

Population And Migration Statistics (PAMS) Committee (Scotland)

Population and Migration Statistics Update

1. Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population and migration statistics. PAMS is asked to note the paper and other comments. We would also be very keen to hear back from PAMS members about how you use our statistics and what impact they have. Written comments on anything covered in this paper will also be very welcome to National Records of Scotland (NRS), email: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

We are specifically looking for feedback and input from PAMS on:-

- Proposals for a new sub-national population projection method for 2014-based projections;
- Our approach to producing new small area population and household projections;
- Feedback on the review of the Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) method and publication proposals for the 2014 SAPE;
- Proposals for the use of the subset of the NHS Central Registrar (NHSCR) demographic extract for producing migration estimates for the 2015 mid-year estimates;
- Feedback on a new method to produce 90+ population estimates at single year of age for areas within Scotland;
- Feedback on how useful the work we have carried out on producing quality measures for mid-year estimates is for users.

2. Staffing

There have been a number of new starts in the team.

- Gail Sinclair started in our team on 5 January 2015 working on the development of single year of age population estimates for administrative areas in Scotland for those aged 90+.
- Jay Gillam started in our team on 7 April 2015 working on improving migration estimates using Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data.
- Rosie Seaman, PhD intern from Glasgow University, started with us on 13 April 2015 for three months to compare Census migration data with migration data based on patient registers.
- Someone will be joining us shortly to work on developing small area population and household projections for areas within councils.
- We are also currently exploring with Scottish Government (SG) Health Analytical Services Division (ASD) and Information Services Division (ISD) for funding for a secondee from ISD to produce the mid-2014 small area population estimates on the 2001 data zone boundaries, needed for health funding allocation.

3. Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting:-

- Life Expectancy for Areas in Scotland, 2011-2013, additional tables (27 November 2014);
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) publication: Quarterly Migration report – including International Migration for Scotland for calendar year 2013 (27 November 2014);
- Mid-2014 Population Estimates Scotland, Council and NHS Board areas (30 April 2015).

Future publications:-

- Migration tables for mid-2013 to mid-2014 (July 2015);
- Local Area Migration spreadsheet update (July 2015);
- National Life Tables 2012-2014 Scotland table published in August with our RGs Annual Report (August 2015 To be confirmed (TBC));
- Three chapters for the Registrar General's Annual Report (August 2015 TBC);
- Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) 2014 for new 2011 data zones, data for previous years 2011 to 2014 (August 2015);
- Country of Birth and Nationality population estimates 2014 including revised estimates for earlier years due to revisions to population estimates after the 2011 Census (August 2015);
- Centenarians, including population estimates for those aged 90+, 2004 to 2014 (September 2015);
- Life Expectancy for Scottish Areas 2012-2014 (October 2015);
- National Population Projections 2014-based (October/November 2015 TBC);
- Revised 2001 to 2010 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) for new 2011 data zones (Spring 2016 TBC);
- Sub-national Population Projections for Scottish Areas 2014-based (Spring 2016 TBC).

4. Mid-2014 Population Estimates

Mid-2014 population estimates for administrative areas in Scotland which are consistent with the new NHS Board areas will be published on 30 April 2015. NHS Board area boundary changes came into effect from 1 April 2014 and mean that NHS Board areas are now aligned with Council area boundaries. However, population estimates for pre-April 2014 NHS Board areas back to 1981 are available to download from the Population Estimates Time Series Data section of the NRS website. Only estimates for the 2014 NHS Board boundaries will be produced for the 2014 mid-year estimates onwards.

5. 2014-based Population Projections Scotland

The assumption setting process for the national population projections produced by ONS has started. There was an Experts meeting on 9 April in London which NRS attended. ONS will be coming to Edinburgh in the summer to consult on the Scotland fertility, mortality and migration assumptions. The method used for cross border migration flows has changed to be rates based and this will have an effect on how we do the sub-national projections for 2014.

6. Review of 2014-based sub-national population projection method

Due to the changes to the method used to produce the national projections NRS commissioned academics from Leeds university to review the current sub-national projection system, describe other projection methods available and make a recommendation for the 2014 based sub-national projections. We should be receiving the report from Leeds university shortly and plan to discuss the recommendations with interested PAMS members, through a short-term PAMS projections sub-group. Please let Esta Clark know if you are interested in joining this group.

