



Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics update

Presented by: Esther Roughsedge, Head of Population and Migration statistics, NRS

Security marking	Not sensitive
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Key questions for PAMS members	<p>We'd welcome examples of how councils use population projections.</p> <p>We welcome feedback on the revised publication and consultation process for Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities.</p> <p>We are implementing a rolling programme for each publication to improve accessibility of spreadsheets and reports. We would welcome feedback and whether there have been any unexpected consequences so far.</p>

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee

Population and Migration Statistics update

Publications

1. Publications since the last PAMS meeting:

25 November 2021	Population By Country of Birth and Nationality for Scottish Areas, July 2020 to June 2021
12 January 2022	National Population Projections for Scotland, 2020-based
31 March 2022	Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities, 2020-based

Population Projections

2. The mid-2020 interim [national population projections](#) for Scotland were published in January 2022. They were lower than the previous projections, and they were the first projections for many years to show a decline in population over the next 25 years. By 2029, they show the excess of deaths over births out-weighting net migration, causing the population to fall. As these were interim projections, there were no sub-national population projections produced. The next set of national projections (2021-based) is provisionally set to be published in 2023, using 2021 Census data for other parts of the UK and mid-2021 population estimates for Scotland. They will include projection variants. This will be followed by projections at local authority level, and household projections.

Provisional first results from the Scottish Census are due to be made available in 2023 and will be incorporated in a subsequent round of the projections, likely to be 2023-based. We will consult further with users as these plans develop, but are interested in any comments PAMS members may have on them at this stage.

NRS will be presenting the results and implications of the latest projections at the annual [BSPS Conference](#) in September 2022. **We would be interested in demonstrating the impact of population projections on local authorities.** If you have any examples of the impact on local services or changes to policy as a result of population projections please get in touch with population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk and we will showcase them at the conference.

Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities

3. The mid-2020 based [population estimates for Scotland's settlements and localities](#) were published in March 2022. They provide population estimates for groups of densely populated postcodes – known as settlements – and the localities that often nest within larger settlements. High density postcodes are first aggregated into settlements and

localities and then local authorities are consulted to help quality assure the final set of boundaries. The publication reported that there were 514 settlements in Scotland in mid-2020, in which reside a population of 4,974,670. This represented 91% of Scotland's population and accounted for 2.3% of its land area. Some changes were made since the last publication in 2018 to accessibility and the consultation. These include shortening the publication (removing sections on Urban Rural classification, and sex breakdowns), introducing accessible tables, and providing local authorities with an interactive map of settlements in addition to the shape files which are normally sent. Alongside the publication, an [interactive map](#) has been published to let users view the information more easily, if they don't have GIS software. **We welcome feedback on the publication and the consultation process with local authorities.**

Mid-year population estimates

4. Work on the mid-2021 population estimates has begun. These will take into account changes to Scotland's population from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, making it the first Scottish population data affected by a full year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The publication of these has been delayed due to further quality assurance of international migration estimates, a key component of the population estimates. Scottish international migration estimates are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS have postponed publication of the [UK international migration estimates](#) to allow for further quality assurance against other available data sources, including provisional English and Welsh Census 2021 data, to have the highest confidence in the published figures.
6. We will update users when a rescheduled date is confirmed.
7. The delay in this publication could also affect the dates of other publications which depend on them, such as migration statistics, small area population estimates and population estimates for centenarians (and people aged 90 and over).

Migration statistics

8. Detailed migration flow tables for mid-2021, which are usually published alongside the mid-year population estimates, have been delayed due to further quality assurance of international migration estimates. More information on this can be found in the mid-year population estimates update above.
9. Our [Local Area Migration](#) spreadsheet is currently planned for publication in late August 2022. NRS are working on improving accessibility of our spreadsheets and the layout of this publication is therefore likely to change. However, the main comparing sheets in the spreadsheet as well as the interactive visualisation will remain the same and we therefore hope that impact on users will be minimal. If you have any concerns about this, please get in touch at population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk

Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

10. [Population estimates by country of birth and nationality for mid-2021](#) were published on 25 November 2021. In line with the previous publication, a new weighting method has been introduced for these estimates, which means that breakdowns below the EU and non-EU level are less reliable. Comparisons over time, except with the reweighted mid-

2020 estimates, are also less reliable and data should therefore be treated with caution. More information on this can be found in our [latest report](#).

11. We have made the decision to cancel our next publication of Scotland's population by country of birth and nationality which would usually be out in May. This is due to the impending reweighting of the Annual Population Survey (APS), the data of which traditionally informs the release, which will not be complete until Autumn 2022. In line with this, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have also cancelled their equivalent bulletin on the UK population by country of birth and nationality originally planned for May 2022.
12. The next publication is currently planned for November 2022.

Other developments

13. Accessibility: Along with colleagues in other teams, we are implementing a rolling programme for each publication to improve accessibility of spreadsheets and reports. **We would welcome feedback and whether there have been any unexpected consequences so far.**
14. We now have a new team email address which you can use to contact us: population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk

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May 2022