

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS 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 esta.clark@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

New UK Demography Centre

A new UK-wide National Statistics Centre for Demography is to be created. It will be created within the [Office for National Statistics](#) and will work in partnership with all devolved administrations to deliver a UK-wide population statistics and demographic analysis work programme.

A UK Population Committee, including the Registrar General for Scotland, will agree and oversee its work programme.

The Centre, based mainly in London, will be set up on January 31, 2006, when the demographic work of the [Government Actuary's Department](#) will be transferred to the Office for National Statistics.

The transfer was recommended by the [Morris Review of the Actuarial Profession](#) (copy on HM Treasury website) conducted by Sir Derek Morris and published on March 2005.

The Scottish news release is available on the GROS website through the following link:
<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/new-demography-centre.html>

Mid-Year Estimates

The 2004 mid-year estimates for Scotland were published on 27 April 2005. Scotland's population was estimated to be 5,078,400 - an increase of 21,000 on the previous year. The increase was due mainly to a net migration gain of around 26,000 people.

The 2005 mid-year estimates are planned for April 2006.

Small Area Population Estimates

Data Zone small area population estimates (SAPEs) for 2001 to 2004 along with a methodology paper were published on 18 October 2005 on the GROS website. The estimates are consistent with the published local authority mid-year estimates; however, they are not consistent with the published health board estimates, as data zones do not nest exactly into health boards.

A feedback questionnaire was published along with the estimates and all feedback is to be collated along with the results of a comparison exercise between the SAPEs and other administrative data sources. A report detailing our findings will be published on the GROS website in March 2006.

The future plans for the SAPE project are outlined below.

1. Produce and publish 2005 data zone population estimates using the cohort-component methodology;
2. Develop and implement a methodology for producing ratio-change estimates at a data zone level;
3. Compare the ratio-change estimates with the cohort-component estimates and produce a report detailing the findings;
4. Look into the feasibility of producing postcode level estimates;
5. Publish historic data zone estimates.

The 2005 small area population estimates are due to be published in October 2006.

There have been a number of requests from users for the SAPE by single year of age (syoa). This has been for a number of reasons including the need for the standard 15-19 age band, as input into a projections system and for construction of other age bands used in health monitoring. We are currently unable to provide these data because of the agreement with ISD governing the use of the Community Health Index (CHI), so we have written to David Knowles at ISD requesting that we review this to allow us to provide syoa estimates on request.

Feedback received on the small area population estimates so far seems to relate to the geography used. There have been several requests for ward based data and lookups to other geographies. As a result of these requests it is proposed that intermediate geography estimates are published on the GROS website along with the data zone estimates and a link to neighbourhood.statistics@scotland.gov.uk is added to the website so that people can request the SNS geographic lookup CD.

Population Projections

The 2004-based national population projections for Scotland and the other constituent countries of the UK were published on 20 October 2005. Scotland's population is now projected to rise over the next 15 years, peaking in 2019 before slowing declining, falling below 5 million in 2036.

The 2004-based sub-national projections for council and health board areas will be published on 20 December 2005. The consultation on the sub-national migration assumptions has now closed and the comments will be considered when finalising the assumptions.

As with the mid-year estimates, one days pre-release access for local briefing purposes will be given to agreed council and health board representatives. Esta Clark will be in touch in the next few weeks to finalise arrangements.

A seminar on Population and Household projections was held on 9 November 2005. The key people in the UK responsible for projections at national and local level gave presentations, and provided an excellent overview of the various methodologies which we can consider in future. The meeting was attended by over 70 participants including many from local authorities, health boards, the Scottish Executive and a number of academics. It may be worth considering repeating such an event in the future, covering other topics from GROS.

Quarterly Population Estimates

Quarterly Population Estimates (QPEs) are published for England and Wales by the Population and Demography section of ONS every quarter.

GROS have not been able to devote any resources to considering the issues surrounding Quarterly Population Estimates for Scotland. For example, work needs to be carried out to look into the suitability of the migration data sources in Scotland for the modelling work involved in producing them. In the meantime, as with Northern Ireland, we are keeping in touch with developments with the production of the QPEs for England & Wales.

90+ Estimates

We have produced estimates by single year of age and sex for 90+ populations for mid-2004 for Scotland, using the same methodology as used by the Government Actuary's Department. We are still investigating the feasibility of using this for local authorities and health boards.

Marital Status Estimates

Marital status estimates have been produced for mid-2004 and estimates for 2001-2003 have been reproduced due to an error being found in the 90+ widowers' category. These estimates should be on the website soon. Following the revisions to the population estimates, revised marital status estimates have been produced for 1982-2000, however these will need to be revised to correct the small error which affects estimates from 1997. It is hoped to put these on the website in due course along with a methodology paper.

ONS are looking into the method they use to produce marital status estimates in particular to see whether there are more up to date data sources available. We are staying in close contact with ONS on this and will keep PAMS informed of any progress.

Life tables

GROS published a new publication dedicated to Life Expectancy for administrative areas within Scotland for 2002-2004 (using the same methodology as ONS) on 6 October 2005. It is intended that to be published annually. Previously this information was produced by ONS and data for 2001-2003 is available on their website. The methodology used is available through the following link: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=8841>.

ONS published equivalent figures for areas within England, Wales and Northern Ireland along with the Scottish results on 10 November 2005.

GROS also intend to publish figures for the 1980s to provide a longer time series for analysis in the summer of 2006. There is a possibility that we will publish life expectancy by area type in future but we will coordinate this with the staff at ISD responsible for healthy life expectancy results.

International Migration Review – Implementation

The work to implement the recommendations of the national statistics quality review on international migration is now being progressed as part of the ONS IMPS project. However, due to the fact that this

has a UK focus, there is still a separate project board overseeing the work, which GROS is represented on.

The most recent work plan for the next six months along with a progress report to September 2005 provided in paper PAMS (05) 21. A final version of this paper will be posted on the ONS website on 25th November.

Publishing migration data on the GROS website

Following the previous PAMS meeting where we proposed the dissemination of migration data, a request was received from David Knowles at ISD for clarification on the steps we will take to prevent disclosure of personal information. A letter has been sent to David Knowles which outlines our views on the disclosive nature of the proposed tables, and identifies the steps we would take when disclosure is possible. Our view is that with the nature of the aggregated data, it is unlikely that this will be an issue. There is an additional discussion paper (PAMS (05) 20) which outlines the arguments used.

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