

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

Household estimates

Estimates of total number of households for June 2001 and 2002, based on 2001 Census figures were produced and published in April at the same time as the 2002 household projections. An alternative methodology for the household estimates – using council tax base information, and giving an estimate up to June 2003 - was discussed in HARG. Following the HARG discussion councils' views were sought on the alternative. We decided that, because of the reservations of some councils about the proposed methodology it would be best to take time to review this before making such a radical change. We will pursue this in the HARG work programme for 2004-05.

The 2001 census based household estimates show a discontinuity with the 1991-2001. Scottish total from Census is about 20th lower than previous estimate. HARG has discussed possible methodologies for re-setting estimates back to 1991, but has not yet agreed on a favoured approach. For the next HARG meeting we hope to present a methodology for compiling estimates consistent with the revised mid year population estimates.

Household projections

2002 based projections were published in April. HARG discussed outputs from two different approaches – respectively using head of household (HoH) and household reference person (HRP) bases for compiling household formation rates by age. Both sets of projections were based on changes in household formation patterns between the 1991 and 2001 Censuses; taken from specially commissioned analyses from the Censuses. In particular, the 1991 data were adjusted as far as possible for the change in treatment of students between the two Censuses; and data on household formation patterns on a household reference person basis was provided for 1991 from 10% sample data. [In 91 relationships within households were coded for only 10% of households].

Following discussion in HARG it was agreed that the Head of Household basis was the more reliable of the two approaches. Overall the projections are significantly lower than previous projections. This is due both to the lower population projections and lower growth in the proportion of the population forming households between 1991 and 2001 than between 1981 and 1991.

Housing and Households information

Following discussions between the Analytical Services Division of the Development Department (DD-ASD) of the Scottish Executive and GRO(S), there are a number of developments planned which will mean a transfer of responsibility for the production of housing based statistics to GROS. This will include

- Data collection and analysis associated with small area dwellings estimates from Assessor data (by Nov 04).
- Development of a process to collect data from Revenue systems in local authorities on occupied dwellings (timescale dependent on initial scoping work from DD-ASD).
- Transfer of household projections system and further development of methodology with a view of producing the 2004 based household projections. DD-ASD will support this by providing

SAS programs/ guidance notes/ supporting spreadsheets etc, and plan to manage this handover in late spring/ early summer.

- Development of methodology to produce small area household estimates for SNS

The current plans are for the first area of work to be covered by Demography section but that the others will be the responsibility of a new branch, which will be the subject of a bid for SNS funding. This development will mean that GROS will have to ensure good liaison with the developments in corporate gazetteers, the developments in the Assessor portal projects.

Areas which will not transfer, or will be subject to further discussion are

- DD-ASD will continue to provide local authority level household estimates.
- GROS indicated that work they agreed to take on did not commit to any collection/analysis of tenure data.
- GROS did not commit to taking on chairmanship of Household Analysis Review Group (a SCOTSTAT group), but are open to persuasion that such a course is appropriate.

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