

POPULATION & MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

Dissemination and 2001 Census analysis update

General Register Office for Scotland

20 May 2009

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) committee about recent developments in dissemination and 2001 Census analysis at the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS).

It gives an update on progress since the last meeting of the committee (24 November 2008) as well as an outline of future plans.

Actions relating to feedback on the GROS website from workshops at the Improving Population and Household Statistics conference (31 Oct 2008) are detailed in Annex A.

2. Progress since last meeting

2.1 The following regular [publications](#) have been published since the last meeting:

- 2.1.1 Life Expectancy in Community Health Partnership Areas in Scotland, Time Series, 1996-1998 to 2004-2006 (3 Dec 2008)
- 2.1.2 Births, Marriages and Deaths 3rd Quarter 2008 (11 Dec 2008)
- 2.1.3 Popular Forenames – Babies' First Names 2008 (17 Dec 2008)
- 2.1.4 Mid-2007 Marital Status Population Estimates Scotland (20 Jan 2009)
- 2.1.5 Electoral Statistics - Scotland 1st December 2008 (26 Feb 2009)
- 2.1.6 Births, Marriages and Deaths 4th Quarter 2008 (12 March 2009)
- 2.1.7 2008 Births, Marriages and Deaths – Preliminary Annual Figures (12 March 2009)
- 2.1.8 Life Expectancy in Special Areas (Urban/Rural, Deprivation and Community Health Partnership) within Scotland, 2005-2007 (26 March 2009)
- 2.1.9 Mid-2008 Population Estimates Scotland (28 April 2009)
- 2.1.10 Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2008 (14 May 2009)

2.2 The following other additions have been added to the GROS website:

- 2.2.1 [Scotland's Census 2011 - A Government Statement](#). In this document, Scottish Government ministers published proposals for the 2011 Census.

- 2.2.2 [Independent Healthy Ageing conference](#) (on 13 Nov 2008) – presentation slides, workshop feedback, etc from the recent conference.
 - 2.2.3 The search engine on the GROS website has been changed to Google custom search. This has greatly improved the search function.
 - 2.2.4 A section has been added on [probable suicides](#). This new section presents information on the numbers of deaths which were known to be, or are thought likely to be, the result of intentional self-harm.
 - 2.2.5 The agenda and papers from the last [PAMS meeting](#) (24 Nov 2008), and [Population Projections Working Group meeting](#) have been added to the website.
 - 2.2.6 A section on [sub-Scotland data sources](#) has been added. This gives a detailed breakdown of GROS demographic statistics available at sub-Scotland geographies (for example, council area or NHS Board), and provides links to the relevant pages.
 - 2.2.7 A section on [migration statistics](#) has been added. This new section pulls together information from different sources on migration and was added in response to increasing demand for high quality statistics on migration.
 - 2.2.8 New pages have been added which provide links to [births](#) and [deaths](#) statistics which are available from other web sites, particularly for areas within Scotland.
 - 2.2.9 The Census section of the website has been revamped, with more information added on the 2011 Census including preparations, policy and methodology. There is now also a new website – [Scotland's Census](#) – which includes 2011 Census campaign information as well as the function for online Census questionnaires.
- 2.3 A factsheet on population projections has been published, and printed copies are available from [GROS Statistics Customer Services](#).

3. Future work

- 3.1 A programme of continuous improvement of the GROS website is under way. This includes taking into account feedback from workshops at the [Improving Population and Household Statistics conference](#) (31 Oct 2008), as detailed in Annex A.
- 3.2 Within the next 6 months, The GROS web co-ordinator plans to set up a focus group to look at the GROS website and provide advice on how it can be improved.
- 3.3 GROS is investigating the possibility of getting accreditation (plain English crystal mark) from the Plain English Campaign for the introduction and key points of the Registrar General's Annual Report.
- 3.4 Work is ongoing to publish the remaining Census tables at Westminster Parliamentary Constituency level (ethnicity and religion; travel and migration) on the SCROL website. All tables have been created and next step is loading of the data onto the web site. This work has been delayed due to a lack of resources.

[Note – ethnicity and religion tables at Westminster Parliamentary Constituency level are available in the section “2001 Census Data for Ethnicity and Religion tables” accessible via the [SCROL home page](#)].

3.5 Work is also ongoing to publish the remaining census tables at multi-member ward level (ethnicity and religion; travel and migration) on the warehouse section of the SCROL website. Work is continuing with the Office for National Statistics, which provides information from the Census in England and Wales required for these tables.

3.6 An integrated project team continues to work on outputs for the 2011 Census. Providing feedback from the 2001 Census, in particular what information customers required, is an important aspect of this work.

