

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

Migration from Northern Ireland (NI) to Scotland

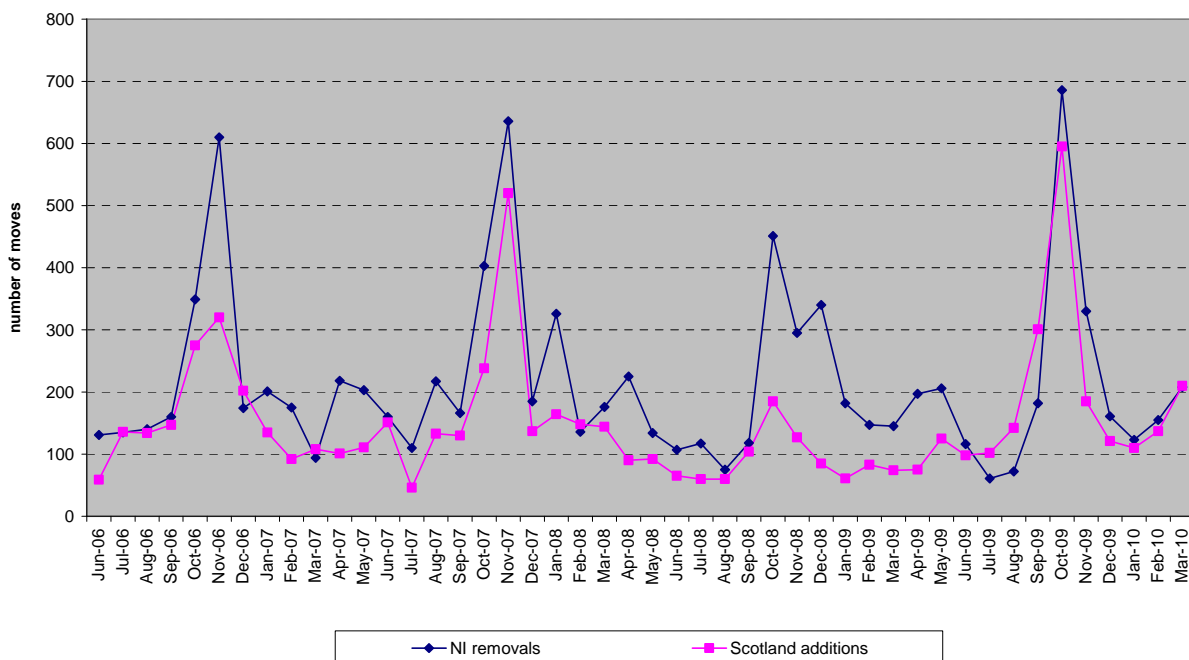
1. Introduction

1.1 This is an update to the paper submitted to PAMS in December 2009 (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/pams-09-20-migration-ni-to-scotland.pdf>) regarding the estimation of migration flows from NI to Scotland.

2. Monitoring the data

2.1 The PaMS Branch has been monitoring (and will continue to monitor) the NI 'removals' data (counts of patients being removed from the NI health register due to them moving to Scotland) against the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) counts of people moving into Scotland from NI. The two sources were expected to be more consistent for data corresponding to August 2009 (when the improvement was made) and thereafter. Results of analysis shows that although the two sources do not yet completely agree they are beginning to look more similar – this is illustrated in the chart below.

Monthly comparison of NI records of removals to Scotland with GROS records of additions to Scotland from NI



4. Revisions

4.1 After the last PAMS meeting where it was agreed that revisions were not necessary in this case, GROS and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) have agreed not to revise population or cross-border migration estimates because:

- although we can be reasonably confident that, prior to the improvement, NI to Scotland migration was being underestimated we can't ascertain the magnitude of the undercount due to uncertainties in both sources; and
- even if we could accurately quantify the error, the change is most likely be too small to warrant a revision.

5. Our plan for making users aware of the data improvement

5.1 We will add the following footnote to all published migration estimates that include data for June 2009 onwards e.g. (2009 Quarter 3).

"Due to an improvement in data sources the accuracy of cross border migration data between Scotland and Northern Ireland have been improved from mid-2009"

5.2 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and NISRA will use the same footnote.

Laura McConnell
General Register Office for Scotland,
May 2010