

## **TOPIC REPORTS**

The Population & Migration Statistics Committee is invited to consider the attached paper relevant to Census Topic Reports.

**The Committee is invited to send the paper (amended if necessary) to the secretariat of the SCOTSTAT Board for consideration and action by each SCOTSTAT Committee and if deemed appropriate by the SCOTSTAT Board.**

**The Committee is also invited to consider whether it needs to commission any detailed large area tables relevant to the Population & Migration theme.**

GROS

## CENSUS AND MULTI SOURCE TOPIC REPORTS

1. GROS has issued a set of final proposals for the Standard Area Statistics to be produced from the 2001 Census. These proposals were presented at 3 Roadshows in October 2001.

- *Standard Area Statistics, Scotland: final proposals.* This paper describes the proposed products which are the outcome of previous rounds of consultation. The proposals are presented as final, apart from a few remaining points for user comment.

*A PDF version of this document is available on the GROS website ([www.gros-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gros-scotland.gov.uk))*

- *Key Statistics: final version.* Contains table outlines.
- *Theme Tables: final specifications.* Contains outlines of the theme table subset of the Standard Tables product. These tables generally take a particular sub-group of the population and cross-classify categories of the sub-group against a series of related variables.
- *Standard Tables: final specifications.* Contains outlines of the main tables in the product: these tables are simple cross-tabulations of two or more variables
- *Census Area Statistics: concluding consultation.* Contains table outlines.
- *Master Index for Key Statistics, Theme Tables, Standard Tables and Census Area Statistics.* An index to help the user to find tables on each Census topic.
- *Classifications: final version.* Contains the complete set of categories for each Census variable

This consultation also includes Origin-Destination Statistics.

- *Origin-Destination Statistics: final specifications.* Contains a description of the products and table outlines.

## 2. Proposals for elsewhere in the UK

The Census Organisations in England and Wales and Northern Ireland have also prepared a discussion document. This document is the equivalent of the first listed above and is available from ONS. The other documents cover the whole of the UK, indicating clearly where coverage is limited to particular parts of the UK.

*PDF versions of these documents can be found on the National Statistics website ([www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/outputproposals.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/outputproposals.asp)).]*

This paper seeks views from each of the 10 Scottish Statistics User/Provider Theme Groups on the need for further Topic Output relevant to their theme.

### 3. Background

#### *1991 Census*

In addition to standard area based tables GROS produced four Topic Reports for Scotland on Economic Activity, Gaelic, Housing and Cars, and Workplace and Transport to Work. OPCS (now absorbed into ONS) produced a dozen or so reports for GB.

- Sex, Age and Marital Status
- Historical Tables
- Usual Residence
- Persons Aged 60 and Over
- Communal Establishments
- Household Composition
- Limiting Long-Term Illness
- Ethnic Group and Country of Birth
- National Migration (Part 1)
- National Migration (Part 2)
- Regional Migration (Part 1)
- Regional Migration (Part 2)
- Topic Report for Health Areas
- Household and Family Composition
- Qualified Manpower
- Children and Young Adults

These reports consisted of primary analysis specific to individual topics generally for quite large areas, unlike Small Area Statistics (SAS) which were available for areas as small as Output Areas (average 53 households). In general, the Tables in these reports contained more detailed classifications or were for more specific sub-populations than those in the SAS.

Apart from certain explanatory material (definitions and so on), the topic reports contained no commentary on the statistics they contained. However, in most cases, the report was accompanied by a Topic Monitor giving a simple summary of the material in the report. For only one topic – ethnic group – OPCS commissioned additional analysis and commentary to bring in material from a variety of sources other than the Census. This material was published in a series of four volumes dealing with

- Demographic characteristics of the ethnic minority populations.
- The ethnic minority populations of Great Britain.
- Social Geography and ethnicity in Britain: geographical spread, spatial concentration and internal migration.
- Employment, education and housing among the ethnic minority populations of Britain.

#### 4. 2001 Census

A key aim for the 2001 Census is to have Census output used effectively for evidence based policy making. To that end the Scottish Executive have funded the development of the Scottish Census Results On-line Library (SCROL) which will deliver the Standard Area Statistics for Scotland free to end users.

The Area products have been specified after comprehensive consultation (prior to the setting up of theme groups). **We are now asking each group to consider whether they need additional outputs relevant to their theme. To do this they will need to consider both policy needs and the Standard Area Statistics already specified.**

There is scope to commission detailed tables for large areas - say Scotland as a whole (but some sub-division, probably not as detailed as council area, may be possible for some tables if confidentiality can be preserved). Such output is intended to allow analysis by more detailed classifications than can be used in the Area Statistics eg occupation and industry classifications; more detailed country of birth or ethnicity classifications; or household composition classifications. Such detailed classifications would probably be disclosive for small areas and so will not be permitted at that level.

In specifying more detailed classifications consideration needs to be given to classifications used in non-Census sources to aid comparability. (The document classification's final version may assist in devising appropriate classifications for new detailed tables.)

It may be possible to deliver such output free within the SCROL funding, but it cannot be assumed in advance that this will be the case. If charges are necessary they are unlikely to be large.

Tables may be made available electronically or consideration can be given to the need for publication on the lines of the Topic Reports produced for 1991 Census. For some topics it is more likely that Web published Census material will later be used together with data from other sources, to produce a publication covering a topic as a whole.

#### 5. Action

**Scottish Statistics User/Provider Consultation Group are invited to submit proposals to GROS for commissioned detailed tables for large areas, having taken account of the Area Statistics already specified. Proposals agreed by SCOTSTAT Committees should be made to Wilma Smith, GROS, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh EH12 7TF (email [wilma.smith@gro-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:wilma.smith@gro-scotland.gov.uk)) by 30 April 2002.**

There is also scope to commission simple additional tables similar to the Area Statistics for a variety of area types. (This will not be free, but charges should be far less in real terms than for the equivalent service in 1991).

If a theme representative wishes to discuss some possible proposals in advance of submission they should contact Frank Thomas at 0131 314 4217 (email [frank.thomas@gro-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:frank.thomas@gro-scotland.gov.uk)).

SCOTSTAT Committees may wish to be aware that ONS have initiated consideration of the need for a range of multi-source topic reports and there may be merit in liaising with the UK Theme Working Group to consider developments.

ONS have also asked certain theme working groups to provide guidance for users on whether Census or an alternative source is the most appropriate source on any given topic, for use in particular circumstances.

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