

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS (PAMS) COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)
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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 the Population and Migration Statistics Head of Branch using our [Contact Form](#).

Staffing

No change.

Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting are:-

- Quarterly migration release with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) (25 November 2010);
- Various life expectancy results (30 November 2010);
- Additional sub-national variants 2008-based (19 January 2011).

Future publications:-

- Population Estimates for Special Areas (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Urban Rural etc) (17 February 2011);
- Population Clock – equivalent clocks will be placed on the ONS and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) websites (23 February 2011);
- Quarterly migration release with ONS (24 February 2011);
- Scotland Level Migration report (Spring 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 sub-national population projections for Scotland were published in February 2010. Additional variants for these projections have now been produced to provide users with further information on the future population of Scottish areas. This was in response to requests from councils during the consultation in November 2009.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces over 20 variant projections at national level. These variant projections are based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. For the latest set of Scottish sub-national projections (2008-based projections), two variant projections were published – high and low migration variants. This was the first time a low migration variant projection had been produced for sub-national areas. There is a growing demand for further variants providing more in-depth analysis on the future population of Scottish areas, and so the following variants were produced for Scottish council areas:

- High and low life expectancy
- High and low fertility
- Zero migration (natural change only)

These additional variants will be published on 19 January 2011. Please see PAMS (11) 14 for more information on the follow up to the last Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) meeting.

Migration Report

In July 2009 GROS published nine local area migration reports. These reports were then updated in August 2010. The purpose of the reports is to facilitate analysis of migration trends at local authority level. Each local area migration reports contain the same background information on data sources. Disseminating this information on migration sources in nine separate reports which each need updated is fairly labour intensive so we plan to stop producing the local area migration reports but still provide you with the same information in a more interactive, easily updated format. We plan to create an Excel spreadsheet which will show migration data and information on the sources of migration data and indicators. It will be at local authority level, and also contain data for Scotland. It would allow you to easily compare different areas and different migration indicators.

We would like your comments on this proposal, particularly on which indicators you would like included in the spreadsheet, and whether counts or proportions are favourable for making comparisons. We would hope to publish this migration tool in Spring 2011.

Population Estimates Quality Assurance

Work is progressing on producing 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/plausibility ranges for estimates and contingency adjustments. Colleagues from ONS visited GROS recently to give a seminar on their IMPS work and their plans for quality measures for their estimates.

Dissemination and User Engagement

- Answering queries on centenarians and other outputs from the media.
- PAMS are asked to note that GROS launched a consultation on our outputs for the next few years and the consultation document can be found on our website here <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/user-consultation-groups-seminars/consultations.html> and the deadline for replying is 9 February 2011. Comments and discussion are welcome. ONS have also launched their own consultation, <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/closed-consultations/work-programme-consultation/index.html> , which closed on 24 December. We are happy to meet groups or individuals to discuss.

Research into improving Migration and Population Statistics

- A separate paper Paper 9 PAMS (11) 09 has more information on population bases and the 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>

UK Statistics Authority of Assessment

The UK Statistics Authority is currently assessing the outputs of the Population and Migration Statistics branch. They are currently consulting users of our statistics.

GROS: Population & Migration Statistics Branch

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