

Population and Migration Statistics Committee (PAMS) (Scotland)

Household estimates and projections branch update

Publications

1. On 27 June, we published on the National Records of Scotland website the [Estimates of households and dwellings in Scotland, 2012](#). The figures were adjusted to reflect the household figures from the 2011 Census.
2. We also published [2011 Census Reconciliation Report - Households](#). This report compares the NRS household estimates and projections to the results of Scotland's Census 2011. The main findings were:
 - The 2011 household estimates published prior to the release of the 2011 Census were within one per cent of the 2011 Census estimates both for Scotland as a whole, and for the majority of local authorities, which was reassuring.
 - Estimates of the percentage change in household numbers between 2001 and 2011, from the 2011 household estimates published prior to the release of the 2011 Census, were also consistent with estimates of the change between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses.
 - Estimates of average household size and the estimates of the people resident in communal establishments were also close to the 2011 Census estimates.
 - The greatest difference from the census is in the projections of household type. The household projections over-projected the increase in the proportion of smaller households and the decrease in the proportion of larger households. The 2011 Census suggests that between 2001 and 2011, the changes in the types of households that people live in were not as great as between 1991 and 2001. As the main household projections are based on projecting the 1991 and 2001 data forward to 2011 and beyond, this caused the over-projection. The alternative headship projection, published as part of the [2010-based household projections](#) (available on the NRS website), produced better projections of household type than the principal projection because it assumes slower changes in the types of households that people live in.

Future household estimates and projections

3. The Council Tax-based household estimates were very close to the 2011 Census results, so we aren't proposing to make any changes to the way we produce household estimates, other than updating them to reflect the census results (which we have already done).
4. Between 2001 and 2011, the changes in the types of households that people live in were not as great as between 1991 and 2001. We want to improve our household projections methodology to reflect these changes more accurately.

5. Instead of just updating our current methodology to project changes between 2001 and 2011, we want to improve it by including three census points (i.e. including 1991, 2001 and 2011 Census data).
6. We are focussing initially on continuing to use the 'Head of Household' approach, as it will provide more consistency with previous projections, and it seems likely that other approaches won't make a great deal of difference. However, we will investigate some alternatives as well, such as using the 'Household Reference Person'.
7. We are currently testing the different methodologies using the 2011 Census household data, but with the pre-census population projections (i.e., the 2010-based population projections). This will allow us to check that what we are doing works, and the results look plausible. We are aiming to have a Household Analysis Review Group (HARG) meeting in December to discuss the results and hopefully agree which method to use. Then, when the sub-national population projections are published next year, we can incorporate them into the household projections. Doing the developmental work first will hopefully mean that there won't be too much of a delay between publishing the population and household projections. We are aiming to publish the 2012-based household projections by the end of July 2013.
8. If any PAMS members are interested in knowing more about the proposals for future household projections, The Household Analysis Review Group meets around once a year to discuss household estimates and projections. [Papers from HARG meetings](#) are published on the NRS website. HARG last met in April, and Paper 3 HARG 2013(3) [Household Projections for Scotland-Methodology Proposals following the 2011 census](#) paper may be of particular interest. This paper also includes a literature review of household projections methods used in other countries. We are planning to set up a household projections meeting in December to discuss what method we should use for future projections, and if anyone else is interested in coming to that meeting, please let us know.

Census

9. Some information on households, housing and communal establishments has now been published from the 2011 Census. Census Release 2C, planned for mid-December, will include more information on households and housing.

Staffing

10. Valerie Hale has just started her maternity leave. Debbie Amabile will be returning from her maternity leave in January, and will take over Valerie's work on the household projections (also working 3 days a week). Hugh Mackenzie will continue to work on the household projections full-time, and Kim Reimann will continue to work on the household estimates full-time. Esther Roughsedge continues to be the head of the branch.

<p>Summary: PAMS members are asked to note the comparisons between the 2011 Census and the NRS household estimates and projections, and the proposed changes to the household projections methodology. Any comments would be very welcome.</p>

Household estimates and projections branch
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