

POPULATION & MIGRATION STATISTICS GROUP

STATISTICAL PLANS

1. UK level

A consultation paper from the UK Population and Migration theme on plans for the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 has been available on the ONS website for some time. The formal consultation period ends on 5 November 2001. Thereafter plans for this and other themes should be consolidated into a UK level Statistics Plan. The consultation paper can be found fairly easily at www.statistics.gov.uk by accessing the population and migration theme. The full URL is www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/yourviews/population.asp.

GROS apologises for not drawing this to the Committee's attention earlier.

2. Scotland level

Based on the previous planning round, Scottish users prefer to comment on a Scotland level plan. The Scottish Statistical Plan for 2001-02 was published on 18 April 2001 and can be viewed at www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/government/stpl-00.asp. The Population and Migration section of the Plan is attached at Annex A. Work has begun to update this primarily for 2002-03, but 2003-04 and 2004-05 may be covered if there are particular developments envisaged for then. A draft of the updated plan drawing on the UK plan and other relevant information will be circulated prior to the 14 November meeting, if possible. **The PAMS Committee is invited to offer suggestions for items to be considered for inclusion.**

3. Neighbourhood Statistics

The Scottish Executive has embarked on a major project to prepare sets of Neighbourhood Statistics. Each SCOTSTAT Committee will be expected to take an interest in the development of material for inclusion that is relevant to its theme. In the population and migration theme work requirements as currently stated are confined to small area population estimates (mainly as denominators for other measures) and also on how Census Output Area data should contribute to Neighbourhood Statistics.

The PAMS Committee is invited to consider whether there is a need to collate or develop new statistical measures under this theme for inclusion in Neighbourhood Statistics and to send any proposals to the secretary for wider consideration.

4. Committee Workplan for 2001-02 and 2002-03

The SCOTSTAT Board will require a work programme from this Committee and an annual report of what we have done. Although the formal structures requiring this are not yet in place, it is not too early to begin considering a work programme for the Committee. It will be for Jenny Boag as our nominated representative on the SCOTSTAT Board to present the agreed work programme to the Board.

The following points might find their way into the Work Programme, but members are invited to comment and suggest further items at the 14 November meeting or in writing by 30 November to Jenny Boag, copied to David Orr and Wilma Smith.

Accept final specification for 2001 Census Outputs.

Comment on 2001 Census dissemination arrangements in particular contribute to development of the Scottish Census Records Output Library (SCROL) system.

Canvass demand for additional Census Topic tables from other SCOTSTAT Committees.

Contribute to future Census policy by input to or commenting on any official evaluation reviews.

Comment on proposals for development of population statistics in particular through

Working Group on Small Area Population Estimates
(Final report due December 2002)

Working Group on post 2001 methodology for estimating and projecting migration
(Group to be set up and to report by [March 2003])

To consider and recommend to the SCOTSTAT Board proposals for new statistics within the Population and Migration theme, especially new neighbourhood statistics.

To contribute to any UK quality reviews being conducted by the Population and Migration theme. [NB Reviews of Birth & Death data and International Migration data are the current UK priorities.]

To respond appropriately to any demands of the SCOTSTAT Board.

3.9 Population and Migration (Minister for Justice)

Background

This Theme includes population estimates, projections, outputs from the Census of Population and Housing, international and internal migration, statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and citizenship statistics and electoral statistics. These statistics provide essential information about the social and economic characteristics, structure and dynamics of the population. Apart from immigration and citizenship, responsibility for statistics in this theme is devolved to Scotland and managed by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS).

One of the most important sources of population information, particularly for small areas, is the decennial Census of Population. This provides not only population counts but also detailed information about the characteristics of the population. Census day is 29 April 2001, but forms will be delivered and returned in the period around that date. The Census will be followed by a Census Coverage Survey (CCS), an independent large-scale survey designed to measure the level and distribution of any Census under-enumeration and the characteristics of those missed. Census data augmented by CCS data will be used to generate the best estimate of the population and its characteristics.

