

Review of household types and age groups used in household projections

1. Purpose

1.1 To allow HARG members to review age groups and household types used in the production of household projections.

2. Household types

2.1 Our household types are based upon the number of adults and children in the household, not the relationships between them. They differ from the household types used on other parts of the UK.

Summary of currently used household types:

Scotland	England & Wales	N. Ireland
<i>No. adults and children</i>	<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Total no. people (1 to 7+); tenure</i>
1 adult (male & female)	1 adult	1 adult
2 adults; 3+ adults	Married couple; Cohabiting couple	2+ adults
1 adult, 1 child; 1 adult, 2+ children	1 adult, 1+ children	1 adult, 1+ children
2+ adults, 1+ children	Other multi-person	2+ adults, 1+ children

2.2 Department for Communities and Local Government include marital status in their projections for England and Wales but don't record whether there are children in the household (with the exception of single adult households). Northern Ireland's projections are based on similar groups to ours, but also include total number of people in the household (up to 7+).

2.3 There have been no issues raised about the household types and age groups we use. We are however prepared to consider alternative types which may make the data more useful to our customers.

3. Age groups

3.1 The age groups currently in use for household projections are not of equal sizes, but were instead chosen as being meaningful. There have been occasional requests for this data to be disaggregated to smaller age bands.

3.2 It may be useful to consider using 5 year age groups for future projections. This should be a fairly simple adjustment within a revised household projections system. The age groups would consist of 5 year age bands with the exception of those 16-19 and 90+.

3.3 The group age group 16-19 would be smaller but necessary as we would not consider 15 year olds to be the head of a household.

3.4 Due to small numbers it would not be meaningful to break down the population aged 90+ into smaller groups.

3.5 The relationship between the current and suggested age groups can be seen in the table below:

Current age groups	Revised age groups
16-24	16-19
	20-24
25-29	25-29
30-34	30-34
35-44	35-39
	40-44
45-54	45-49
	50-54
55-59	55-59
60-64	60-64
65-74	65-69
	70-74
75-84	75-79
	80-84
85+	85-89
	90+

4. Related review work

4.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will be carrying out a review of household projection methods in England and Wales. It may prove worthwhile to delay any significant changes to our projection methods until the results of this review are available. For more information see HARG 2007(4).

4.2 Ashley McCormick will be looking more closely at different sub-groups of the population as part of his PhD. His masters thesis may highlight useful amendments which can be made to the existing projections method. For more information see HARG 2007(5).

5. Conclusion

5.1 HARG members are asked whether they have any comments on the household types and age groups used in the Scottish household projections, and whether these are something that GROS should consider modifying.

GROS: Household estimates and projections branch
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