3.7 Planned [GROS web publications](#) (next 12 months):

Births, Marriages and Deaths 1st Quarter 2009	11-Jun-09
Centenarians in Scotland, 2002 - 2008	30-Jun-09
Scotland's Population 2008: The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends	07-Aug-09
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland in 2008	Aug-09
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 2nd Quarter 2009	10-Sep-09
Life Expectancy in Administrative Areas of Scotland, 2006-2008	Sep-09
Projected Population of Scotland (2008-based)	21-Oct-09
Increased Winter Mortality	Oct-09
Variant Projected Population of Scotland (2008-based)	18-Nov-09
Small Area Population Estimates	Nov-09
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 3rd Quarter 2009	10-Dec-09
Babies' First Names - 2009	Dec-09
Electoral Statistics, Scotland 2009	Feb-10
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 2009 (Preliminary)	11-Mar-10
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 4th Quarter 2009	11-Mar-10
Life Expectancy in Special Areas in Scotland, 2006-2008	Mar-10
Mid - 2009 Population Estimates Scotland	Apr-10
Household Projections for Scotland - 2008 Based	May-10
Household Estimates for Scotland: 2009	May-10

If you require any further information related to this paper, please contact:

Andrew Macartney
 Dissemination & 2001 Census Analysis
 General Register Office for Scotland
 Ladywell House
 Edinburgh
 EH12 7TF

0131 314 4268

Andrew.Macartney@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

ANNEX A

Progress on improvements to the GROS website, following suggestions received during workshops at the conference on [Improving Population and Household Statistics](#) (31 Oct 2008).

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Andrew Macartney (address above).

Suggested improvement	GROS action
More definitions e.g. dwelling / household / settlement etc	These definitions, along with some others, have been added to the glossary (which continues to expand).
Census definitions in plain English	Census definitions for 2001 is a National Statistics publication and cannot be retrospectively changed. However, this comment has been passed on to the GROS team working on 2011 Census definitions. Also, the Census pages were recently revamped and these pages, along with glossary definitions, were checked by non-statistical staff who highlight any plain English issues they encounter.
Clarify that GROS consists of the different areas of registration, demography and census.	The GROS website is split into sections including: Registration; Family Records; Statistics; Census; and NHS Central Register. However, this comment will be taken into account if any changes are made to the About Us page.
Allow RSS feeds from GROS website for new content (will explore)	The GROS web team is actively investigating this.
Explanation of how migration figures/population bases are arrived at.	A new section on migration statistics has been added to the GROS website (feedback welcome). This aims to make information on migration more accessible and further information will be added to this section.
Clarify population estimates titles.	GROS is working to make sure all new publication titles are consistent (although previous titles cannot be retrospectively changed).
Ensure Excel tables don't have blank rows and merged cells.	The web team check for this in all new publications. [Please feel free to highlight any problems]
Where there are comparisons with Eurostat figures, include links.	The web team check for this in all new publications. [Please feel free to highlight any problems]
Publish explanation for inconsistency between numbers of births published and those used in the mid year estimates.	This item is covered in the Population and Migration Statistics update.
Mapping of most commonly used custom geographies to datazones.	A look-up table is available on the GROS website. If you need any help with this, please contact GROS Statistics Customer Services .
Disaggregate data as far as possible (migration data being produced by age and sex)	GROS attempts to do this although, in some cases (usually for small sample sizes), data cannot be published due to concerns about disclosing personal information or large

	confidence intervals (error margins).
Ensure publication of small area population estimates are closer to publication of Local Authority / Health Board estimates	Local authority and NHS board estimates were published in April 2009. GROS is working to reduce the time lag (compared to previous years) between this and the publication of Small Area Population Estimates.
Enable selection of all enumeration districts at once on SCROL website instead of by ward.	Resources are not currently available to do this. However GROS Statistics Customer Services can help with specific requests. Also, this information will be fed into work on 2011 outputs.
GROS visits to local authorities	Some visits have already taken place and others are being planned. [Note - not specifically for website].
Make website more dynamic e.g. NOMIS (being considered for 2011 outputs)	Options are being investigated (subject to available resources).
GROS newsletter	Publication of a newsletter is being considered.
More background interpretation of local authority factsheet	This would be time consuming, but views of users on this are welcomed.
A system of user registration with customised webpages.	Resources are unlikely to be available to do this on the GROS website. However, GROS is investigating ways of sharing data and information in a controlled environment with users (for example, local authorities).
Allow longer than 24 hour pre-release access to statistics for local authorities	This is unlikely to change due to tight controls on pre-release access. [Note – not a website issue].
Packet card for key statistics	GROS currently produces printed fact sheets for specific topics. However, other options for dissemination demographic statistics are being considered (users' views welcome).