

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Population and Migration Statistics Update

1. Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population and migration statistics. The Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee is asked to note the paper and offer any comments. We would also be very keen to hear back from PAMS members about how you use our statistics and what impact they have. Written comments are also very welcome and can be sent to denise.patrick@nrscotland.gov.uk.

2. Staffing

A number of staff changes have happened in the team over the past few months.

- Denise Patrick is now head of the Population and Migration Statistics branch.
- Jay Gillam, Huw Landrock and Luke Main have all left the branch since the last PAMS meeting.
- Daniel Burns, Maria Kaye and Andrew Gilliland have joined the branch as Assistant Statisticians on short fixed-term contracts with the opportunity to apply for permanent contracts through the forthcoming recruitment round.
- Maya Clayton and William Howes remain in the branch.
- Sarah Mohammed is going on maternity leave from 1 June 2017.

3. Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting:

- Projected Population of Scotland (2014-based): Additional Variants Using Alternative European Union Migration Assumptions (23 November 2016)
- Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland 2013-2015 (29 November 2016)
- Electoral Statistics - Scotland 1 December 2016 (16 March 2017)
- Life Expectancy in Scottish Council Areas by Deprivation / in Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas (28 March 2017)
- Mid-2016 Population Estimates (27 April 2017)
- Demographic and census profiles of European Economic Area (EEA) born residents in Scotland (27 April 2017)

Future publications:

- Total Migration to or From an Area, Mid-2016 Update (July 2017)
- The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends, 2016 (2 August 2017)

- Population by Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, 2016 (August 2017)
- Mid-2016 Small Area Population Estimates (2011 Data Zones) (August 2017)
- Local Area Migration (August 2017)
- Life Expectancy at Scotland level, National Life Tables, 2014-2016 (September 2017)
- Mid-Year Population Estimates, settlements and localities (TBC)
- Population Estimates for Scottish Centenarians, 2006-2016 (September 2016)
- Projected Population of Scotland, 2016-based (October/November 2017)
- Life Expectancy for Areas in Scotland, 2014-2016 (November 2017)
- Small Area Population Estimates (2011 Data Zones), 2001 to 2010 (TBC)

4. Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYE)

The 2016 mid-year population estimates were published on 27 April. The publication is available from the [population estimates](#) section of the NRS website. We have made improvements to the [main publication](#), including a number of infographics at the start to draw out the key findings and streamlining the amount of technical information in the main publication. We have also produced separate [infographics](#) and [interactive data visualisations](#) at council level. We welcome any feedback that you may have on the publication.

In collaboration with the Administrative Data team for Scotland's Census 2021 we have submitted an application to the Community Health Index Advisory Group (CHIAG) to request two additional fields that we currently use on the CHI extract be added to the NHS Central Register (NHSCR). These fields - GP practice code and GP postcode - are currently used in the imputation stages of the mid-year estimate process at council area level. Having this information available on the NHSCR would allow us to improve our imputation methodology at health board level and allow us to perform exploratory work to determine whether the postcode level information on the NHSCR could be used to produce council area estimates in the future.

5. Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)

The mid-2016 small area population estimates (2011 Data Zones) are scheduled for publication in August 2017. Feedback is welcomed on the previous format of the data files. Previously the data files included population estimates for all datazones in Scotland within a single worksheet. Last year we also published additional tables by council areas. Do councils find it helpful to have population estimates by council areas where each council is under a different worksheet/tab within one file? A possible alternative would be to include an additional column with council area names to the main population estimates by sex and single year of age file, so that users have an option to filter the results by council areas in one worksheet?

6. National Population Projections (NPP)

The 2016-based national population projections are scheduled for publication in October/November 2017. We will be hosting a user consultation event on 21 June where ONS will update users and seek input to assist us in setting assumptions on fertility, mortality and migration for the future projections of Scotland's population. PAMS members are invited to attend the user consultation event on 21 June.

