

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

Household Projections Programme of Work

This paper outlines a programme of work and timetable for the production of the 2002 based local authority level household projections for Scotland.

Introduction

The most recent population projections for Scotland are the 2000 based projections which were published by SE housing statistics in August 2002. There were a number of caveats published along with these projections, which were mainly a result of the fact that the input to the household projections i.e. population projections and projected headship rates were derived from the 1991 Census.

The 2002 based household projections will provide more authoritative projections, as they will use the 2002 based population projections, and will use headship rates which are based on 2001 Census headship rates.

Following discussion with the Household Analysis Review Group the Scottish Executive plans to:-

- to produce the 2002 based household projections using the current methodology, incorporating headship information from the 2001 Census; and
- to consider options for developing the methodology prior to production of the 2004 based estimates.

Producing the 2002 based projections

An outline of the tasks required to produce the 2002 based projections are

- Update household projections system to hold 2001 Census headship rates
- Agree a methodology for projected headship rates beyond 2001
- Dry run of methodology using 2000 based population projections
- Agree methodology for estimating 2002 based household population projections
- Produce initial household projections when 2002 based population projections become available
- Identify quality issues in household projections, and identify options for adjusting projections in relation to

Annex 1 sets out some of the key technical issues which need to be resolved in implementing the current methodology with headship information from the 2001 Census, the most important of which is deciding between the 'household reference person' and 'head of household' bases for determining headship.

Timetable

An outline timetable for production of the projections is at Annex 2. Note that we are planning to have interim projections for internal use available by end February with the aim of consulting and final publication by early April.

Future development of methodology

We don't as yet have a set workplan for further development work. Through discussion in HARG there is an interest in commissioning work to explore the possibility of producing projections for different household types.

ODPM are currently reviewing the basis of household projections for England and it would be useful to consider, with them, what we can learn from their review and the feasibility of adopting a common approach.

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Annex1: Technical issues to be decided in updating current methodology to 2001 CensusIncorporating 2001 Census headship rates to provide projected headship rates

The 2001 Census made some changes which impact on the definition of a household. In summary these are

- The concept of a 'Household reference person' rather than 'Head of household'
- A change in the definition of a dependent child
- All students are now counted at their term-time address, rather than previously at their home address where this was in the UK

In principle these changes result in methodological differences between 2001 based headship rates and those based on previous Censuses, which could result in invalid headship rate projections. It was therefore necessary to explore the likely impact of these definitional changes in order to decide .

To date this has been investigated by requesting headship rates based on different definitions.

- 2001 headship rates based on current definitions
- 2001 headship rates based on use of head of household
- 1991 headship rates using 2001 definitions (using 1991 10% sample)
- 1991 headship rates using 1991 definitions

The likely options for projecting headship rates will be

- Project headship rates based on 2001 and 1991 headship rates i.e. ignoring definitional changes
- Project headship rates based on 2001 and 1991 headship rates using 2001 definitions
- Project headship rates based on 2001 and 1991 headship rates but modify 1991 headship rates in specific situations where the definitional changes have had a large impact e.g. elderly couple households.

Quality control of projected headship rates

During the process, a number of quality issues will be investigated covering

- Projection of headship rates independently by local authority
- Method of adjustment of projected headship rates to ensure sum to 1
- Adult and child feasibility

Annex 2: Timetable

	Deadline
Prepare paper to compare trends in headship rates between 71 and 2001 Census, and exploring impact of definitional changes Recommend methodology for projecting 2001 headship rates	December 2003
Agree methodology for estimating household based population from total population	January 2004
Produce and consult on projected headship rates for local authority areas and structure plan areas	February 2004
Input 2002 based household based population projections and produce initial set of household projections	February 2004
Report on quality issues in household projections and consult with councils on credibility tests.	March 2004
Agree and publish household projections	April 2004