

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS UPDATE

Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population statistics. PAMS is asked to note the paper and other comments. Written comments will also be welcome to Andrew.white@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Staffing

Eileen Crichton has moved on promotion to work for Dissemination and Census Analysis team, with responsibility for responding to customer requests. A new member of staff has been appointed on a short term contract to investigate the use of POPGROUP for small area projections, with a view to developing in-house skills.

Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting are

Mid-2007 Population by marital status	20 January
Mid-2008 population estimates	28 April
Life expectancy estimates for special areas	26 March
Population estimates by country of birth quarterly update ¹	24 February
Community Health Partnership level life expectancy for 1996-1998 to 2004-2006 was published last December and the time series section was updated in March.	

Future publications

Centenarians	30 June
Population estimates by country of birth quarterly update	27 August
Small Area Population Estimates	August (to be confirmed)
2008-based National population projections	21 October
2008-based National population projections variants	26 November
Population estimates by country of birth quarterly update	26 November

Population Projections Working group

GROS and Fife Council, who are providing part funding, are commissioning Ludi Simpson to produce ward level population and household projections for Fife, and to develop detailed guidance in the production of small area projections for local areas. This guidance, along with the required datazone level data would then be available to all councils to enable them to produce their own small area projections.

¹ This is published as part of the ONS Coherent reporting of migration

Small Area Population Estimates Quality Assurance

Harvey Snowling has completed work to allow the comparison of small area data on population with a range of related sources including Child Benefit, DWP Old Person's data, School Census, dwellings, and Census communal establishments.

We are currently obtaining permission from data owners in order to share this with local authority users, with the aim of drawing on local knowledge to identify factors influencing the SAPE estimates.

Life expectancy

A meeting was held between the Office for National Statistics, Scottish Government, ISD and GROS to discuss a number of methodological issues in the publication of life expectancy. As a result work is underway to compare the different methods used. The main aspect of this work looks at the treatment of deaths to non-residents. The outcome of this work is expected by the end of June.

Following an ad hoc request, GROS have produced life expectancy estimates within council areas, by the 15% most deprived datazones compared to the others. GROS are interested in whether other users would be interested in this and what guidance would be required on their use. Given the range of population size the confidence intervals for the estimates are large in some areas

Dissemination and User Engagement

Cecilia Macintyre participated in a dissemination event covering the councils in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and East Renfrewshire held in Paisley on 30 April. This will be discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

Cecilia Macintyre also visited a number of users in Shetland to identify their requirements for population and household statistical information. They highlighted an immediate need for training and awareness raising in Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics, and have offered to participate in work on the quality assurance of the Small Area Population Estimates.

The Tayside migration report (which provides a summary of various estimates and indicators of migration at a local authority level) has been revised and improved based on feedback from various stakeholders. The Tayside report will form the template for a further seven similar reports covering the rest of Scotland. All the reports are due to be published on the GROS website, in the migration section (see below), on 28th May. Further options for presenting migration indicators at a local level are being explored.

A range of migration data has been added to the GROS website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/migration>). This will be added to as resources permit and will be updated as soon as possible after new data becomes available. Migration estimates associated with the mid-2008 population estimates will be added on 20 May. There is also a methodology page, some details of migration statistics improvements and links to related data sources. Comments are welcomed from users.

Research into improving Migration and Population Statistics

A verbal report will be provided on the recent IMPS Analysis and Indicators working group which will be held on 15th May, and the IMPS update is due to be published on 20th May.

On 7 May 2009 ONS held the first public event of the recently initiated UK-wide programme of work designed to look at the data requirements of users beyond the 2011 Census and how they might be best met. The programme entitled 'Beyond 2011' will assess various options for integrating a number

of data sources to produce population and wider socio-demographic statistics which are fit for purpose.

The purpose of the event was to engage a range of users on the challenges facing them, changing user needs in their areas of work and the outputs that are likely to be needed over the next decade. It focused more on the user requirement, than the means of delivering it, which will be an important part of building the business case for the most appropriate combination of sources beyond the next Census. Presentations are due to be published soon at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/newsroom/events/beyond-2011--planning-the-future-for-socio-demographic-statistics/index.html>

In-house research report

Lisa McNeill in our branch has been doing some statistical analysis involving birth registrations. This arose when an individual emailed us to ask why the number of births for a certain year were different in two different GROS publications; Births, deaths and marriages and Mid-year Estimates. The reason for this was quickly discovered. It is because one publication allocates births to a particular year using the date of birth and the other uses date of registration of the birth. As there is sometimes a large lag between these two dates, the same birth could be allocated to different years if the cut-off for the year is between date of birth and date of registration.

Lisa subsequently did some analysis on what factors could affect the length of time between date of birth and registration. Some results revealed were that single mothers were four times more likely than married parents to take more than 21 days to register their birth, mothers born outside the UK were 1.6 times more likely to take more than 21 days than those born in Scotland, and births registered in Glasgow were three times more likely to have taken over 21 days to register than those registered in any other council.

One outcome of this work is that there will now be a footnote on the Births, deaths and marriages and Mid-year estimates publications to explain why the number of births are slightly different to each other. We are also planning to discuss these preliminary findings with colleagues in the Registration Division of GROS and identify appropriate target audiences for the findings.

GROS: Population & Migration Statistics Branch

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