

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 bryan.cunningham@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Staffing

Bianca Heggie is currently on maternity leave and will return in January. Congratulations to Esta Clark who has recently been promoted to a statistician post in HM Inspector of Education. She leaves on 17 November 2006. A replacement for her post has been identified from a recent round of central GSS recruitment of statisticians. Sharon Meighan joined GROS from the Education Department in the Scottish Executive, to work on population and household projections. We have appointed a researcher for 6 months to research the availability and quality of data on student accommodation. This post will be funded by the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics project. These staff changes may have implications for the outputs of the branch, at least in the short-term.

Mid-Year Estimates

The 2005 mid-year estimates for Scotland were published on 27 April 2006. Scotland's population was estimated to be 5,094,800 - an increase of 16,400 on the previous year and a rise for the third year in a row. The increase was due mainly to a net migration gain of around 19,000 people.

The 2006 mid-year estimates are planned for April 2007.

Small Area Population Estimates

2005 SAPE

The 2005 small area population estimates for data zones, consistent with the mid-year estimates for council areas, were published in October 2006. The methodology for producing the 2005 SAPE was the cohort component method, which was used to produce the 2001 to 2004 SAPE estimates, published in October 2005. As part of the quality assurance process, councils and health boards were sent all data zone populations for checking. In most cases, no adjustments to the estimates were made, but the comments have been noted. The main adjustments took place in the St Andrews area, where residents of three educational communal establishments, who had been allocated to the wrong data zones, were moved to the correct location. This affected over 500 residents, but it should be noted that this adjustment was applied to 2005 only.

Quality Assurance of 2004 SAPE

Work is continuing to investigate the quality of the 2001 to 2004 SAPE, by comparing results within independent sources including Scottish Executive school census data and data from the Department of Work and Pensions. This work has been temporarily put on hold while other high-priority tasks have been dealt with. However, it is hoped that a report detailing the results of this work will be published on the GROS website early in 2007.

2004 Settlements and Localities

The 2004 population estimates for settlements and localities in Scotland were published in 2006. The settlement estimates were first published in June 2006 and then revised in November 2006, as a result of the discovery of some discrepancies that were discovered during the production of the locality estimates. It was found that some post codes were included in settlements when they should not have been. This affected 49 settlements, which over-estimated the population by 10 to 70 people. The locality estimates were published in November 2006. GROS will review the timetable for publishing these estimates and consider when the earliest possible date is to release the 2005 estimates and whether it is possible to release the settlement and locality estimates at the same time.

Future plans

A SAPE working group meeting is planned for the early 2007. It is expected that the main agenda items will be the quality assurance of the 2004 SAPE and the plans for the 2006 SAPE.

To investigate the feasibility of implementing a ratio-change methodology for the 2006 SAPE, including comparing the ratio-change estimates with the cohort-component estimates and production of a report detailing the findings.

Population Projections

The 2004-based national population projections for Scotland and the other constituent countries of the UK were published on 20 October 2005 and the sub-national projections for Council and NHS Board areas were published on 20 December 2005. The 2006-based national projections are planned for October 2007 with the sub-national projections late 2007 / early 2008 depending on the recommendations of the current review.

The Population Projections Working Group (PPWG) has now met twice and the next meeting is planned for January 2007. This sub-group is looking at the existing projection method as well other options including reviewing the suitability of existing software available elsewhere e.g. POPGROUP etc. It is hoped to complete this review in time for the 2006-based projections. All the papers from the meetings are available on the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) website through the following link: <http://www.gros.scotland.gov.uk/statistics/user-consultation-groups-seminars/population-projections-working-group-ppwg-/index.html> . An update on the work of this group is given in PAMS (06) XX.

At the last National Population Projections (NPP) committee meeting – the group that coordinates the production of national projections - there was some discussion about the requirement for interim projections in the intervening years between projections. Interim national projections are required for grossing the Annual Population Survey (previously called

the Labour Force Survey) and some other uses. In 2001, an interim set of national projections were produced to take account of the 2001 Census results, and an interim 2003-based set were produced to take account of revisions made to the population estimates for England and Wales. It was agreed at the NPP meeting that countries would consult their user base as to the requirement for interim projections at the national level for future years.

Members are invited to comment on the requirement for interim national projections at Scotland level.