7. POPGROUP Users Meeting held 11 March 2015

We held a POPGROUP Users meeting on 11 March which was attended by councils and the improvement service. The meeting was supported by Professor Ludi Simpson and attended by Edge Analytics. A note for the meeting will be made available on our website in due course as will a summary of the feedback from those who attended the event.

8. Small area population and household estimates

Funding has been secured from the Statistics Data Development Fund held by the Office of the Chief Statistician and Performance in the Scottish Government to produce sub-council area population and household projections. There has been demand from council and community planning groups for these projections. Someone will be joining us to take forward this work over the next financial year and Professor Ludi Simpson will be providing academic support to the project. More information on the project can be found in PAMS (15) 08. Comments from PAMS are welcome.

9. Small Area Population estimates

We will be publishing small area population estimates for 2011 to 2014 in August 2015 on the new 2011 data zone boundaries. As well as the 2011 data zone boundaries estimates we will also be publishing other non-standard geographies (UK Parliamentary Constituency (UKPC), Scottish Parliamentary Constituency (SPC), Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) and Urban Rural (UR)) built up on a best fit basis from the 2011 data zones. Unlike previous years, no estimates will be produced for SIMD as the SIMD rankings for new data zones will not be published until 2016.

A review into the process of producing the SAPE has been carried out and concluded that the cohort component method was still the best although this would be reviewed when more detailed administrative data became available. More information on the review is available in PAMS (15) 11. Comments from PAMS on this approach are welcome.

We are looking for PAMS members views on whether we should produce a revised back series of the non-standard geographies. The aggregations from 2011 data zones will differ to the aggregation from 2001 data zones. This will produce discrepancies with those estimates already produced, due to differences in boundaries. More information on aggregating the 2011 data zones to new boundaries will shortly be published on the NRS website. Views from PAMS are welcome.

Subject to funding/staff being secured, we are planning on producing the mid-2014 population estimate on the 2001 data zone boundaries as well as the 2011 data zone boundaries. This data has been requested from both SG Health ASD and ISD for use in a health funding allocation formula.

10. Other research and improvement work

We are also continuing to improve our estimates through a range of work including:

- Internal Migration, including comparing address 12 months ago information from the 2011 Census with our migration estimates. This work will be carried out over the next few months by a PhD intern from Glasgow university.
- Continuing to develop our use of the Demographic subset of the NHSCR extract, more details can be found in PAMS (15) 09.
- Explore the HESA data and how it can improve our estimates of student migration and continue to pursue additional data sources to improve our estimates.
- Some work has been taken forward to develop quality indicators for mid-year estimates and explore the creation of confidence intervals for our estimates. More information on the method can be found in PAMS (15) 12.
- We are researching the feasibility of producing population estimates at single year of age and sex up to 100+ rather than 90+ as part of our main mid-year estimates process and reviewing with ONS the existing methodology at Scotland level to produce 90+ estimates by single year of age as well as developing estimates for these ages for areas within Scotland. See PAMS (15) 10 for more details.
- Review the methodology and processes used to create population estimates of settlements and localities. This work is on-going.

11. Demographic statistics user consultation

We ran an online consultation for the users of demographic statistics covering, population, migration, life expectancy, households and vital event statistics as well as the Registrar General's Annual Review and Marital Status Estimates. Thank you to everyone who submitted a response. The consultation closed on 22 April and we will be publishing a report of the responses in June 2015.

12. Improving our dissemination: infographics and data visualisation

With other teams in NRS we have continued to develop new infographics and data visualisations for our releases, including a new infographic supplement for the 2014 mid-year population estimates.

We will be continuing to develop these visual summaries and interactive content as we go forward. We have also continued to make use of Twitter and have tweeted links to news releases, infographics and key messages on the days we release statistics.

Follow us on Twitter: @NatRecordsScot | <http://twitter.com/NatRecordsScot>

13. UK Statistics Authority Assessment

The UK Statistics Authority is continuing to assess our Population statistics and we expect a report later this year. We would like to thank everyone who responded to their consultation on our statistics.

NRS: Population and Migration Statistics branch
6 May 2015