



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	What proportion of PAMS LA members use the Knowledge Hub 'Analysis, Intelligence and Research (AIR) – Scotland' forum?
What is required from PAMS members	Comments/feedback on the paper

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.

Branch changes

2. Denise Patrick left the branch at the end of 2020, following a promotion which led to a move to a new team in the Scottish Government. Esther Roughsedge has taken over Denise's job. There have been a few other changes in the team – as well as Esther, the team now consists of Beth Watson, Jennifer Pennock, Lara Olszenka, Piers Elias and Tony Craig.

Publications

3. Publications since the last PAMS meeting:
 - [Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, July 2019 to June 2020](#) (January 2021)
 - [Migration Statistics Quarterly Summary for Scotland, February 2021](#) (February 2021)
4. Future publications:
 - Mid-Year Population Estimates, Mid 2020 (June 2021)
 - Migration Statistics, Mid-2020 update (June 2021)
 - Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, 2020 (Summer 2021)
 - Small Area Population Estimates, Mid-2020 (August 2021)
 - National Population Projections, 2020 (December 2021)
 - Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities, Mid-2020 (March 2022)

Mid-year Population Estimates

5. The Mid-2020 Population Estimates (MYE) are planned for publication in late June. These statistics were delayed from their usual release date in April due to further work being undertaken to develop international migration estimates for 2020. The following paragraphs contain more information about the impact of the pandemic on the MYE.
6. **International migration:** The International Passenger Survey (IPS) has previously been used to estimate Long Term International Migration (LTIM) at Scotland level. However, in March 2020 the IPS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic so there is no LTIM estimate for March to June 2020. The Office for National Statistics have been researching alternative data sources including [using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration](#) over this period.
7. The plan to estimate international migration for the year ending June 2020:
 - Estimate international migration using IPS data for July 2019 to February 2020.
 - Include the Scottish proportion of UK modelled migration for March to June 2020. The Scottish proportion is calculated based on IPS data for June 2019 to March 2020.
 - Include data on asylum seekers and refugees for the full year ending June 2020.
 - We will be transparent on any limitations and communicate with users how to interpret the figures in the light of the adjusted method.
8. **Internal migration and cross border flows:** We are aware that students may have left their term time residences at the onset of the pandemic. In many cases, students may have spent several months at their term address before moving home. As we use the NHSCR, these student moves will only be captured if they have chosen to deregister with their GP at their term address or register with a GP when they have returned home.
9. **Birth registrations:** Registration offices were closed to registration of births between March and late June 2020. Significant work has been undertaken to catch up with the backlog of birth registrations and most of the postponed registrations have now taken place.

Migration Statistics

10. Detailed [migration tables](#) are planned to be published alongside the Mid-Year Population Estimates at the end of June.
11. Updated [population estimates by country of birth and nationality](#) for Scotland and each council area were planned for publication in May 2021; however, these are now expected to be published in late summer 2021. Data come from the Annual Population Survey which is carried out by the ONS and consists of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and a number of sample boosts. As the LFS has been impacted by the

coronavirus pandemic, ONS are planning to revise the weighting process in July 2021. This will take into account changes in the non-UK population from available administration data. For the latest update (published in January 2021), tenure weighting had already been introduced to the LFS, following a change in non-response bias due to the pandemic. More information on this can be found on [ONS' website](#).

12. Publication of the **Migration Statistics Quarterly Summary for Scotland** (first published in February 2020) has been paused while migration statistics are undergoing a [transformation programme](#). Future international migration statistics will now be based on a range of administrative data. This move away from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), previously the main source used to measure long term international migration, has been accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic as the IPS was suspended in March 2020. ONS are leading the cross-government transformation programme to deliver new measures of international migration based on administrative data. In April 2021, ONS published [a first in-depth look](#) at the sources and methods being used in the admin-based migration estimates (ABMEs) research.
13. **Local Area Migration** statistics are currently planned for publication in August 2021, however, no date has been finalised yet.

Population & Household Projections

An [overview of the response](#) to an invitation to provide feedback on the future timescales for national and sub-national population projections for the UK was published by the Office for National Statistics on 19th April, 2021. This noted a decision by UK Census Committee (UKCC) that a 2020-based set of interim National Population Projections (NPP) for each country in the UK should be produced. These projections are planned for publication in December 2021. **No** variant projections will be produced. Also no 2020-based Sub-National Population Projections (SNPP) (nor 2020-based household projections at either national or subnational level) are planned.

An Expert Panel, including representation from key expert users from Scotland, is being convened by the National Population Projections Committee in late May to consider an updated set of demographic assumptions (on fertility, mortality and migration) that will feed into the 2020-based national population projections. This will be followed by a separate Scottish consultation event, provisionally planned for late July.

The 2020-based national population projections are being badged as 'interim' projections. This reflects the uncertainty arising from setting demographic assumptions while the full demographic impacts from 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.

