

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS (PAMS) 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 Esta.Clark@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Staffing

David Campbell (shared with the Household Estimates and Projections team), who replaced Alan Sloan, started at the beginning of June. Bart Jaron, placement student, returned to university to finish his studies at the end of August. Anna Watkins started at the end of August on a six month contract to fill the vacancy left by Laura McConnell moving to Education in the Scottish Government in May.

Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting are:-

- Quarterly migration release with Office for National Statistics (ONS) (27 May 2010);
- Population Projections for Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas and National Parks (10 June 2010);
- Migration tables update (8 July 2010);
- National Parks and SDP area variant projections, 2008-based (21 July 2010);
- Registrar General's Annual report (6 August 2010);
- Local Area Migration Reports (26 August 2010);
- Quarterly migration release with ONS (26 August 2010);
- 2009 Small Area Population Estimates (2 September 2010);
- Life Expectancy in Administrative Areas of Scotland, 2007-2009 (16 September 2010);
- Centenarians in Scotland, 2002-2009 (30 September 2010).

Future publications:-

- Quarterly migration release with ONS (25 November 2010);
- Various life expectancy results (30 November 2010);
- Quarterly migration release with ONS (February 2011);
- Population Estimates for Special Areas (SIMD, Urban Rural etc) (February 2011);
- Scotland Level Migration report (March 2011) – to be confirmed.

Publications postponed/on hold due to staffing shortages:-

- Marital Status Estimates for mid-2009;
- Ethnic Population Estimates 2001 -2009.

Population Projections (2008 based)

The principal projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas were published on 10 June and in response to users' requests high and low migration variants were published for these areas on 21 July 2010. The Population Projection Working Group (PPWG) met on 4 October to discuss development of additional fertility, life expectancy and zero migration variants and the method to set the short-term migration assumptions, both these papers have also been provided to PAMS. On the whole PPWG endorsed the recommendations for the methodology for the short-term migration assumptions and it was agreed that additional variants would be useful and that there is a demand for them as well as the associated household variant projections. General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) agreed to think about whether the additional variant could be published or at least made available to local authorities. The working group also discussed the project to provide data and user guidance for

POPGROUP to help councils produce their own population projections. Data has now been supplied to various users and a POPGROUP users' afternoon was also held on 4 October which allowed users to talk about their experiences and ask Ludi Simpson from the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR) questions. Papers from the PPWG meeting and the POPGROUP Users afternoon will be available on the GROS website in due course.

Population Estimates Quality Assurance

Due to the proximity of the Census and the fact that Census Division are talking to LAs and others about quality assuring Census day estimates it is proposed that the quality assurance of the Small Area Population Estimates at datazone be taken forward through these groups to avoid local authorities being asked to input to similar work. **PAMS members are asked to comment on this approach.** Work has also started to produce a feasibility/options paper on quality measures for population estimates; looking at the work being carried out to quality assure the Census and also the work being carried out by ONS into tolerance levels for estimates and contingency adjustments.

Settlements and Localities

PAMS are invited to consider the demand for and timing of settlement and locality population estimates and also options for looking at the boundaries used for outputs from the 2011 Census and subsequent population estimates. More detail is in paper PAMS (10) 28.

Dissemination and User Engagement

- Answering queries on sub-national projections and other outputs from local authorities and from the media;
- A presentation was given on the POPGROUP Small Area Projections project at the British Society of Population Studies (BSPS);
- Two indicators have been developed for the Improvement Service's Local Indicators Report with COSLA through the Demography Analysts Working Group in the Scottish Government and were agreed by the Improving Local Outcome Indicators Project Task group. The final two indicators chosen were Total Population and the Overall Dependency Ratio. The Dependency ratio will be added to the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) website shortly, population is already there.

Research into improving Migration and Population Statistics

- We have started to draw together evidence from different sources on short-term migrants to feed into the work for adjusting the population base for the 2011 Census.

Update on IPMS Programme

Current and historic updates on the ONS Improving Population and Migration Statistics Programme which GROS are involved in are available on the ONS website through the following link:-

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/updates-reports/index.html>

The two recent posts of particular interest are:-

[Migration Statistics Improvement Work Programme Update - August 2010](#) 46.7 Kb Pdf document

[Migration Statistics Improvement Programme Annual Overview 2009/10](#) 258.8 Kb Pdf document

UK Statistics Authority of Assessment

The UK Statistics Authority will over the next couple of months begin to assess the outputs of the Population and Migration Statistics branch. They are likely to consult users of our statistics in the course of our assessment.

Going forward

PAMS are asked to note that over the next few months we will be reviewing our outputs. We will be consulting our users at the December PAMS meeting and more widely via ScotStat mailing lists on the various options going forward. For example, one option may be less frequent publications for some outputs or combining some publications together.

GROS: Population & Migration Statistics Branch

4 October 2010