Life Expectancy

GROS published its second publication dedicated to Life Expectancy for administrative areas within Scotland for 2003-2005 (using the same methodology as ONS) on 5 September 2006. In addition, a time series back to 1981-1983 for Council areas, old and new NHS Boards (including the parts of the old NHS Argyll & Clyde which now belong to NHS Highland and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde) were published.

GROS are currently working on producing an additional life expectancy publication for other areas in Scotland, that is, using the Scottish Executive 6 fold Urban Rural Classification, Deprivation quintiles from the new Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Community Health Partnership areas (if the boundaries are available in time for the publication time scales) and for Intermediate Zones. It is planned to publish these results on the GROS website and on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS) website, probably with the February 2007 update.

Members are invited to comment on these proposals.

Migration

Conference: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, 20-22 November 2006, Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

GROS are hosting a joint UNECE and Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, under the Work Programme of the Conference of European Statisticians. The meeting will be held on 20-22 November 2006 in Edinburgh, hosted by the General Register Office for Scotland. The meeting has the following objectives:

- To discuss the challenges of measuring emigration and remittances
- To discuss the challenges to implement the Migration section of the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses
- To present the new EC Regulation on Migration Statistics
- To discuss the CES Work plan to improve migration statistics

Expected outcomes of the meeting are draft guidelines on the measurement of emigration data through immigration data of host countries and the identification of main challenges to implement the Migration section of the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. An update will be given at the PAMS meeting of the outcomes from this conference.

Migration Task Force

The national statistician, Karen Dunnell, set up an inter-departmental migration task force. The aim is to report to the national statistician making recommendations on timely improvements to that could be made to estimates of migration and migrant populations in the UK both nationally and locally. The terms of reference are attached in Annex A.

National Statistics Centre for Demography (NSCD) international migration paper and new GROS Migration website page

NSCD provides a focus for collaboration between the partners in UK official demographic statistics. The Office for National Statistics (ONS), alongside GROS, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), delivers a UK-wide work programme on population statistics under the direction of the UK Population Committee. Because of the increased interest in international migration an information paper was published in July on all four organisations website. A new webpage dedicated to migration was added to the GROS website, pulling together information on migration and directing customers to location of migration information.

[<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/migration.html>]

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Annex A**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION STATISTICS
TERMS OF REFERENCE****AIM**

To report to the National Statistician by the end of August 2006, making recommendations on timely improvements that could be made to estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at local level.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To identify existing and emerging user requirements, concerning statistics related to migration, that are needed for fiscal and monetary policy, developing and monitoring social policy (especially immigration policy) and providing public services.
- 2) To make recommendations relating to those aspects of migration statistics that could be strengthened over the next two years to meet these needs, by identifying the scope for (and likely cost of) improving information from the following sources:
 - a. Administrative information and surveys collected at entry and departure from the UK
 - b. Administrative information collected on the registration and deregistration from employment (e.g. NI numbers, Worker Registration) and services (e.g. NHS, schools)
 - c. Surveys of households and people currently in the country and any relevant administrative sources
- 3) To make costed recommendations on how appropriate methods could be developed to use data from the above sources, in combination, to improve estimates of:
 - a. Migrants into and out of the United Kingdom, according to the categories and definitions needed for making and monitoring policy and to produce relevant estimates of population
 - b. The mobile component of a range of population bases (e.g. usual residents, short-term residents, working population)

METHODS OF WORKING

The task force will:

- 1) comprise senior representatives from Government Departments or Agencies holding information about migrants, or in a position to collect this information.
- 2) meet at regular intervals in June and July 2006 and will conduct business electronically between meetings.
- 3) commission in-depth discussions and workshops with relevant user and producer Departments and Agencies, identify their needs and the potential for innovative data collection, collation and record matching and the likely resource requirements, burdens and legal or confidentiality constraints.
- 4) quickly identify, focus on and outline the most promising, feasible solutions
- 5) produce a report by the end of August 2006 with recommendations for improvements and likely costs, to enable the National Statistician to submit proposals to Ministers.

MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force will be chaired by an ONS Centre for Demography director and will include senior representation from:

Home Office
 Department for Work & Pensions
 Department for Education and Skills

Department of Health/Information Centre
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Devolved Administrations
ONS Centre for Demography, Macroeconomics & Labour Market, Surveys and
Administrative Sources and Methodology.