

General Register Office for Scotland – Demography Division

DRAFT Statistics Plan 2009-10

May 2009

1. Introduction

Like other Scottish public bodies, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) operates within the National Performance Framework set by Scottish Ministers.

The National Performance Framework supports delivery of the Scottish Government's Purpose which is, "To create a more successful country where all of Scotland can flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth".

This statistics plan sets out the statistical work planned by GROS Demography Division in 2009-10, and provides information on how this work contributes to the National Performance Framework.

Information is also provided on the resources (Annex A) and planned statistical publications (Annex B) for the division.

2. Priorities

2.1 Contributions to the Scottish Government National Performance Framework

GROS Demography Division provides a range of information used to measure performance in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

For example, we produce population estimates and data on death registrations that are a key part of measuring performance against Purpose Target 4 (Population Growth and Healthy Life Expectancy).

GROS data is also used in the measurement of National Indicators, which the Scottish Government uses to track progress towards the achievement of its National Outcomes.

These data are used in the measurement of indicators on:

- Business
 - start-ups per 10,000 population
- Poverty
 - proportion of individuals living in poverty
- Health
 - healthy life expectancy in deprived areas
 - emergency admissions to hospital of people aged 65 and over
 - mortality rate of people under 75 from coronary heart disease in deprived areas

2.2 Contributions to Single Outcome Agreements

In 2007, representatives of the Scottish Government and Scottish local government signed a concordat. This concordat committed both to moving towards Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) for all 32 of Scotland's councils.

SOAs are agreements between the Scottish Government and each council which set out how each will work in the future towards improving national outcomes for the local people, in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.

This has increased the need for data which can be used to measure progress against appropriate local indicators.

2.2.1 Data at sub-Scotland geographies

To address this need, we are working to:

- make information more accessible
 - for example, by maintaining a table on the GROS website which gives a detailed breakdown of all GROS data available at sub-Scotland geography levels
- make more information available
 - for example, by investigating the production of life expectancy data at local authority level split by the 15% most deprived and the 85% least deprived areas

2.2.2 Professional statistical advice on suitability of GROS data for local indicators

In addition to making sub-Scotland level data more accessible, and adding additional data, a key function of the GROS Demography division is to provide advice on the use of its statistics. In addition to providing relevant information within statistics publications, ongoing work includes:

- Working with the Improvement Service, and others, on improving the Improvement Service menu of local indicators. For example, by commenting on the likely year-to-year fluctuation of GROS data, and whether the data were suitable for use in local indicators.
- Providing professional statistical advice to Scottish Government colleagues on the draft SOAs for indicators relating to demography
- Providing support to local authorities on the development of SOAs (for example during ad-hoc visits to local authority analysts)

2.3 Other user needs

In addition to taking into account requirements for the National Performance Framework and SOAs, we consider the needs of a wide range of demographic statistics users when planning our work.

Discussion of users' requirements takes place through:

- [Consultation groups](#)
 - Population and Migration Statistics Committee (main SCOTSTAT group)
 - Small Area Population Estimates Working Group
 - Household Analysis Review Group
 - Population Projections Working Group
- [Events and seminars](#)
 - For example, Independent Healthy Ageing; and Improving Population and Household Statistics conferences
- Visits to local authorities
- Ongoing Statistics Customer Services survey
- Other meetings and communications (for example, with the Office for National Statistics).

3. Continuous Improvement Activities

Continual improvement is an integral part of the National Performance Framework and the UKSA Code, and we are continually trying to improve the quality of statistics we produce.

[National Outcome 15: "Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs"].

Key improvement work planned for Demography Division in 2009-10 includes:

- Investigation of new sources of administrative data to contribute to the improvement of population statistics
- Earlier publication of small area population estimates, in response to user demand
- Provision of guidance and illustrative examples to enable local authorities to produce local level population projections
- Joint working with UK statistical offices to agree on methodology for deriving mid-year population estimates from Census 2011 base counts
- First publication of household projections for Strategic Development Planning Authority areas, to meet user demand
- Addition of new statistical material to the GROS web site to better meet needs of users
- Implementation of improvements to the GROS website in response to feedback from users of the website

- Improvement to the accuracy of the NHS Central Register by adding additional reference fields
- Development of a new vital events IT system to improve data processing and provide scope for additional data validation
- With Scottish Court Service, GROS Registration Division and SG Civil Justice Statistics, work towards the electronic supply of statistical data on divorces, in order to improve the quality of the statistics and reduce the cost of producing them.

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ANNEX A

GROS Demography Division Resources (2009-10)

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Discipline</i>
Dissemination and 2001 Census Analysis	
1 x B3	Statistics
1 x B2	Administration
2 x B1 (1.6 FTE)	Administration
3 x A4 (2.8 FTE)	Administration
Household Estimates & Projections	
C1	Statistics
2 x B2	Statistics
1 x B1	Statistics (casual)
1 x A3	Student (temporary)
Statistical IT (shared with Census Division)	
1 x B3	IT
3 x B2 (2.6 FTE)	IT
7 x B1	IT
Population & Migration Statistics	
1 x C1 (0.9 FTE)	Statistics
1 x B2 (+ 1 vacancy)	Statistics
3 x B1	Statistics
1 x A3 (currently vacant, post may be upgraded)	Administration
Alternative Sources	
1 x C1	Statistics
1 x B3	Statistics
2 x B2	Statistics
Vital Events	
1 x C1	Statistics
1 x B2	Administration
1 x B2	Statistics
1 x B1 (0.7 FTE)	Administration
4 x A4 (3.8 FTE, one of which is currently filled by an A3)	Administration
3 x A3	Administration
NHS Central Register	
1 x B3 (0.6 FTE)	Administration
1 x B2	Administration
2 x B1	Administration
1 x A4	Administration
17 x A3 (15.6 FTE)	Administration

Demography Division staff budget (2009-10)	
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ANNEX B

GROS Demography Division Planned Publications (2009-10)

Mid-2008 Population Estimates Scotland	April 2009
Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2008	May 2009
Births, Marriages and Deaths 1st Quarter 2009	June 2009
Centenarians in Scotland, 2002 – 2008	June 2009
Scotland's Population 2008: The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends	August 2009
Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland in 2008	August 2009
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 2nd Quarter 2009	September 2009
Life Expectancy in Administrative Areas of Scotland, 2006-2008	September 2009
Projected Population of Scotland (2008-based)	October 2009
Increased Winter Mortality	October 2009
Variant Projected Population of Scotland (2008-based)	November 2009
Small Area Population Estimates	November 2009
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 3rd Quarter 2009	December 2009
Babies' First Names - 2009	December 2009
Electoral Statistics, Scotland 2009	February 2010
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 2009 (Preliminary)	March 2010
Births, Marriages and Deaths: 4th Quarter 2009	March 2010
Life Expectancy in Special Areas in Scotland, 2006-2008	March 2010

ANNEX C

GROS Demography Division progress in previous year (2008-09)

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