



**Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics team update**

**Presented by: Esther Roughsedge**

<b>Security marking</b>	None
<b>Can this be shared wider than PAMS?</b>	Yes
<b>Key questions for PAMS members</b>	We would welcome feedback on anything in this paper.
<b>Action for PAMS members</b>	Please tell us if you will need a revised backseries of small area population estimates based on the existing 2011 data zone boundaries, or the new 2022 data zone boundaries, or both, and explain why you need them.

## Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

### Population and Migration Statistics team update

#### Planned work

1. Our branch has a busy year ahead, as we incorporate the new census results into our statistics, and also revise the figures from 2011 to 2021 to provide a consistent time series.
2. Because of this, our publications timetable will be different to other years, and there is more uncertainty than usual about the dates when we will be able to publish.

Provisional publication dates:

National Population Projections (Interim)	Late January 2024
Mid-year population estimates for 2022, based on data from the 2022 census	February 2024
Migration statistics	February 2024 (alongside the population estimates)
Small area population estimates, based on data from the 2022 census	Summer 2024
National population projections	October/November 2024
Population by country of birth and nationality	Late 2024
Sub-national population projections	Spring 2025

3. There is more information on these publications in the rest of this paper.

#### Population estimates

4. The mid-year population estimates, and the small area population estimates, will be followed by 'reconciliation reports', comparing the census results to the population estimates which were rolled forward from the last census, and explaining the differences. They will also be followed by re-based figures to provide a consistent time series of population estimates for the years between the last two censuses.

## Revisions to data zone boundaries

5. The new 2022 census data will initially be published based on 2011 data zone boundaries. Once it is published, the Scottish Government will consult on boundaries for new data zones based on the 2022 census populations. These boundaries should hopefully be finalised and released by the end of 2024.
6. After the new data zone boundaries become available, our team will produce small area population estimates for mid-2022, based on these boundaries. It would take a great deal of work to revise the backseries of small area population estimates from 2011 to 2021 for the current 2011 data zone boundaries, and to do the same thing for the new 2022 data zone boundaries. We are trying to identify user need for the backseries of data.
7. This table summarises the options:

Options	Dates covered	Data	Data zone boundaries
Will have	2011 to 2022	Existing data	Current 2011 data zone boundaries
Will have	2022 onwards	Revised data	New 2022 data zone boundaries
Possibility	2011 to 2021	Revised data	Current 2011 data zone boundaries
Alternative possibility	2011 to 2021	Revised data	New 2022 data zone boundaries

**Action for PAMS members:** please tell us if you will need a revised backseries of small area population estimates based on the existing 2011 data zone boundaries, or the new 2022 data zone boundaries, or both, and explain why you need them.

## Population projections plans

- **National population projections: 2021-based interim**
8. This headline release planned for January 2024 will use new international migration assumptions. Assumptions for fertility, cross border migration, and mortality will be reused from 2020-based NPPs. These figures won't incorporate the new census data for Scotland. It won't be followed by subnational population projections or household projections.

- **National population projections: 2022-based**

9. This release is provisionally planned for October or November 2024 and will use the latest available population data, including use of the latest census data. New assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration will be developed using the latest available data. A range of variant projections will be provided to give an indication of uncertainty and sensitivity to alternative assumptions of fertility, mortality, and migration.

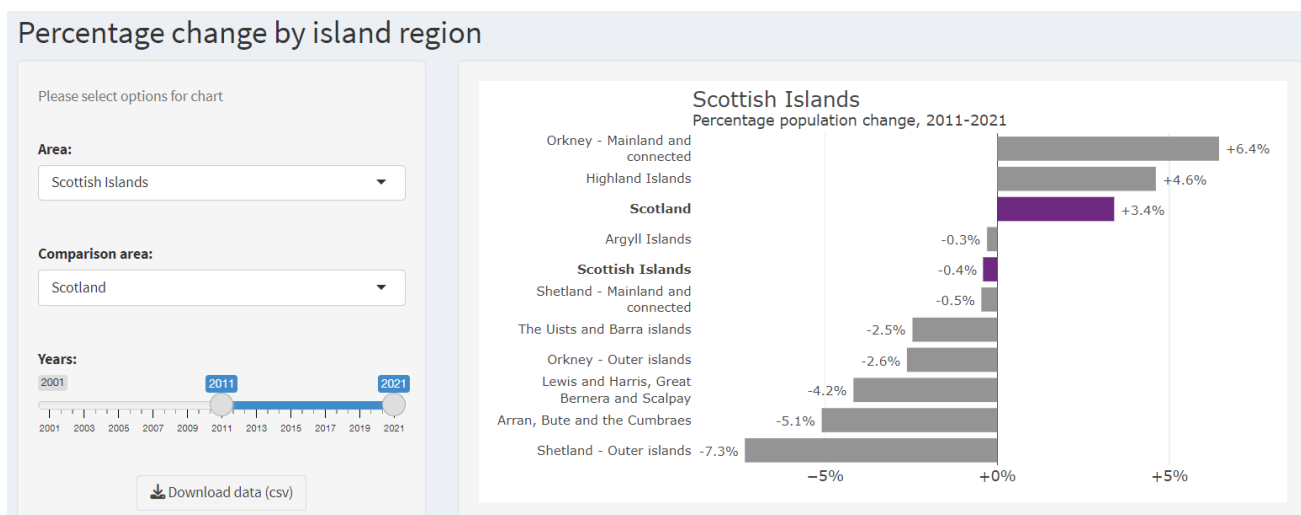
- **Subnational population projections (SNPPs) and household projections (2022-based)**

10. It is planned that the SNPPs will follow in early 2025 and household projections by mid-2025. Both are planned to use the same base year of mid-2022. SNPPs indicate the potential future population size of Scotland’s councils, health boards, and other administrative areas.

### Scottish Island Regions – new dashboard

11. NRS has produced a new [dashboard](#) showing Scottish Island Region populations and households. We hope this is useful – if you have any feedback on it, please get in touch with us. It will be updated with new data whenever NRS publishes new small area population and household estimates.

Screenshot from islands dashboard:



12. It can be useful to use this dashboard along with our [interactive maps of small area population estimates](#), which let users view population change within an area.

13. There is more information on the Scottish Government website on [Scottish island regions](#), and how they were developed.

### Contact us

14. Feel free to contact us via our team email address:  
[population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk](mailto:population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk)

NRS: Population and migration statistics team  
November 2023