7. Sub-council area population and household projections

Thank you to all who responded to the feedback survey we sent out, this has helped us to better understand how these projections have been used. A [summary of the responses to the survey](#) has now been published on our website. We are currently in the process of collaborating with the University of St. Andrews to provide training in POPGROUP software to allow users to produce their own small area projections. Please respond to the [short survey](#), issued to PAMS members on 17 May, to express an interest in the training.

8. Demographic and census profiles of European Economic Area (EEA) born residents

Alongside the mid-year population estimates, NRS published new [demographic and census profiles on EEA-born residents](#) in each of the 32 Council Areas in Scotland on 27 April. They draw on the latest migration data from the mid-2016 population estimates showing migration trends over time as well as Census 2011 data showing the number of EEA-born people living in each area, their age profile and labour market characteristics. The profiles are factual summaries and represent secondary analysis from existing sources and published statistics. Feedback is welcome on the profiles.

9. Centenarians and estimates for the population aged 90+

We are scheduled to release the Centenarians and population estimates for those aged 90+ at Scotland level as normal in September.

We are, however, proposing not to publish estimates of Centenarians at sub-national level. These have been published for the last 2 years as experimental statistics: data being developed. However, the estimates for the 90+ age category as a whole are available at council level in the mid-year population estimates and potentially are sufficient to meet user needs. We will be sending out a survey to assess the use of the Centenarians statistics at sub-national level, which will help us better understand the level of user demand. If you have used these estimates or are thinking about using them then we would greatly appreciate it if you respond to the survey.

10. National Life Tables

The National Life Tables are now being published in September to align with ONS. The [National Life Tables for Scotland](#) publication informs users about life expectancy at Scotland level. ONS publish the National Life Tables for the UK and constituent countries in late September. This year we will be changing the date of our publication from August to September, to coordinate with the ONS release. This means that the 2014-2016 National Life Tables for Scotland will be published in September rather than August, and this will enable consistent comparisons to be made between Scotland and the rest of the UK.

In previous years, we have asked ONS to produce the Scottish estimates early so we could release them at the same time as the Registrar General's Annual Review (RGAR). However this has caused confusion for users as the life expectancy statistics within the RGAR referred to several different time periods. We feel it is important to release the data alongside ONS and to avoid user misunderstanding. We have consulted with colleagues in Scottish Government Health ASD, ISD and ONS who all welcome the harmonised approach. We will inform users shortly via ScotStat.

11. Work with ISD to harmonise life expectancy and healthy life expectancy statistics within Scotland

Over 2016, work was carried out to harmonise sub-national life expectancy and healthy life expectancy statistics across the UK. It involved the investigation and subsequent implementation of an improved methodology which increased the upper age band from 85+ to 90+. It led to the publication by ONS of [comparable statistics in local areas](#), allowing users to compare life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and disability free life expectancy for the same time period across the whole of the UK. For example, this allowed easy comparisons between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in Scottish Borders (Scotland) with Monmouthshire (Wales), Antrim and Newtownabbey (Northern Ireland) and West Somerset (England).

Whilst this has improved the consistency of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy statistics in local areas across the UK, there are further estimates produced for Scotland-specific geographies such as Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and Urban Rural classifications. These important breakdowns are not included in the ONS publication as they are not comparable across the UK, and are calculated and published by NRS, ISD and SG. However these additional estimates for areas within Scotland are not always comparable as they cover different time periods (1 year, 3 years or 5 years) and different geographies. We are currently working with ISD in particular to explore the options to improve the usability and comparability of the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy statistics for areas within Scotland. This work is at an early exploratory stage and we will keep PAMS updated on progress.

12. Streamlining Migration Statistics

We are proposing to make a number of improvements to the way we present [migration statistics](#) online. The aim of the changes are to improve the clarity of the migration statistics webpage (to allow for easier navigation to the tables you want to find) as well as decreasing repetition of data and overlap. We also intend to make more detailed statistics available in some tables. Annex A outlines the existing tables and structure, and shows the proposed new structure. Comments are welcomed on the proposed changes, including any views on whether additional changes/data are needed.

