

Household Analysis Review Group (HARG)

HARG (2020) 1

General update on NRS Household Statistics branch

Introduction

1. This paper provides a brief update on the NRS Household Statistics branch and its work since the last meeting of HARG in June 2019.

Branch news

2. Graham Galloway left the branch in April to take up a new post on promotion in Scottish Government. He has been replaced by Clare Leadbetter who transferred over from the NRS Customer Services team.

Publications

3. The following publications including household statistics (with month of publication shown in brackets) have been released by NRS since June 2019:

[Estimates of households and dwellings in Scotland - 2018](#) (June 2019)*

[Scotland's population - Registrar General's Annual review of Demographic Trends](#) (August 2019)

[Electoral register statistics - Scotland December 2019](#) (April 2020)

[Estimates of households and dwellings in Scotland - 2019](#) (June 2020)

4. The small area (2011 data zone) household and dwelling estimates data for 2019 were also released in June 2020, both on the [NRS website](#) and on statistics.gov.scot. This included updated information on the split* of vacant properties into unoccupied exemptions (e.g. dwellings that are new builds not yet occupied, undergoing repair or awaiting demolition) and long-term empty properties. A new [interactive mapping app](#) to enable a visualisation of the small area data was also launched.

* This additional detailed breakdown of unoccupied properties was released for the first time in December 2019, for the 2018 small area estimates.

5. The Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group (CGHSG) - formed in early 2018 – has continued its work to review the quality, coherence and accessibility of official housing statistics across the UK.

Recent publications which stem from the work of the CGHSG include:

- the [GSS interactive landscape of UK housing and planning statistics](#) - an interactive tool, where users can: search and filter existing publications from governments and departments; and explore the over-arching statistical landscape in which these publications exist (Feb 2020);
- the latest update of the [GSS interactive homelessness tool](#); (Feb 2020)
- a report and statistical article on the topic of [affordable housing](#). (Nov 2019)

Development work

6. Over the last year the branch has been carrying out various pieces of development work, including:

a) Reviewing the methodology used for household projections

Some modifications are proposed for the methodology to be used for the 2018-based household projections for Scotland which are due to be published in September. In particular, it is proposed:

- to calculate headship rates using census data on 'household reference person' rather than the traditional and slightly outdated 'head of household' concept;
- to drop the 1991-2001 component from the past trend data used in the projections, as this period is now judged to not carry much weight in making projections over the period to 2043

Further background on these and other methodological modifications is provided in paper HARG (2020) 2.

b) Constructing a back series of dwelling estimates for 2011 data zones

Dwellings estimates for 2011 Data Zones are available for each year back to 2014. Work to compile a back series of dwellings estimates for 2011 Data Zones for years prior to 2014 has been put on hold for the time being due to other priorities. However, it is hoped to resume work on this later in the year.

c) Scottish Assessors dwellings data

A Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between National Records of Scotland and the Scottish Assessors to enable us to access and publish summaries of the relevant data on dwellings has been written and is currently awaiting clarification of a number of legal questions. This has been a rather long drawn out process. In the interim, the 2018 and 2019 estimates included a breakdown of dwellings by council tax band at council and data zone level, as this is information that is effectively already in the public domain via the Assessors Portal. Release of data on other characteristics of dwellings - dwelling type and number of rooms - will have to wait for the DSA to be in place.

Summary

7. Members of the Group are asked to note this general update on the work of NRS Household Statistics branch.

**National Records of Scotland
Household Statistics branch**

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