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. 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. An indicative timeline for the

production of population (and household) estimates and projections for Scotland over the next few years is provided in the Annex to this paper. 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

14. Work has begun on the production of Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) for mid-2020. While the methodology does require data from the delayed Mid-year Population Estimates publication, we do not anticipate that the SAPE publication will be significantly delayed. We plan to publish the 2020 SAPE in August 2021.

Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities

15. Following discussion with colleagues, we now propose to produce a mid-2020 set and a 2022 Census set of settlements and localities. Provisionally, work on a mid-2020 set should start around August 2021 with publication around March 2022. We will keep PAMS members updated on these plans including scope to engage in consultation on boundaries and methods.

Other work

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 published a number of reports on 16th April, 2021; links are below:

Overview blog post from ONS: [Our latest understanding of changes to population and migration](#)

[Early indicators of UK population size and age structure, 2020](#)

[International migration: developing our approach for producing admin-based migration estimates](#)

[Methods for using the administrative data source RAPID to measure international migration into and out of the UK](#)

[Using statistical models to estimate UK international migration in the absence of the International Passenger Survey](#)

[Population and Migration Statistics Transformation Overview](#)

[Population and Migration Statistics transformation – recent updates](#)

16. **Online talk about Scotland's populations:** In February, Esther Roughsedge and Prof Mike Anderson gave a joint online talk, about how the population of Scotland is changing and how things like Covid and Brexit may affect it in the future. It is available here – feel free to share with anyone else who may be interested:

[Scotland's populations, now and in the future — David Hume Institute](#)

17. **British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) conference**: This conference is held each September, and this year's conference will be held online on 14th and 15th September, 2021. Because it will be online, it will be much easier and cheaper for anyone who wants to take part! It is a good way of finding out and discussing the latest developments in population studies, with a range of government analysts, academics, people from councils, and others (including several from NRS). Costs are minimal (last year you just had to pay for BSPS membership, which is £20). If you may be interested, the full conference agenda will be published on the [BSPS website](#) in the summer, with details of how to sign up.
18. **Knowledge Hub**: We know some PAMS LA members are members of the Knowledge Hub's '[Analysis, Intelligence and Research \(AIR\) – Scotland](#)' forum. We have sometimes posted information there but we don't know how many PAMS members see it. We will continue to use email for important updates, but we wondered if the Knowledge Hub would be a reasonable alternative for posting things like seminars which may be of interest. We'd appreciate getting some idea of the proportion of PAMS LA members who use it.
19. **Population Programme**: The population programme brings together all strands of work on population across the Scottish Government. A number of outputs related to the population programme have recently been published including:
 - [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.
 - [Designing a pilot remote and rural migration scheme](#) which is the latest report published by the Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population.

NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
May 2021

Annex: Indicative plan of NRS population and household estimates and projections, 2020 to 2024 @ 1 May 2021 (Subject to change following user consultation)

Year	Population estimates/ projections	Household estimates/ projections
2020	April	Population estimates, mid-2019 - National, local authority - Rolled forward from 2011 Census
	June	Household estimates, mid-2019 - National, local authority
	September	Household projections, 2018-based - National, local authority
	November	Administrative based population estimates, 2016
2021	June	Population estimates, mid-2020 - National, local authority - Rolled forward from 2011 Census
	December	Interim population projection, 2020-based - National - MYE input data based on 2011 Census - Principal projection only
	December/ January (2022)	Administrative based population estimates, 2017, and 2018 (tbc)
2022	March	2022 Census Day
	Spring/Summer	Population estimates, mid-2021 - National, local authority - Rolled forward from 2011 Census
	Sometime 2022	Administrative based population estimates, 2019 and 2020
	Winter 2022 into 2023	2021-based population projections - National - MYE input data based on 2011 Census

	March	Census day population, 2022 - National, local authority - Rounded to nearest 100	
	Spring/Summer	Population estimates, mid-2022 - National, local authority - Rolled forward from 2011 Census - TBC	Household estimates, mid-2022 - National, local authority
		2021-based population projections - Local authority - MYE input data based on 2011 Census	2021-based household projections - National, local authority
	Autumn	Census day population - National, local authority - Unrounded by age, sex	
	Autumn/Winter	Population estimates, mid-2022 - National, local authority - Rolled forward from 2022 Census	
2023		Comparison of Census day population report - Estimates rolled forward from 2011 census vs 2022 census	
	Winter	Rebased population estimates - National, local authority - Revised 2012 to 2021 (rolled back from 2022 census)	
		Census outputs - Predefined tables unchanged questions by topic - All geographies	
	Sometime in 2023	Administrative based population estimates, 2021	Administrative based household estimates, 2021 (tbc)
	March	Census outputs - Predefined outputs for new questions by topic - All geographies	
2024	Spring/Summer	Population estimates, mid-2023 - National, local authority - Rolled forward from 2022 Census	Household estimates, mid-2023 - National, local authority
	Sometime in 2024	Administrative based population estimates, 2022	Administrative based household estimates, 2022 (tbc)

Late 2024	2023-based population projections - National - MYE input data based on 2022 Census	Administrative based household estimates, 2022 - compared to census (tbc)
Sometime in 2024	Administrative based population estimates, 2022 - compared to census	