, Assistant Statistician, has moved post (previously worked on small area population estimates).

Other existing members of staff and their areas of responsibility are noted below for information and to assist with requests.

- William Howes, Assistant Statistician, works on national population projections and sub-national population projections.
- Daniel Burns, Assistant Statistician, works on migration statistics and electoral statistics.
- Maria Kaye, Assistant Statistician, works on life expectancy statistics.
- Denise Patrick, Statistician, heads the branch.

Despite recent external recruitment, one vacancy remains in the branch.

Publications

3. Publications since the last PAMS meeting:
 - Total Migration to or From an Area, Mid-2016 Update (12 July 2017)
 - The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends, 2016 (2 August 2017)
 - Population by Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, 2016 (24 August 2017)
 - Mid-2016 Small Area Population Estimates (24 August 2017)
 - Local Area Migration (24 August 2017)

- Life Expectancy at Scotland level, National Life Tables, 2014-2016 (27 September 2017)
- Population Estimates for Scottish Centenarians, 2006-2016 (27 September 2016)
- Projected Population of Scotland, 2016-based (26 October 2017)

Future publications:

- Life Expectancy for Areas in Scotland, 2014-2016 (7 December 2017)
- Mid-Year Population Estimates, settlements and localities (February 2018)
- Electoral Statistics (February 2018)
- Projected Population of Scotland, Projections for Scottish Areas, 2016-based (March 2018)
- Mid-2017 Population Estimates (April 2018)
- Small Area Population Estimates (2011 Data Zones), 2001 to 2010 (TBC once vacancy filled)

Population Projections

4. The National Population Projections (NPP) were published on 26 October 2017 and show that the population of Scotland is projected to increase by 5% over the next 25 years. We made some changes to the publication and we welcome any feedback you may have on this. We also published additional variants using alternative EU migration assumptions, although these do not have National Statistics status and have been prepared for illustrative purposes only.
5. Work has begun on the Sub-National Population Projections (SNPPs) and they are scheduled for publication in March 2018. No changes are planned to the method and projections system that was developed for the 2014-based SNPPs. Councils, Health Boards and National Parks will be invited to receive 24 hours pre-release access to the statistics closer to the time of publication.
6. Thank you all who attended the training for producing local area projections using POPGROUP software at the end of August. The second training event will be held on 24 November, where attendees will produce updated 2016-based sub-council area projections. Feedback will be collected after the event, which we would encourage attendees to provide. We are also interested to know how you will be using the training to produce projections.

Mid-Year Population Estimates

7. We have just started working on the mid-2017 population estimates. Until this year we received total numbers of Armed Forces personnel, based on the Stations Commanders' survey returns. We now receive single year of age and sex data from the Ministry of Defence Statistics. This data is more detailed and comes from one central source, so reduces the data collection burden and should also ensure improved data quality. The method to estimate the 2017 Armed Forces figures stays the same, except for the application of real changes by age and sex, instead of the application of the changes proportionally (based on the 2011 census) by age and sex. No other changes are planned to the methods or data sources for the mid-2017 estimates.

8. Work is ongoing to review the method for estimating cross-border flows from the Personal Demographic Service (PDS) data source following the closure of the NHSCR system in England and Wales. NRS are awaiting a final decision from ONS regarding their own internal migration methodology, and we are due to receive provisional cross-border data soon.

Following the changes in data supply from ONS, NRS will take this opportunity to evaluate our own migration processing system, and streamline the process where possible. This includes moving away from our excel based migration processing system MIG2000, which will be replaced with a SAS based system.

Population Estimates for settlements and localities

9. Following a revision of the timetable, we are proposing to publish mid-2016 population estimates for settlements and localities during February 2018. We will be holding a consultation with PAMS members during the first two weeks of December. **We will share files with the proposed boundaries of settlements and localities and will ask for feedback from PAMS members. Please let us know if you think other colleagues should be involved in the consultation.**

Migration Statistics

10. The population by country of birth and nationality estimates (migrant stocks) from the Annual Population Survey (APS), January to December 2016, were published on 24 August. The publication is available from the population estimates section of the NRS website. This was the first time that NRS released a statistical bulletin for migrant stock data, and the first time that we have published further breakdown of the non-British/non-UK born population into EU and non-EU groups by council area (subject to disclosure control/reliability thresholds). **We welcome any feedback you may have on the [publication](#) including the data tables (at council area level).**

Going forward, ONS have announced plans to release migrant stocks data from the APS twice annually. NRS have decided to also release this data which will include updated population estimates by country of birth and nationality (by council area) for the year to June 2017 on 30 November 2017. There will be no statistical bulletin by either ONS or NRS for this release, but ONS are planning to release an article looking at one years worth of migration data since the EU referendum. NRS plan to release a blog post looking at similar data for Scotland.

11. ONS have announced plans for an ambitious programme of work to improve migration statistics through greater use of administrative data. NRS will collaborate with ONS on this work and encourage local level analysis to improve the evidence we have available on the impact of migration in Scotland. More details about the development plans can be found in the ONS article '[International migration data and analysis: Improving the evidence, February 2017](#)' and in a presentation from the UK's Deputy National Statistician - [ONS presentation outlining the conceptual framework for migration](#).

Life Expectancy

12. The National life tables were published on 27 September 2017 covering 2014-2016. Life expectancy in Scotland was 77.1 years for males and 81.2 years for females and

has remained virtually unchanged since the last estimates. The life expectancy in Scottish areas publication will be released on 7 December 2017. This publication will include life expectancy estimates at council area level, health board level and Scottish parliamentary constituencies as well as provide breakdowns by urban rural classification and SIMD. In previous years, we have reported life expectancy by SIMD within council areas (15% most and 85% least deprived). In this year's and future publications, we will report this by SIMD quintiles (5 groups starting from 20% most deprived to 20% least deprived).

Electoral Statistics

13. The next electoral statistics publication has been pre-announced for release on 28 February 2018. This publication will include estimates of the electorate in Scotland, Westminster parliamentary constituencies, Scottish parliamentary constituencies, council areas and electoral wards. We are currently liaising with electoral registration offices regarding data collection.

Changes to European geographies (NUTS boundaries) in Scotland (for information)

14. NUTS boundaries are used for reporting of regional statistics to Eurostat and those statistics are used to inform regional policy. Following consultation, a fifth NUTS2 area will be created (Southern Scotland) by reducing the size of two existing NUTS2 areas (South Western and Eastern regions). This change comes into effect from January 2018 and current NUTS boundaries remain operative for statistical purposes until 1st January 2018.

NRS: Population and Migration Statistics branch
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