

Population and Migration Statistics Committee (Scotland)

Household estimates and projections branch update – May 2010

Staff changes

1. Esther Roughsedge went on maternity leave at the beginning of February. Thomas Robertson will take over as head of branch for the duration of Esther's maternity leave. Alan Sloan will be moving on promotion to Alternative Sources Branch and will be replaced by David Campbell on 1 June.

Household projections

2. We will be publishing "Household projections for Scotland, 2008-based", on 20 May. PAMS Local Authority members for each council have been sent summaries of the data for quality assurance.
3. We will publish 2008-based household projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas in August.
4. We are investigating incorporating survey data into our household projections. Surveys may be able to provide more up-to-date figures than census data, but as they only cover a sample of the population care will need to be taken to ensure they are comparable.
5. Ashley McCormick from Liverpool University is in his final year of a PhD. He is working on a microsimulation model for Scottish household projections, which will be of benefit to us. Data from the British Household Panel Survey is used to identify how events, such as household formation and dissolution, are explained by certain factors. The microsimulation will also allow us to model "what if" scenarios. For example, changes to the rates of fertility, mortality and migration can be modelled.

Estimates of households and dwellings

6. We will be publishing "Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2009" on 20 May. As in the past two years, this publication will contain 2009 dwelling counts and household estimates for local authority areas and data zones. PAMS LA members have been sent a draft copy of the publication for quality assurance.

Replacement household estimates

7. Martin Macfie is continuing with his work to identify potential replacement sources of small area statistics on households and dwellings, which we could use if Council Tax is replaced with a Local Income Tax after the next election. Martin has obtained a version of the City of Edinburgh's local authority Corporate

Address Gazetteer (CAG). He has written a paper which compares information on residential properties on the CAG with currently published GROS statistics on dwellings. He has presented a summary of results at a recent GROS-led Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) meeting. This report will be shortly published on the GROS website.

Thomas Robertson
GROS: Household estimates and projections branch
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