

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)**POPULATION AND MIGRATION 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 eileen.crichton@gros.scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Staffing

Nick Wright has resigned from GROS to pursue a career as an actuary. We are awaiting the results of the recent recruitment exercise to get a replacement for Nick.

Laura Blair joined the team on a casual contract, to replace Bryan Cunningham and has since been offered a permanent position. Annilah Moghul has joined us on a six month work placement from Glasgow Caledonian University, where she is doing a course in Financial Mathematics. Ruth Hampshire, a mathematics student at Edinburgh University, is working here for three months over the summer.

Mid-year estimates

Mid-2007 population estimates were scheduled for publication on 20 May. However a significant delay in receiving the international migration estimates meant that it was not possible to meet this date. The migration estimates have recently been received and work is underway to prepare the population estimates. It is expected that they will be published around mid-July. The delay to the publication of the mid-2007 estimates is likely to have a knock-on effect on other publications and a timetable for future publications will be drawn up after the MYEs have been published.

The estimates will use the new ONS methodology for international migration. This is different from the method previously used by GROS in that IPS in-migration is calibrated using the Labour Force Survey to give a Scotland figure, migrant switchers are accounted for, new proportions are used to calculate the number of visitor switchers and outward asylum seekers (failed asylum seekers not captured by the IPS) are included.

The way in which international out-migrants are distributed throughout Scotland has also changed. Previously an average of Rest UK out-migration and international in-migration data (both from the NHSCR) was used. However the international out-migration data on the NHSCR is of poor quality. Consequently, drawing on evidence from a propensity to migrate model developed by ONS for England & Wales, the distribution will now be calculated from an average of international in-migration, Rest UK out-migration and population size. While this distribution is deemed to be better than that previously used work will continue to more accurately reflect the distribution of international out-migrants in future years.

These population estimates will also, for the first time, separate migrants into 'International' and 'UK' migrants in the local authority estimates.

Small Area Population Estimates

The mid-2007 small area population estimates (SAPE) at data zone level are scheduled for publication in November. The delay in the publication of the mid-year estimates will not have a significant effect on the timetable for the 2007 SAPE and we expect to meet the publication date.

Quality assurance of the data zone population estimates is on-going. Issues that have been addressed recently include the age distribution of people aged 10-19 in student areas, and the age distribution of data zones that include hospitals (particularly those close to the border with England).

No progress has been made with improving the quality of the historic SAPE data for 1991 – 1995. The data are still not suitable for publication.

Mid-2006 population estimates for settlements and localities will be published on 10 July. The process for producing these estimates will be reviewed over the coming months. It has been noted that several council areas produce their own population estimates for settlements. As part of the review, it would be useful for GROS to establish which councils do this, and what sources of data are used to produce the settlement population estimates.

Population Projections

2006-based sub-national population projections were published on 22 January.

A meeting of the Population Projections Working Group will be held on 26 June. This meeting will concentrate on how POPGROUP can be used by councils. POPGROUP input files, which allow councils to re-create the GROS projections and to vary the assumptions used will be demonstrated and made available. Ludi Simpson of CCSR will also be in attendance to lead discussion on how councils can use POPGROUP and how GROS can facilitate this. There will be particular emphasis on the use of POPGROUP for sub-council projections.

A paper outlining how the long term assumptions used in the GROS projections were changed in light of councils' comments will also be circulated at this meeting.

National Park projections are being produced and will be published shortly.

A meeting of the National Population Projections committee was held recently to discuss the outcome of the consultation. The two main aspects of the review are the frequency and content of the publications relating the bi-annual national projections, and the consultation review. Thanks to the users who submitted comments. These will be incorporated into a report which is being prepared over the summer.

Life expectancy

The 2004-2006 based life expectancy figures for special areas within Scotland were published on the 25th March. The special areas include urban/rural, deprivation, and Community Health Partnership (CHP) areas.

This report is an update to the 2003-2005 publication. However, because revisions to the 2003-2005 population estimates were reflected in the 2004-2006 publication but not the earlier one and because the urban/rural classification changed between the two publications, GROS removed the 2003-2005 publication from the web.

