

## POPULATION STATISTICS MATTERS

### 1 Introduction

1.1 This report gives a brief update of work in progress or planned within the Population Statistics area. Members are asked to note the paper and, in particular:

- **The consultation on migration assumptions outlined in para 2.2;**
- **Para 3.2 which seeks volunteers to participate in a working group to improve small area population estimates;**
- **Comment on the proposals in para 5.3 for provisional revisions to the 2000 Mid-year estimates.**

### 2 Population Projections

#### *National population projections*

2.1 The national population projections are to be published on 15 November via a GROS News Release. The key assumptions underpinning these projections were published in September in the Autumn edition of Population Trends. For Scotland the long-term assumptions compared with the assumptions used in the 1998 based assumptions are:

#### **Long term assumptions for the 2000 based national population projections; Scotland**

|  | <b>2000 based<br/>projections</b> | <b>1998 based<br/>projections</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Fertility</b> – Long-term average number of children per woman        | 1.60                              | 1.75                              |
| <b>Mortality</b> – Expectation of life at birth in 2025*                 |                                   |                                   |
| Males  | 76.6                              | 77.0                              |
| Females  | 81.6                              | 81.6                              |
| <b>Net migration</b> – Annual net flow from 2002-03 onwards <sup>†</sup> | 0                                 | -1,000                            |

\* Specimen year. Mortality rates are assumed to continue improving beyond 2025.

<sup>†</sup> Includes international migration and cross-border migration between the countries of the UK.

#### *Sub-national population projections*

2.2 The production of the sub-national projections is being brought forward to avoid any conflict of resources with the One Number Census estimates work. Work has begun to finalise GROS' initial proposals for the migration assumptions at the sub-national level. The migration assumptions will be issued to Council Chief Executives, PAMS members and LA side reps in November for consultation.

2.3 As mentioned in SCAG 01(07) GROS is considering small changes to the projections methodology, specifically the scope of the scaling factors and whether there is a case for making them more specific. The work on this improvement now depends on the resources and time available before the arrival of Census output. It is expected that the work involved in this will be reasonably small. GROS propose to present the work and any proposed changes to a small number of users for endorsement. If you are interested in participating, please inform Donna Hosie ([donna.hosie@gro-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:donna.hosie@gro-scotland.gov.uk)) on 0131 314 4388. Donna Hosie will be contacting those users to inform them of progress on this task.

### 3 Small Area Population Estimates

3.1 An experimental set of 1999 small area population estimates were published at postcode sector level earlier this year. Ward level estimates for 1999 have now been produced and added to the dataset. In addition, a set of 2000 small area population estimates has been produced for wards and postcode sectors which are currently being finalised. 1999 Ward estimates and the new 2000 estimates will be made available on the GROS website and PAMS members will receive notification of when the estimates are available.

3.2 As reported in SCAG 01(07) a new project funded by Neighborhood statistics has been initiated to look at improvements in the small area population estimate methodology for 2001 and beyond. Claire Boag an assistant statistician started in September and is currently scoping the work for this project. This work will be taken forward as part of the new SCOTSTAT consultation arrangements with a working group set up to develop the work with papers being placed on a website for other members of PAMS and others registering interest to access and comment on. Any members wishing to participate in the working group should inform Claire Boag ([claire.boag@gro-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:claire.boag@gro-scotland.gov.uk)) before the end of November.

### 4 Mid-Year Estimates – Migration

4.1 The development work on using the CHI to estimate migration at a lower level has been delayed due to vacancies within the branch. The final stages of this work are being taken forward by a new assistant statistician, Claire Boag and members of the working group should expect to hear from her before Christmas with initial proposals.

### 5 2001 Mid-Year Estimates

5.1 It is planned that the 2001 Mid-year estimates will be rolled forward from Census day 2001. Therefore, the publication of the results will as already announced be later than usual in August 2002 when the age/sex population totals from the 2001 Census are available.

5.2 GROS is planning to publish a revised set of intercensal population estimates for 1992-2000 after the 2001 census based mid-year estimates have been produced. However, the preparation of the revised estimates depends upon the availability of migration data from the Census, which is part of the core standard area statistics. This data is planned to be available in early 2003 and GROS are provisionally planning that the revised set of intercensal population estimates will be published along with the 2002 Mid-year estimates in April 2003.

5.3 Users may feel that, for some historical comparison, revised estimates should be published sooner than the proposed date of April 2003. An alternative is that GROS prepare a provisional revised figure for 2000, which would give a good indication of the year to year change and would give some indication of the level of change allowing users to estimate the impact on any 2000 and 2001 measures that use population as a denominator. If required, the proposal will be simply to roll-back the 2001 Census based mid-year estimates to 2000. Although the estimate for 2000 is likely to change once the full period has been revised, it is expected that these should be close to any final revisions. **Members are asked to comment on the need for provisionally revised 2000 mid-year estimates either at the meeting or to Garnett Compton by Christmas.**

**Garnett Compton**  
**Population Statistics Branch, GROS**  
**25 October 2001**