

Improving population statistics in Scotland – the work of GRO

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Outline

- Range of outputs and publications
- Developments and research into outputs
- Engagement with users

Current outputs

General Register Office
for
SCOTLAND
information about Scotland's people

Population estimates

- Annual mid year populations estimates for councils and health boards
- Small area population estimates for datazones, settlements and localities
- Population estimates by marital status
- Population estimates for over 90 year olds

Biennial population projections

- National population projections
- Subnational population projections for councils and health boards
- Population projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan areas

Life expectancy

- Annual Life expectancy at specific ages
 - Scotland
 - Local authorities
 - Health Boards
 - Community Health Partnerships
 - Rural / Urban categories
 - Deprivation categories

Annual Report

- Provides statistics on (e.g.):
 - Population
 - Births and Deaths
 - Migration
 - Marriages, Divorces, Civil Partnerships
 - Households

Annual Report

- Covers one topic in great detail each year - e.g.:
 - Fertility (this year)
 - Local perspectives on Demography (last year)
 - Causes of Death
 - Migration

Development and Research

General Register Office
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2007 Mid-Year Population estimates

- Change to methodology used to estimate international migration into/out of Scotland
- Allocation of migrants to local areas, separately for Rest of UK and overseas

Small Area Population Estimates

- Quality assurance exercise by comparison with range of sources
 - School Census, Child Benefit, DWP Super old persons data, Community Health Index
 - Communal establishment counts
 - Dwellings, households
- Reviewing methodology for estimating population in settlements

Population Projections

- Provision of assumptions for local areas, to allow use in POPGROUP software
- Ongoing work with Manchester University to provide input files at datazone level
- Increasing in-house capacity in GROS
- New post to support councils in skills in population and household projections

Migration Statistics

- Currently no central place for users to find information e.g.
 - Components of mid-year estimates
 - Regular tables in Annual Report
 - ONS publications of international and internal migration

Improve dissemination

- Develop webpages to provide easy access to migration related information for Scotland
- Work with local authorities to develop tool to provide access to range of migration related information

Content of webpages

- Repository for migration statistics used in mid-year estimates
- Publication of other relevant statistics e.g.
 - population by country of birth
 - births by country of birth of mother
- Meta data and links to other related information e.g. allocation of National Insurance numbers to migrants

Local level dissemination

- Scottish Government pilot ongoing with Tayside
- New Migrant Databank project provides a model for dissemination
- Discussions on methods for interpreting information in light of local circumstances

Increasing scope for administrative sources

3 areas to benefit

- Population estimates
- Traditional census operations and methodology
- Develop alternatives to traditional enumeration post 2011

Access and Development of Alternative Sources: Current Projects

- Create a statistical register of NHS registrations and develop use
- Develop use of HESA data on students term-time postcode
- Evaluate School Census data on internal migration
- Access to DWP and HMRC data from tax and benefit records
- Develop small scale ‘administrative census’ experiment around the time of the Census Rehearsal and the 2011 Census

User engagement

- Population conference
- Scottish Government Demographic Analysis working group
- Programme of visits to local authorities
 - Two way flow of information
 - Identification of priorities
 - Possibility of sharing data at LA level to produce alternative population counts

Recent activity with local authorities

- Scrutiny Boards: Borders and Renfrewshire
- Settlements review in Clackmannanshire
- Population projections methods for Fife

Any questions

- We would welcome any comments or suggestions. Contact details
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