Further alterations to GROS life expectancy webpage were made. The main life expectancy page now includes three sections – life expectancy at Scotland level; Life expectancy at Scottish Administrative Area and Special Area level; and a Healthy Life Expectancy section.

2004-2006 Male and Female life expectancy at birth has been loaded onto Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website at Scotland, Local Authority, Health Board and CHP level. New, more detailed, metadata has also been added.

Work is in progress to produce historic life expectancy figures at CHP level (possibly back to 1996-1998).

Centenarians

Population estimates for the numbers of people in Scotland aged 90 to 99 and aged 100 and over between 2002 and 2006 were published on 31 December 2007.

Dissemination and User Engagement

A number of Demography staff visited Fife Council recently to discuss their requirements for population and household information. We also discussed the possibility of accessing data held by the council for use in quality assuring and development of population statistics. The discussions on requirements for sub-authority population projections will feed into the forthcoming PPWG meeting. We plan to collaborate on the review of settlements and localities, as Fife Council produce locality estimates independently of GROS and we are interested to compare the methodology.

A day event is planned for October / November, and will be open to all PAMS members and other users. The topic of the meeting is 'Improving Population and Migration Statistics' and we hope to have a range of presenters including from UK statistical offices, local authority and the academic community. PAMS members are asked for suggestions for speakers.

The General Register Office for Scotland and the Scottish Government recently led a Demography Workstream of the British-Irish Council. A ministerial meeting of this group was held in Edinburgh on 31st March, at which demographic topics (particularly migration) were discussed. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy First Minister for Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, and preceded by a dinner the night before in Edinburgh Castle. The British-Irish Council was formed under the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 to share knowledge and best practice with a view to developing positive, practical relationships among its Members, which are the British and Irish Governments, the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The ministers supported a work plan which will be taken forward in the next year, including the following: understanding migration and its impact; healthy independent ageing; investigating policy interventions, fertility, and student flows. They proposed that work also be progressed on the impact of opening of EU labour markets on flows of migrants to the British-Irish Council Member Administrations.

A communiqué from the meeting can be found on the BIC website at <http://www1.british-irishcouncil.org/documents/demography.asp>

Research into improving Migration and Population Statistics

IMPS project

The Office for National Statistics are taking forward the recommendations of the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics, through the Improvements to Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) work which is a cross-government programme of work.

The IMPS workplan is outlined in PAMS (08) 05.

The General Register Office for Scotland is involved in a number of workstreams within this programme with the aim of incorporating the research into their outputs. This work includes the investigation and development of administrative sources not currently used in the production of population estimates, such as data on students from HESA, the School Census, DWP and HMRC data on benefits and employment. Improvements in the quality and efficiency of the system for using data from GP registrations are also being made.

Other areas of joint working include the estimation of short term migrants numbers for Scotland, a review of the method of allocation of international migrants to council areas, the development of indicators of migration at local authority level and early indications of changes in population trends.

More detail on the IMPS programme is available from the following link on the ONS website

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp>)

Review of Internal Migration based on health registration

The NHSCR system is currently used, along with patient registration data (e.g. CHI in Scotland) to derive migration estimates within the United Kingdom. A working group has been set up to collaborate on a number of issues relating to these data including:

- Dissemination of cross border flow data for the United Kingdom, as there is no one source for cross – border information involving the four countries of the UK
- Methodology used to derive migration date using registration information. Currently different assumptions are made about the average length of time between a migration into an area, and registration with a GP
- Development of a new methodology to make use of the NHSCR extract data, available to GROS. This new data is an anonymised extract which will include all ‘postings’ and therefore will allow data on migration moves to be derived using a new approach. It will also enable research into the nature and frequency of moves for individuals, rather

than just counting migration 'events'. The NHSCR extract will in future contain information on postcode of residence, and so will eventually replace the use of the CHI for small area migration estimates.

GROS: Population & Migration Statistics Branch

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