

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

GOVERNMENT SOCIAL RESEARCH – SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE – MIGRATION RELATED RESEARCH IN SCOTLAND UPDATE**Overview**

The volume of research about the impact of migration in Scotland, both at the national and local level, continues to increase, with many pieces of work approaching completion and publication. The main issues continue to centre around:

1. number of migrants – estimates on the migrant flows in and out of Scotland
2. movement of migrants – internal movement of migrants within Scotland the UK
3. urban and rural impacts of migrant populations – integration and cohesion
4. migrant demand for social services – school, local authority amenities, language provision, housing, health etc

For the most part, the kind of research being undertaken at a UK, Scottish and regional/local authority level has focused on the experience of legal/registered, migrants from A8 EU countries who are in employment. Over the coming months more information will therefore become available about the political and policy implications relating to the migrant flows into Scotland.

Research Summary

There follows a brief summary of recently completed/on-going research in this area:

UK

Migrants, integration and local neighbourhoods - Joseph Rowntree Foundation (complete May 2007) – it looked at data from a survey and interviews with over 600 migrants from Eastern and Central Europe who moved to the UK prior to the 2004 EU Enlargement. The research is very keen to stress that labour market and social experiences cannot be seen or understood in isolation because migrants' experiences at work have a significant impact on their lives beyond the workplace. Other issues raised relate to: i) the lack of practical information available on arrival; ii) poor housing conditions and overcrowding; iii) English language proficiency; iv) the extent to which migrants are able to mix with British people; and v) acquiring legal right.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/290507.asp>

Crossing Borders: responding to the local challenges of migrant workers – Audit Commission (completed January 2007) – This was primarily a desk-based piece of work, reviewing data and information already available, supplemented with focus groups and interviews with stakeholders and delivery agencies, that looked to consider the impact of migrant workers. It put forward the case that: i) migrant workers bring economic benefits; ii) that migrant workers affect different parts of the country very differently; iii) the local authorities need to take a leading role in co-ordinating local responses to develop locally

tailored responses; and iv) government and regional bodies could help local areas more effectively

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Products/NATIONAL-REPORT/05CA5CAD-C551-4b66-825E-ABFA8C8E4717/CrossingBorders_summary.pdf

Scotland

Employment of A8 migrant workers - National Institute of Economic and Social Research (ongoing) – the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly have jointly commissioned a piece of research to carry out 70 case studies (35 in Scotland and Wales) to improve understanding of the role of migrant workers in the economy by focusing on the employers' perspective on the costs and benefits of migrants workers.

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)/Scottish Executive (SE) Scotland's Demography Research Programme (ongoing) – this research programme aims to develop greater understanding of the key aspects of fertility, migration and ageing to inform the evidence base on demographic issues in Scotland. Three out of the six research projects funded under this partnership initiative have now been published on the ESRC website. **See below for further details.**

Development of A8 Migrant workers in the Scottish economy – Hall Aitken and National Centre for Migration Studies (ongoing) – Scottish Enterprise have commissioned a piece of research to carry out interviews with A8 migrant workers in an attempt to explore how migrant workers can contribute further to the Scottish economy and explore the extent to which migrant workers are experiencing an escalator effect, ie progressing to higher-skilled jobs.

Lived Experience of Migrants: Migration Research Scoping Review – Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (completed May 2007)

The aim of this project was to review recent research on the lived experience of recent economic migrants and their families in urban and rural Scotland, and identify gaps in the evidence base. The scoping review consists of a short report which summarises existing research in this field followed by a partially annotated bibliography and a list of ongoing or not yet published research projects.

Impact of A8 Accession on Providing of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) – GHK (Ongoing)

In January 2007 GHK Consulting was commissioned by the then Department of Enterprise and Lifelong Learning at the Scottish Executive with the aim of examining whether, and if so to what extent, the demand for ESOL from publicly funded provision has increased since 2004 when the A8 joined the EU and what impact the new UK citizenship test has had on demand for ESOL.

Local Authority/Regional

Migrant Workers in Grampian – University of Highlands and Islands Policy Web (ongoing) -

UHI undertook this research on behalf of Communities Scotland and are currently seeking ministerial clearance for publication. The research involved 61 employer interviews, 87 migrant worker interviews/focus groups and 46 service provider interview/focus groups.

Achieving a better understanding of A8 Migrant Labour Needs in Lanarkshire – Department of Applied Social Science, University of Stirling (ongoing) – Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire and North and South Lanarkshire Council have commissioned this research to establish current issues and future implications of migrant workers either living or working in Lanarkshire for public service delivery. In carrying out two surveys with migrant workers and employers and a series of work and community-based focus groups with migrant workers and their families

A8 Nationals in Glasgow – Blake Stevenson (ongoing) – Glasgow City Council have commissioned economic consultants Blake Stevenson to carry out research into the flow of A8 nationals into the city and the impact this is having on the local population.

**Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)/Scottish Executive (SE)
Scotland's Demography Research Programme**

Background

1. In May 2004, the Registrar General for Scotland convened a seminar on demography attended by UK based academics in this field.
2. At that seminar, three key topics were identified: fertility in Scotland; migration within and to/from Scotland and Scotland's ageing population. The outcome of this seminar was the development of a joint, collaborative research programme (between the ESRC, SE and GROS) designed to inform the evidence base on demographic issues in Scotland.
3. This research programme is co-funded and jointly managed by the Scottish Executive Office of Chief Researcher (OCR) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
4. The programme was launched in April 2005 and runs until autumn 2007. Six projects on the key demographic issues of fertility, migration and ageing constitute the programme. The titles and a timeline of these six projects are:

A. Macroeconomic impacts of demographic change in Scotland

Award Holders: Professor P. McGregor, Professor R. Wright, Professor J. Swales- University of Strathclyde

Status: Published

Release on ESRC website: **13 February 2007**

B. Scottish graduation migration and retention – A case study of the University of Edinburgh 2000 cohort

Award Holders: Dr R. Bond, Dr K. Charsley - University of Edinburgh

Status: Published

Release on ESRC website: **30 March 2007**

C. Scotland's ageing population: Micro-simulation of the baby boomers

Award Holders: Professor D Bell, Professor A. Bowes, Dr P. Lambert, Dr V. Sarajeva - University of Stirling

Status: Evaluation completed

To be released on ESRC website: **14 June 2007**

D. Why is fertility in Scotland lower than in England?

Award Holders: Dr E. Graham, Professor P. Boyle, Professor J. Ermisch, Dr V. Gayle – Universities of St Andrews, Essex and Stirling

Status: Research ongoing

Estimated release on ESRC website: **July 2007**

E. Fertility variations in Scotland: Socio-cultural attitudes and interactions

Award Holders: Dr I. Dey, Professor K. Backett-Milburn, Professor P. Boyle, Dr E. Graham, Professor L. Jamieson, Dr F. Wasoff – Universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews

Status: Research ongoing

Estimated release on ESRC website: **July 2007**

F. Scottish demography: Scottish migration to and return from SE England

Award Holders: Professor A. Findlay, Professor R. Harrison, Dr D. Houston, Professor C. Mason – Universities of Dundee, Edinburgh and Strathclyde

Status: Research ongoing

Estimated release on ESRC website: **October 2007**

5. On completion of the programme in the autumn, a series of public policy seminars will be organised in order to widely disseminate the research findings. Further detail of these seminars will be forthcoming in due course.

Luke Cavanagh/Louise Virdee
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