

Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) (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 the National Records of Scotland (NRS) 'Customer Services – Statistics' using our [Contact Form](#).

Staffing

A number of staffing changes have/are about to take place. Keira Murray is leaving to go to Education Statistics, Alasdair Anthony is leaving to go to Justice Analytical Services, Harvey Snowling is leaving to go to HR Statistics and David Campbell is leaving to go to Business Statistics. They are being replaced by Kylie Hill, Martin Devine and Paul Gona all moving from elsewhere in the Scottish Government and two new external recruits. Hopefully all the new people will be in place by December. Change on this scale is likely to have an initial impact on the capacity of the team to respond to requests, so please bear with us over this transition period.

Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting are:-

- Settlement and Locality Population Estimates, mid 2010 (24 May 2012);
- Quarterly migration release (24 May 2012);
- Mid-2011 Population Estimates, rolled forward from 2001 Census (31 May 2012);
- Population Projections for Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas and National Parks (NP) (12 July 2012);
- Migration Tables update for mid-2011 (24 July 2012);
- 3 chapters for the Annual Report (2 August 2012);
- Mid-2011 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) and Special Area Population Estimates, rolled forward from the 2001 Census (28 August 2012);
- Quarterly migration release (30 August 2012); and
- Local Area Migration 2011(30 August 2012).

Future publications, draft timetable for comment (based on the December publication of 2011 Census results):-

- Centenarians, 2002-2011, based on the 2001 Census (11 October 2012);
- Quarterly migration release (29 November 2012) – info below;
- Mid-2011 Population Estimates, based on the 2011 Census and reconciliation report (Spring 2013);
- Mid-2012 Population Estimates (Spring/Summer 2013);
- Migration tables for mid 2011-2012 (Summer 2013);
- Re-basing of population and migration estimates at Scotland, Council and NHS board area (Autumn 2013);
- 2012-based National Population Projections for Scotland (Autumn 2013);

- 2012-based Sub-National Population Projections for Council and NHS Board areas (Spring 2014*) – depends on availability of data zone population estimates – info below. [Paper 4 PAMS \(12\) 12](#) has more information on methodology options.
- 2012-based SDP and NP Population Projections (Summer 2014*) – depends on the availability of data zone population estimates – info below;
- Life Expectancy, 2010-2012 (Winter 2013/Spring 2014*) – some aspects depend on the availability of data zone population estimates, info below;
- 2011 and 2012 Small Area Population Estimates – new data zones (Spring 2014);
- Re-based Small Area Population Estimates (late 2014) – new data zones, old data zones, both? – info below.

Population Projections (2012 based)

Thank you to everyone who replied to our e-mail on the timing of future projections. Really helpful feedback was received from users in each of the four countries of the UK and representatives from Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Welsh Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) met to discuss the findings on 14 September.

The decision has been made to produce 2012-based National Population Projections (NPPs) to be published in Autumn 2013. This was option 1 in the consultation and was the preference for most responses from Scottish users. These NPPs will be based on 2012 estimates rolled forward from the 2011 Census for all four countries of the UK. The back series of 2002-2010 mid-year population estimates for England and Wales will be available from December 2012 and will be used for the assumption setting process. However the revised back series of population estimates will not be available for Northern Ireland and Scotland in time to feed into the assumptions for this set of NPPs, and so data rolled forward from the 2001 Census will be used.

Following publication of 2012-based NPPs, Scottish 2012-based sub-national population projections will be produced in Spring 2014*. More information on the options for the sub-national projections can be found in [Paper 4 PAMS \(12\) 12](#).

Cross-Border Migration and Country of Birth and Nationality Quarterly Releases

We held a consultation on the publication of Quarterly Releases for estimates of Population by Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas and Migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK. The consultation was open from 21 June to 13 September 2012, and two responses were received.

- **Population by Country of Birth and Nationality:** There were no objections to the proposal of publishing Population by Country of Birth and Nationality data on an annual basis only. Therefore the publication in August 2012 was the last release of quarterly estimates and no more quarterly releases of this data will be published. We intend to publish annually to coincide with ONS's similar release in August of each year. One response mentioned that the title of the publication maybe misleading as data is presented for UK and non-UK born only at council area and not by country of birth. It was also mentioned that data is not presented for every local authority due to small sample sizes so interest in this release is limited. The presentation of the data will be reviewed for the new annual publication.

- **Migration Between Scotland and the Rest of the UK:** Again, there were no objections to the proposal of releasing Migration Between Scotland and the Rest of the UK on an annual basis instead of quarterly. The publication in November 2012 will be the last quarterly publication, and from then rolling quarterly data will be published annually from July 2013 at the same time as the rest of the detailed migration data is released.
- **Other comments:** The consultation asked for any further comments on population and migration figures. It was mentioned that if the level of detail for the Population by Country of Birth could not be improved maybe this data should no longer be released at local authority level, and census outputs should be relied upon instead, and if the census is to be replaced “local authorities need to be confident in a comprehensive and universal release of data in terms of numbers and of origin.”

Small Area Population Estimates post 2011 Census

The second release of 2011 Census information in Spring 2013 will include data zone population estimates using the existing data zone boundaries – thereafter referred to as ‘old data zones’ in this paper.

The Office of the Chief Statistician and Performance (OCSP) will then create new data zones based on Census Output Area boundaries and carry out a consultation with users. New data zone boundaries and Census day 2011 population estimates for new data zones are planned to be published in Autumn 2013. Our priority will then be to produce mid-2011 and mid-2012 data zone population estimates using the new boundaries in Spring 2014. We plan to reconvene the Small Area Population Estimates Working Group to look at the methodology to be used to produce them and options for rolling forward from the 2011 Census in the later part of 2013.

However, we need 2012 small area population estimates for the sub-national projections by late Autumn 2013, because the sub-national projection system runs on part areas (based on best-fit from data zones) to ensure that consistent council and NHS board area projections are produced. It should be possible to produce data zone populations for mid-2012 using the old data zone boundaries for internal use only in time to feed in to the projections to meet a Spring 2014 publication date for the sub-national projections. **Are PAMS members happy with this approach or should we delay the sub-national projections to later in the year?**

There is also a requirement for small area population estimates to feed in to Life Expectancy calculations for special areas such as by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Urban Rural, Community Health Partnership Areas as they rely on best fit populations from data zones. Life expectancy estimates for Council and NHS Board areas are not affected. One option would be to use old data zone population estimates similar to the sub-national projections however this is complicated in that we would also need estimates for mid-2010 as three years worth of data are used in the calculation. Waiting for re-based 2010 small area population estimates would delay the publication of life Expectancy until late 2014. One option would be to produce Council and NHS Board area Life expectancy in Spring 2014 and then Special Area and Community Health Partnership Area Life Expectancy late 2014. **PAMS members’ views are welcome on the approach we should take.**

It would also be helpful to get a steer from PAMS on options for rebasing historical small area population estimates using 2011 Census results. **Is there a need for a rebased back series for new data zones, old data zones, both?**

Census Quality Assurance

We are continuing to help our colleagues in Census division with the quality assurance of the 2011 Census.

Views from PAMS on any of the above points are welcome.

NRS: Population & Migration Statistics Branch
25 September 2012