Population statistics are used extensively by a wide range of users in determining resource allocation for local and health authorities; in planning for housing education health care and social welfare needs and in the derivation of per capita indicators, which assist comparisons across areas. Thus they are a key input to work on cross cutting issues, such as social inclusion. Vital statistics (derived from the registration of births, marriages and deaths) and migration statistics provide information on the dynamics of population change and on the experiences of people born at different times and in different subgroups of the population.

The key publication is the *Annual Report of the Registrar General for Scotland*, which is published each July. This, and all other GROS publications, can be accessed on the GROS Website at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/>

GROS works particularly closely with the Office for National Statistics and there is a separate concordat between the Office for National Statistics and GROS.

Plans for 2001-02

New Outputs

- Conduct both the 2001 Census and the Census Coverage Survey effectively.
- Finalise the products to be produced from the 2001 Census and their production timetable.

- Publish small area population estimates at the ward and postcode sector level, which are consistent with the Registrar General's 2000 mid-year estimates of population. It is felt that this initial dataset may not satisfy National Statistics standards.

Activities in support of existing outputs

- Undertake Scottish aspects of the Quality Assurance Review of Vital Events data and Migration data.
- Prepare and publish 2000-based population projections for Scotland and its administrative areas. Formal responsibility for the national projections has been devolved, but the Registrar General will continue to commission the national projections from the Government Actuary.
- Finalise and announce a new methodology for estimating council area migration for use in the GROS mid-year estimates of population, using data from the Community Health Index.

Other activities

- Explore the wider use of administrative records in augmenting the availability of population data, in conjunction with other developments on neighbourhood statistics and in modernising government.

DRAFT

SCOTTISH Statistical Plan 2002-03 to 2004-05
Population & Migration Chapter

1. Scope

The Population and Migration theme brings together information and statistics about the population and its comings and goings. It includes population estimates, projections, outputs from the Census of Population and Housing, international and internal migration, statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and citizenship statistics and electoral statistics. These statistics provide essential information about the social and economic characteristics, structure and dynamics of the population. Responsibility for most statistics in this theme is devolved and managed by the General Register Office for Scotland, but immigration and citizenship statistics are reserved and managed by the Home Office.

Population statistics are used extensively by a wide range of users in determining resource allocation for local and health authorities; in planning for housing, education, health care and social welfare needs and in the derivation of per capita indicators, which assist comparisons across areas. Thus they are a key input to work on cross cutting issues, such as social inclusion. Vital statistics (derived from the registration of births, marriages and deaths) and migration statistics provide information on the dynamics of population change and on the experiences of people born at different times and in different subgroups of the population.

1.1. Summary of main outputs

The main publications are the Annual Report of the Registrar General for Scotland; Population Estimates, Scotland (annual); and Population Projections, Scotland (biennial). Statistics can be accessed at the GROS web-site www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

1.2. New outputs (developments)

Population counts from the 2001 Census for Census Day and mid year 2001 will be released in August 2002. The counts will have been augmented to take account of the Census Coverage Survey by means of the One Number Census estimation process.

Population estimates for each mid year 1992 to 2000 will be revised to produce a consistent time series in time for publication with the 2002 mid year estimates in April 2003.

Detailed Census Area Statistics on a wide range of topics will be published by March 2003 through SCROL (Scottish Census Records Output Library) (for further information see [cross ref Census Output section]). New data on socio

economic variability by area, on ethnicity and other equality measures will be particularly welcomed by users and will have special relevance to social inclusion issues.

The current experimental methodology for producing small area population estimates will be reviewed in the light of Census results and 2001 small area population estimates will be published. [DN Will mid 2001 small area estimates be available at the same time as Census results for output areas?]

The methodology for estimating migration at council area level will be reviewed drawing on new data from Community Health Index and the 2001 Census and a new methodology - probably dropping the previous electoral register source will be introduced and fully documented for public release.

The first set of population projections taking account of the 2001 Census will be 2002 based, available November 2003 (national) and March 2004 (sub-national).

