

Household Projections

Comparisons between previous household projections and the Census

1. At the last HARG meeting, GROS presented comparisons between previous household projections and the 2001 Census results. Because this included the effects of the population projections, HARG members suggested GROS should carry out a similar comparison of the headship rates. The attached Annex shows the results for Scotland, by household type and age group. The 1994- and 1996-based household projections used a 2-point exponential function based on 1971 and 1991 data. The 1998- and 2000-based projections used a 2-point exponential function based on 1981 and 1991 data. Please note that the graphs are not all to the same scale.

- **1 adult male:** The projections under-estimated the middle age groups and over-estimated older age groups
- **1 adult female:** The projections were generally accurate, but over-estimated the older age groups.
- **2 adults:** The projections provided a fairly good match, but the older age groups were less accurate. It seems likely that this was linked to the over-estimation of the single female households.
- **1 adult with 1 child:** The projections under-estimated the figures, except for the youngest age groups.
- **3 or more adults:** The projections over-estimated the figure for the middle age groups. The projections appeared to be least accurate for this household type.
- **1 adult with 2 or more children:** The projections over-estimated the figures for the younger age groups
- **2 or more adults with 1 or more children:** The projections provided a fairly good match, except for the 30-34 and 45-54 age groups.

2. This analysis suggests, as may be expected, that the projections were most accurate for the larger household types (2 adults, and 2 adults with children), and there were most inaccuracies with the smallest household types (1 adult with 1 child, and 1 adults with more than one child). This suggests that there may be a benefit in combining these household types, though this would have to be balanced against the need for information disaggregated in this way. It also emphasises the advantage there would be in using sample surveys to update the figures on household type between Censuses.

2004-based household projections

3. The 2004-based sub-national population projections will be published in December 2005, and the 2004-based household projections, based on these figures, will be published in Spring 2006.

4. GROS held a one-day seminar in Edinburgh on November 9, with people from across the UK describing the approaches used to produce population and household projections. The presentations will be made available on the GROS website. This seminar was aimed at informing reviews of the population and household projections produced by GROS. We

would like to discuss the outcomes of this seminar at the HARG meeting, and agree what actions we need to take as a result.

5. A number of possible changes will be considered to the household projections methodology, though most will be incorporated into the 2006-based projections, rather than then 2004-based projections. These include increasing the length of time covered by the projections, producing projections for different geographic areas, updating the information on communal establishment residents, and incorporating the results of household surveys such as the Scottish Household survey, to measure changes in household structure at the national level, since the last Census.

6. We are proposing to hold the next HARG meeting in February, when the population projections will be available and GROS will have had time to produce the first set of draft household projections, for comment.

GROS: Household estimates branch
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