

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

Nick Wright joined GROS in January 2007, from the Department of Health in London, replacing Bianca Heggie who moved to the HM Inspector of Education after her maternity leave. Andrew White joined in May 2007 from the Scottish Executive Health Department to replace Esta Clark.

Stacy Miller joined in January 2007 to work on a project looking at the availability and quality of data on student accommodation. This work is coming to an end, and Stacy will continue working here on the quality assurance of the SAPE.

Sharon Meighan is leaving at the end of June. She has been working on a report which summarises the main data sources received from NHSCR for internal migration.

Mid-year estimates

The 2006 mid-year population estimates for Scotland were published on 26 April 2007. Scotland's population was estimated to be 5,116,900 - an increase of 22,100 on the previous year.

In the twelve months up to 30 June 2006, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 300 (compared with 2,300 the previous year). There was a net migration gain of 21,200, including a net gain of 8,900 people from the rest of the UK and a net gain of 12,700 from overseas (including asylum seekers).

As part of the work reviewing methodology of estimating international migration, it was noted that in the Community Health Index, the ratio of migrants from overseas compared with cross-border was low in the health board areas of Grampian, Tayside, Highland, Shetland and Orkney. This has resulted in the allocation of migrants within these health boards, inadequately reflecting the destination of international migrants. This has arisen due to different methods of coding used by Practitioner Services Divisions to identify international migrants in these areas. These different coding practices were not reflected in the processing of the CHI by GROS. This processing error has occurred since 2003.

The potential impact of this is to change the mid-year population estimates from 2003 to 2006 for the council areas which are parts of these health board areas. The error may impact on the 6 councils – Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee City, Moray and Perth & Kinross.

GROS are currently revising the mid-year estimates for these councils and plan to release the updated figures to coincide with the publication of the 2006 Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends. This will be pre-announced when the data are finalised. Local Government Finance Division of the Scottish Executive will write to each of the 6 councils in advance of the revised mid-year estimates being published.

Small Area Population Estimates

SAPE 2006

As a consequence of the revisions mentioned above, the work to produce SAPE 2006 has not yet started and so there is a risk that the publication timetable of November 2007 will not be met. However we aim to start this work immediately the revision of the local authority estimates are completed and will update PAMS with progress.

SAPE 2003-2005

Due to resource constraints, the SAPE 2003-2005 for the affected councils will not be amended for the next release (in Nov 2007). In the short term, we plan to update the SNS website with information about the revisions to alert users and aim to revise the SAPE at the end of 2007. Ideally this work should take account of the quality assurance work which has been carried out and also the improved data collection on student accommodation (mentioned below). PAMS will be invited to comment on options which include possible modifications to the current system.

Quality Assurance of SAPE

The quality assurance of SAPE has not progressed since the last PAMS update, due to staff shortages. PAMS members may be interested in a presentation which was given by Harvey Snowling at the British Society for Population Studies in September.

http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BSPS/annualConference/2006_estimates_abstracts.htm

We are progressing this work by extending the comparison to the Community Health Index, and plan to publish a paper on the results of this work in November 2007.

Historic SAPE 1997-2000

We plan to release the SAPE for 1997-2000 which were produced under contract by CACI. These have been quality assured by the Health Department and ISD, who were the customers for this work. The SAPE for earlier years are problematic in some areas and so GROS are considering amending these before release as they are deemed to be of insufficient quality.

Settlements and Localities

At the moment, we do not have a publication timetable for settlements and localities. We plan to contact the Scottish Executive users in September to discuss their requirements and

welcome comments from PAMS on the need for regular publication of settlements and localities.

Population Projections

The 2006-based national population projections for Scotland and the other constituent countries of the UK will be published in October 2007 and the sub-national population projections for council, NHS board areas and National Parks will be published in December 2007 or January 2008.