1.3 Changes to scope of National Statistics (where appropriate)

[Suggest omit – only candidate is changing small area population estimates from experimental to national statistics]

2. Sources

2.1. Developments in data collection and sources (including new processes such as electronic data capture)

2001 Census

Output from the 2001 Census will be relevant to many other themes including Labour Market, Social and welfare, Education, Health and Care, Environment and Transport and Travel, Census Counts also play an important role in the distribution of Local Government Finance and Health Finance.

Census data will be available for use in demographic analysis by the academic or other sectors and this will assist in improving the understanding of the policy implications of population change.

Patient register data

Patient register data is the key component of experimental data on small area estimates and for estimating migration within local authority areas. Fitness for purpose and potential to acquire a National Statistics label will be evaluated. This evaluation will focus on data quality issues. Given the mobility of some sectors of the community, there are some concerns that patient registers are not recording all moves, eg of groups such as asylum seekers and there may be a need to draw on additional sources.

[Will the Change to E&W Health Areas impact on the provision of data for Cross-border moves?]

[Will new data on asylum seekers be forthcoming from new Home Office developments? Anything else from new Home Office initiatives?]

3. User/provider consultation – SCOTSTAT committee work and other developments

A SCOTSTAT Population and Migration Statistics Committee has been set up to pursue the interests of the theme with a range of users. Input is also possible from any party registering an interest via the Web based user consultation framework. In addition to looking after the interests of the theme the Committee also serves as the Scottish Census Advisory Group.

The current work of the Committee, subject to approval by the SCOTSTAT Board is to

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[DN Is this too detailed?]

4. Quality Improvements

The National Statistics (NS) Quality Review programme provides a structured framework to review the statistics required and the methods and data sources used in the preparation of the statistics.

National Population Projections

The Government Actuary's Department will implement, where possible, the recommendations from the NS Quality Review of the methodology used in preparing mortality projections, in time for the 2002-based national population projections.

Reviews scheduled for 2001-02

UK wide reviews of births and deaths and international migration were scheduled for 2001-02, but there have been delays in making progress. [DN What to say?]

International migration.

High priority will be given to improving the statistics on international migration and asylum seekers. One of the issues identified by users is the need for more reliable estimates of international migration at county and local authority level. The UK wide NS quality review scheduled to commence in 2001-02 will investigate this and other user requirements assess how the currently available statistics meet these needs, assess gaps and make recommendations

[DN What to say about delay to review.]

Other Planned Quality Developments

Although the drive to improve quality is spearheaded through the NS Quality Review programme for the theme, additionally there is a continuous programme of research to make methodological improvements. This draws on academics and other experts as necessary. Data sources are kept under review and new sources are investigated to assess their potential use in population and migration statistics.

Improved guidance and increased information about methods is now in the public domain. This will be enhanced and updated as necessary.

The Home Office will continue to improve the quality and scope of the statistics to support immigration control and asylum by utilising improved administrative sources of casework information.

5. Developments in geographic data including neighbourhood statistics

Most data is postcoded. Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics will draw on postcoded data and there will be key role for the 2001 Census Output Areas in neighbourhood statistics. Developments on small area population estimates will play an important role as denominators for calculating rates per head in many neighbourhood statistics. Care will need to be taken in interpreting any such statistics in the light of the confidence that can be attached to small area estimates.

6. Developments in equality data (in most chapters)

Gender disaggregation is commonplace in statistics for this theme. There have been detailed consultations about the ethnicity classification and tables to be

produced from the 2001 Census in Scotland taking account of comment from the Race Equality Advisory Forum and others. It is important to note that the different size of ethnic minority populations in Scotland compared with England would give rise to issues of disclosure if the same detailed classifications were to be used across the UK. Consequently care needs to be taken in presenting ethnicity data by geographical area. [Can we draft something better here about the differences with England on ethnicity statistics?]

7. International issues (where appropriate)

[None]

8. Links to other chapters (where appropriate)

[DN Link to special overview section on Census.]