From the [minutes](#) regarding the discussion of [PAMS \(16\) 14](#), it was brought up that some NRS outputs need quite a bit of work before they are in machine readable format. We intend to use this update to make our migration tables better in this respect, and will take steps to ensure that users won't be negatively impacted by any formatting changes. Would PAMS members find it useful for csv files of the migration tables to be made available?

13. Other research and improvement work

We are also continuing to improve our estimates through a range of work including:

- Exploring the HESA data and how it can improve our estimates of student migration. We have a student joining us in June who will take this work forward.
- Upgrading our migration processing system to take account of changes in data supply due to the closure of the NHSCR system in England and Wales, and move to using the Personal Demographic Service (PDS) data source for estimating cross border flows.

- Reviewing the methodology and processes used to create population estimates of settlements and localities. A verbal update on this will be provided at the meeting.

14. Progress in loading data to statistics.gov.scot

Population estimates are now available on statistics.gov.scot at broad age groups for 2001 Data Zones (historical geographic boundaries) and 2011 Data Zones (current geographic boundaries). The website aggregates population estimates to higher geographies from data zones. Any feedback from PAMS on statistics.gov.uk would be appreciated and we can share with relevant colleagues in the Scottish Government who are developing the site.

NRS Population and Migration Statistics branch
May 2017

Annex A – Proposed changes to Migration Tables

Existing tables and structure

Total Migration To or From an Area

- A1: Net migration to/from Scottish administrative areas, 1981/82 to most recent
- A2: In, out and net migration to and from Council areas by sex, 2001/02 to most recent
- A3: In, out and net migration to and from NHS Board areas by sex, 2001/02 to most recent
- A4: Total net migration by Council area by age group and sex, 2001/02 to most recent
- A5: Total net migration by NHS Board area by age group and sex, 2001/02 to most recent
- A6: Total net migration between Scotland the rest of the UK and overseas 1951-52 to latest
- A7: In, out and net migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK/overseas, 2001/02 to most recent
- A8: In, out and net migration, by Council area and single year of age, 2013-2015 average (i.e. the three-year period ending with the most recent year for which data is available)

Migration within Scotland

- B1: Migration flows between Council areas, 2001/02 to most recent
- B2: Migration flows between NHS Board areas, 2001/02 to most recent
- B3: In, out and net migration between NHS Board areas and the rest of Scotland by sex, 1995/96 to most recent

Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK

- C1: In and out migration between Scotland and rest of UK, updated quarterly, 1991 to most recent
- C2: In, out and net migration between administrative areas and rest of UK, 2001/02 to most recent
- C3: In, out and net migration between NHS Board areas and rest of UK by sex, 1995/96 to most recent.
- C4: In, out and net migration between Scotland and rest of UK by single year of age and sex, 2001/02 to latest

Migration between Scotland and Overseas

- D1: In, out and net migration by age group between Scotland and overseas, 2001/02 to most recent
- D2: In, out and net migration between NHS Board areas and overseas by sex, 2001/02 to most recent
- D3: In, out and net migration between administrative areas and overseas, 2001/02 to latest
- D4: In, out and net migration between Scotland and overseas by single year of age and sex, 2001/02 to latest.

Proposed new tables and structure

(existing tables in brackets)

Total Migration To or From Scotland

T1: Migration to and from Scotland (A6 +A7)

T2: Migration to and from administrative areas (A1+A2+A3)

T3: Migration Statistics by age (A4+A5+A8)

Migration within Scotland

X1: Migration flows between Council areas, 2001/02 to most recent (B1)

X2: Migration flows between NHS Board areas, 2001/02 to most recent (B2)

X3: Migration between NHS Board areas and the rest of Scotland by sex, 1995/96 to most recent (B3)

Migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK

Y1: Quarterly migration between Scotland and the Rest of the UK (C1)

Y2: Migration Between Scotland and the Rest of the UK by administrative area (C2+C3)

Y3: Migration between Scotland and rest of UK by single year of age and sex, 2001/02 to latest (C4)

Migration between Scotland and Overseas

Z1: Migration between Scotland and Overseas by administrative area (D2+D3)

Z2: Migration between Scotland and overseas by single year of age and sex, 2001/02 to latest (D4)