As a result of the revisions to the population estimates we will be updating the 2004-based projections for the Scottish Executive for their use in the Local Government Finance settlement. We are not planning a formal publication of these revisions, but will announce their availability on the web.

The Population Projections Working Group has not met since the last PAMS update, but we have progressed a number of the items of the work plan summarised below.

Setting up the projections in POPGROUP

A consultant has loaded the sub-national projections and national variants into POPGROUP and compared the results with the GROS system. The results have suggested that the systems produce similar results despite using different approaches to setting the assumptions, and have given us more knowledge of the issues required in setting up our output files to be used in POPGROUP. We are appointing a new member of staff who will progress this work and in particular convert the current GROS output into a format suitable for local authority users to load into POPGROUP.

Fertility and Mortality assumptions

As part of the work for the Registrar General's Annual review, looking at local level variations in demographic indicators, we have taken the opportunity to examine the variations in age specific rates between areas. With mortality, there is evidence of a convergence at older age group, which would suggest changing from a constant factor to an age-specific factor, although this is not totally straightforward to implement. We aim to implement this change in the 2006-based population projections.

The patterns with fertility are rather more complex, and require further consideration before they can be implemented into the new system.

Migration trends

The revisions to the population estimates will result in revisions to the migration estimates in the six councils affected, which may explain some of the anomalies which were identified by the working group. In addition, more detailed information on migration flows will be available as a result of the work discussed earlier on processing international migration from the CHI. This only affects a few councils, but it does impact on the extreme results we were finding with Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, so this will explain some of the issues.

Also, as part of the Annual report work for the Registrar General's Annual review we will be making available more detailed information on migration flows at the council level, which will provide users with more detail on the processes behind the migration element of the projections.

Life expectancy

In February 2007 GROS published an additional life expectancy publication for other areas in Scotland (SE 6 fold Urban Rural Classification, Deprivation quintiles from the new Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Community Health Partnership (CHP) areas.

The work on life expectancy at Intermediate Zones was delayed but will be progressed over the summer. This will be based on unrevised SAPE, so depending on user demand, it may be sensible to await the revisions of the SAPE before publishing these. We would like to progress the work to set up the input data, and run the system in preparation for the publication.

We plan to publish life expectancy for administrative areas for 2004-2006 in September 2007. This will use the revised mid-year estimates. If possible we will published revised life expectancy for periods from 2001-2003 to 2003-2005 at the same time.

Following a meeting with the Scottish Executive Health Department and ISD, it was agreed that the next priority for life expectancy publications is a time series of life expectancy for CHPs. This work is dependent on the revisions work above and a timetable for the publication of this time series will be circulated for comment nearer the time.

There are no plans to update the publication for special areas and we will consult on user demand for regular life expectancy statistics in 2008.

Current Methodology research

PAMS (07) 02 discusses the new ONS method for estimating international migration for Scotland. As part of this research, ONS have also proposed new methods for attributing international migration within Government Office regions. Following on from this work we are planning to investigate options for allocating migrants to local authority areas in Scotland. In the first instance this will involve allocating international migrants separately from migrants from the rest of the UK.

ScotStat Annual Statistics User Conference 2007

The ScotStat Board Support Group (SBSG) is conducting a review of the existing ScotStat structure. Several aspects of the ScotStat review overlap with key aims of the Statistics Reform Agenda, one of which is to improve stakeholder engagement across the statistics group to ensure adequate levels of input from stakeholders in scoping the work of the Statistics Group - both it's priorities and planning.

As part of this drive, the Chief Statistician and the ScotStat Board are planning to hold a large statistics event for stakeholders (data users and data providers) in September 2007. The

event will provide an opportunity to showcase key pieces of work undertaken by ScotStat Committees and/or by SE statisticians using a combination of presentations and workshops. The SBSG has requested suggestions for topics that might be presented at the event and would also like PAMS to provide up to 5 nominations of users who might benefit from attending the event who are not currently affiliated to PAMS.

Cecilia Macintyre

June 2007