

## POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

### **Household estimates and projections branch update.**

#### **Staff changes**

1. Dorothy Watson joined the branch on 2 December 2008 from Scottish Government: Heath Analytical Services Division.
2. Aisha Ahmed, worked in the branch from January to March 2009 and she assisted with the production of the 2008 dwelling counts, as part of a student placement from Napier University. She has now returned to the Planning and Land Use Statistics branch within Scottish Government: Communities Analytical Services Division.

#### **Household Projections**

3. Household projections for Scotland's Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) areas will be published during the summer. SDPAs are newly-formed planning authorities that cover the four largest city regions around Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. A draft copy of this publication has been circulated to relevant PAMS members for comments. We welcome any suggestions for improvements to the publication. If anyone has not seen the draft publication and would like a copy, please get in touch with us.

#### **Communal Establishments**

4. All 2007 data for people living in communal establishments has now been collected, apart from those in Adult Care Homes. However, the Care Team within SG Health Analytical Services have confirmed that these data will be available soon.
5. Along with GROS Alternative Sources branch, we will be accessing data on student accommodation from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The postcode of the student's term-time address has been collected for the first time, as part of the HESA return.
6. Confidentiality and disclosure issues have to be considered when sharing information on the number of people in communal establishments. It is planned that clear guidance on what can and cannot be shared will be available for the 2008-based projections.

## **Estimates of households and dwellings**

7. GROS published the statistical bulletin "Estimates of households and dwellings, 2008" on 14 May. This contains 2008 dwelling counts and household estimates for local authority areas and data zones, and can be found within the household estimates and projections pages of the GROS website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/household-estimates-projections/index.html>). For the first time this year, the publication included estimates of households and dwellings for SDPAs and National Parks.

8. Key points were:

- In mid-2008, there were 2.3 million households in Scotland – around 290,000 more than in 1991. Over the last year, there has been an increase of 17,500 households (0.8 per cent).
- The rate of growth has slowed in the past year: between 2007 and 2008, the increase in the number of households was lower than in any other year for the last five years.
- The number of households has been increasing in every council area, except Inverclyde (where it remained the same between 2003 and 2008 and fell slightly in 2007-08). The areas with the greatest increases over the last five years have been in Highland (8.5 per cent) and Aberdeenshire (8.3 per cent).
- Across Scotland as a whole, 2.8 per cent of dwellings are vacant and 1.4 per cent are second homes, though there is wide variation across the country. Remote rural areas have the lowest percentage of dwellings which are occupied (88 per cent), with higher percentages of vacant dwellings (four per cent of all dwellings in these areas) and second homes (seven per cent). The most deprived areas have the highest percentage of dwellings which are vacant (six per cent).
- There are higher proportions of flats in urban areas, and in more deprived areas. In contrast, there are higher proportions of detached houses in rural areas, and in less deprived areas.
- 38 per cent of dwellings in Scotland are entitled to a 'single adult' Council Tax discount. This category includes one adult living alone or with children, or with other people who are 'disregarded' for Council Tax purposes. This percentage increases steadily as the level of deprivation increases, and is highest in urban areas.

## **Quality Assurance of Small Area Dwelling Counts: Comparisons with Small Area Population Estimates and other variables**

9. Last year, GROS carried out an analysis of overall trends in GROS published dwelling counts and population estimates between 2003 and 2006. This helped us to identify changes in the distribution of small area population estimates and dwelling counts over time and identify data zones with unusual values. We were then able to develop improved quality assurance procedures for producing dwelling counts. If PAMS members want to know more about this, more information is available in the following paper, which was presented at the last SCOTSTAT Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) meeting in January 2009: <http://www.gro->

[scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/seminars/harg-2009-3-quality-assurance-of-small-area-dwelling-counts.pdf](http://scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/seminars/harg-2009-3-quality-assurance-of-small-area-dwelling-counts.pdf) .

## **Replacement household statistics and planned work on address matching**

10. In February, the current administration announced that it was delaying their policy of abolishing Council Tax until after the next election. As most of the household statistics are based on information from Council Tax systems, this would still have a knock-on effect on the work of our branch. GROS is continuing to consider other potential replacement sources of household statistics and addressing initiatives

11. One potential source of household data is the Electoral Register. Last year, GROS carried out analysis to compare the number of households recorded in Council Tax systems, and households where one or more people are registered to vote and included on the Electoral Register. Results from this analysis were presented at the SCOTSTAT Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) meeting in January 2009. The results showed that overall, there is a very strong positive relationship between the number of households included in Council Tax systems and the Electoral Register. There appear to be lower proportions of households included on the Electoral Register in urban areas, and in areas with more deprivation. There is also substantial variation in the proportion of households included on the Electoral Register within different local authority areas. If PAMS members would like to know more, a full copy of this report can be found at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/seminars/harg-2009-1-investigation-of-electoral-register.pdf>.

12. GROS is interested in ways of matching address from different sources. To test ways of doing this and develop our expertise, we are planning to compare address data from the National Gazetteer with address lists used in the 2009 Census Rehearsal in West Edinburgh and Eilean Siar. These results could also be compared with our household and dwellings statistics which we currently publish. We could potentially do this work by using a number of different software products, which will hopefully help us to understand and improve the quality of our statistics. This work will complement the work being done by the GROS Alternative Sources branch.

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