

# POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

## POPULATION STATISTICS UPDATE

### Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population statistics. PAMS is asked to note the paper and other comments. Written comments will also be welcome to [neil.bowie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:neil.bowie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

### Mid-Year Estimates

The 2003 mid-year estimates for Scotland were published on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004, the detailed age/sex breakdown and estimates for local authorities and health boards will be published on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The original intention was to publish the full data on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, however due to difficulties with data sources, and staff changes, the figures for smaller areas had not yet been subjected to necessary quality checks. It was therefore decided to delay publication.

### Small area population estimates (SAPE)

SAPE 2002 were published for wards in January. A number of options for the SAPE methodology were circulated to the SAPE working group, and on the basis of the responses the preferred method was identified as the cohort component method, subject to quality control of the migration measures in relation to the Census. An analysis was carried out comparing internal migration at ward level with Census data, and on the whole there was a good level of agreement of the flows. However there were a number of areas, which were mostly areas with high numbers of students, where the agreement was not so good.

The SAPE 2002 were published with an indication of the areas where we think there are issues. Further development of small area estimates has been identified which will look into refinement of the migration information, and will develop a system for producing SAPE for datazones for Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics.

### Revisions 1982-2000

There has been no progress on the various projects to produce revision of in the light of the Census. These are populations for old district areas, migration series for 1982- 2000, and marital status estimates.

### Population Projections

The national and sub-national population projections for Scotland were published in December 2003 and January 2004.

It is planned to set up a Projections Working group to look into technical issues relating to the production of the sub-national projections. It has not been possible to set up this group yet due to resource constraints but it is hoped that an initial meeting will take place in the summer to discuss the possibility of commissioning some work from the external consultant to look into the ranges of methodologies available.

### **Quarterly Population Estimates**

The Population and Demography section of ONS have initiated a project to produce timely quarterly population estimates (QPE) . A methodology has been produced and quality assured by the methods group in ONS. The proposal is to publish QPE as experimental statistics , and the current plan is to produce the first set of QPEs in August 2004. There are a number of outstanding issues which are still to be resolved in connection with the revisions policy, and also whether these should be presented as “estimates” or “forecasts”.

### **International Migration Review – Implementation**

Emma Wright of ONS Migration Statistics is coordinating the work programme which followed the Quality Review of International Migration. They are underway on the work looking at how alternative sources such as the LFS might feed into the allocation of UK IPS immigration estimates between the constituent countries of the UK and the Government Office Regions of England. GROS are due to receive progress report on this work within the next few weeks as a basis for discussion on how to take this research forward, with the aim of completing all the work and implementing any necessary changes well in time to feed into the 2004 round of mid-year estimates.

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