

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 National Records of Scotland (NRS), E-mail: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Staffing

Kylie Hill has left NRS to move to the Department for Education in London. Darren Knox will be starting in our team on 14 October 2013, moving from working on Census Quality Assurance.

Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting are:-

- Mid-2011 and Mid-2012 Population Estimates, based on the 2011 Census and reconciliation report (8 August 2013);
- Migration tables for mid 2011-2012 (25 September 2013);
- Centenarians, 2011 & 2012, based on the 2011 Census (1 October 2013).

Future publications, draft timetable 2013/2014:-

- 2012-based National Population Projections for Scotland (6 November 2013);
- Small area population estimates for 2011 and 2012, old data zones (December 2013)
- Remaining 2012-based variant projections for Scotland (10 December 2013);
- Re-basing of population and migration estimates at Scotland, Council and NHS board area for 2002 to 2010 (December 2013);
- Local Area Migration 2012 (February 2014);
- Life Expectancy, Council and NHS Board areas 2010-2012 (February 2014);
- Interim Life tables for Scotland 2010 -2012, including revised back series (February 2014);
- 2012-based Sub-National Population Projections for Council and NHS Board areas (March/April 2014);
- Mid-2013 population estimates (April 2014);
- 2011 and 2012 Small Area Population Estimates – new data zones (Spring 2014);
- 2012-based SDP and NP Population Projections (July/August 2014);
- Migration tables for mid-2012 to mid-2013 (July 2014);
- Small Area Population estimates and special area population estimates mid-2013 (August 2014);
- Country of Birth and Nationality population estimates 2013 (August 2014);
- Interim Life Tables 2011-2013 all countries, (September 2014);provisional Scotland table published in August with our RGs Annual Report (i.e. back to our usual annual publication timetable for interim LE);

- Centenarians, 2001 to 2013 (September 2014);
- Life Expectancy for Scottish Areas 2011-2013 (October 2014);
- Re-based Small Area Population Estimates (late 2014) – new data zones, old data zones if possible depending on resource.

Mid-Year Estimates for 2011 and 2012 and reconciliation with 2011 Census results

We published mid-2011 and mid-2012 population estimates based on the 2011 Census on 8 August 2013 as well as a report reconciling the differences between the population estimates rolled forward from 2001 and the 2011 Census results. Both reports can be found within the following sections of the NRS website:

[Mid-2011 and Mid-2012 Population Estimates Scotland](#) and [2011 Census Reconciliation Report - Population](#).

We used the new methodology for international migration in these estimates and also made other improvements to how the estimates are produced. More details of the methods used to create the mid-year estimates and the migration estimates can be found in the methodology paper within the [Mid-Year Population Estimates](#) section of the NRS website.

We are very happy to speak further to councils and others about how these estimates are produced.

Going forward we will be looking at information becoming available from the 2011 Census on address 12 months ago for within Scotland, cross-border and international moves and also looking at other indicators of migration e.g. country of birth and comparing these results against our migration estimates. We are also looking to use other sources in the estimation process, in particular information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to help with student flows. We will also continue to investigate whether we can directly use postcode information from the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) rather than using information from the Community Health Index (CHI).

Small Area Population estimates update

Small area population estimates for 2011 and 2012 based on the 2011 Census for 2001 data zones will be published in December 2013. These estimates will use the improved method for international migration and we are considering whether we need to make additional adjustments for some areas in light of 2011 Census results. Once new 2011 data zone boundaries are available next year we will publish populations for these new areas. For these new estimates we will undertake a fuller review of the small area population estimates methodology.

Population Projections (2012-based)

The National Population Projections (NPPs) are due to be published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 6 November 2013 and NRS will be publishing a Scotland specific report on the same day. The remaining variants for Scotland will be published by ONS on 10 December 2013. We would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to set the assumptions to be used in the national projections and to those who came to our Scottish Experts meeting in July.

We will be consulting Councils on the migration assumptions to be used in the 2012-based Sub-National Projections (SNPP) in December/January and we aim to get the consultation document out as soon as the rebased estimates for 2002 to 2010 are published. The migration assumptions will use the rebased migration estimates to be published in December 2013. Please go to Paper 3 PAMS (13) 12 for more information on plans for rebasing the population and migration estimates.

As ONS have not implemented rates for their national projection system we are still able to use our existing methodology and system for the 2012-based sub-national projections. Work will continue next year to look to adapting our system to cope with rates and other improvements to the methodology.

We would be interested in hearing if there is a demand to have a POPGROUP User Group meeting in 2014 after the 2012-based projections have been published.

Note

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

NRS: Population & Migration Statistics Branch
2 October 2013