



Paper Title: Population and Migration Statistics team update

Presented by: Esther Roughsedge

Security marking	None
Can this be shared wider than PAMS?	Yes
Key questions for PAMS members	We would welcome feedback on anything in this paper.
Action for PAMS members	<p>PAMS members to provide NRS with a brief overview of how you use NRS projections, and what your needs are in terms of dates and content (e.g. if you use national or sub-national projections, and variant projections). This will help inform the review of the population projections dates/content.</p> <p>In addition, if you have specific requirements in terms of the dates of our other publications, please let us know, as there may be some scope to adjust our planned work schedule.</p>

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Population and Migration Statistics team update

Planned work

1. Instead of publishing to our usual timetable this year, we are postponing our population and migration statistics publications so that we can incorporate the new census data, when it becomes available. Planned dates for some of our key publications are shown below. These dates are provisional, and may change depending on the availability of input data.

Population by country of birth and nationality	November 2023
Mid-year population estimates for 2022, based on data from the 2022 census	Winter 2023-24
Migration statistics	Winter 2023-24 (alongside the population estimates)
Small area population estimates, based on data from the 2022 census	Summer 2024

2. 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. 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.
3. National population projections had been planned for publication in December 2023. ONS are now reviewing the dates for the population projections. It would help with this if PAMS members could tell us the following:

Action: PAMS members to provide NRS with a brief overview of how you use NRS projections, and what your needs are in terms of dates and content (e.g. if you use national or sub-national projections, and variant projections). This will help inform the review of the population projections dates/content.

In addition, if you have specific requirements in terms of the dates of our other publications, please let us know, as there may be some scope to adjust our planned work schedule.

4. At present, our team is largely focussing on developmental work, and putting plans in place for once the census data becomes available. For example, we are working on our method for revising the population estimates from 2011 to 2022, to provide figures that are consistent with both censuses. We are also developing outlines of the reconciliation reports we will produce, comparing our population estimates to the census results.

New variant population projections

5. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have produced new variant population projections using new international migration assumptions. These variant projections were published on 27 January 2023. New assumptions were developed following the latest expert advice and latest provisional estimates on international migration.

ONS and NRS advise users to use these new [2020-based interim national population projections: estimated international migration variant](#) (which included figures for Scotland) instead of the 2020-based interim national population projections published in January 2022. This is because this release includes more recent estimates of international migration in the averages used to calculate the short- and long-term international migration assumptions.

In the original figures, the population of Scotland was projected to continue increasing until around mid-2028, peaking at 5.48 million. It was then projected to fall by 1.8% to 5.39 million by mid-2045. The new figures show the same pattern of the population continuing to grow for a number of years before starting to fall. However, due to higher migration assumptions, the population is now projected to continue increasing until around mid-2033, peaking at 5.53 million. It is then projected to fall by 0.6% to 5.49 million by 2045. The projections show Scotland's population falling below the mid-2020 baseline by around 2050.

More information on the impact and key changes in the latest update (international migration variant) can be found on the [NRS website](#).

National Insurance Numbers

6. The Home Office has now reinstated their quarterly publication on [National Insurance Number \(NINo\) allocations to overseas nationals entering the UK](#). This release was previously suspended due to an issue with the statistical data which underpins the release. This issue has now been resolved and the statistics deemed fit for purpose.

The [latest release](#) published on 23 February 2023 includes a complete historic back series and covers NINo allocations to December 2022.

Island Geography Framework

7. The Island Geography Framework is a new experimental geography for grouping Scotland's inhabited islands into island subregions developed by Rural and Environmental Science and Analytical Services (RESAS), a part of the Scottish Government. These areas have been created by aggregating data zones. NRS plan to publish population estimates of these geographies along with an interactive map. The provisional publication date for these materials is 6 June 2023.

Contact us

8. We have a team email address which you can use to contact us:
population.migration@nrscotland.gov.uk

NRS: Population and migration statistics team
May 2023