

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

POPULATION STATISTICS UPDATE

Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population statistics and the further work to be carried out over the coming months. PAMS is asked to note the paper and other comments. Written comments by 30 November 2003 will also be welcome - to esta.clark@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Mid-Year Estimates

The 2003 mid-year estimates (MYE) for Council and Health Board areas are planned to be published in April 2004.

Small area population estimates for 2002 (consistent with the 2002 MYE) are planned to be published in December 2003. For more details please see the paper PAMS (03) 11 from the last meeting.

Revisions 1982-2000

District Revisions

A set of revisions for old district areas is planned for end November 2003. This work was originally planned for August but was delayed due to other work taking priority.

Migration Revisions

In addition to the population revisions, GROS are also planning to undertake revisions to the migration series for 1982-2000. The Council area and Health Board area revisions to population estimates, published earlier this year, made a net adjustment for migration but did not identify any of the origin-destination characteristics of the adjustment. Work on allocating the migrants as international, within UK etc will be undertaken, in conjunction with the other Census offices, once more information on migration is available from the 2001 Census. It is hoped that this work will be completed by end-December 2003.

Marital Status Revisions

We are also planning on revising the marital status estimates. In doing this we are looking at our method for producing marital status estimates in more detail with the intention of improving the annual marital status estimates. This work is planned for completion by end-November 2003.

Using the results of the 2001 census it is planned to produce revised mid-year marital status estimates (MSEs) for the decade since the 1991 census, and possibly also back to the 1981 census. In addition an MSE for mid-year 2002 will also be produced.

It is anticipated that the revised MSEs for the 1990's will be created as follows:

- 1) Take the 1991 based unrevised MSE for MY 2000 and “move it forward” to MY 2001 using the old methodology. Compare this moved forward 2000 MSE with the actual 2001 MY MSE derived from the 2001 census.
- 2) Take any differences in MSE proportions between rolled forward 2000 MSE and 2001 census MSE, and apportion them to the yearly MSE proportions throughout the 1990’s.
- 3) Apply the corrected MSE proportions to the revised mid-year population estimates for the 1990’s to get revised MSE estimates for 1991 to 2000.

So far background investigations have been carried out in to the methods ONS are currently using to tackle a very similar problem for England and Wales. Initial results from this work confirm that our approach is valid for Scotland. Also, work has started on calculating mid-year 2001 and 2002 MSE and the project is on target to provide the required revised MSEs for the 1990s by end-November 2003.

Population Projections

The national and sub-national population projections for Scotland will be published in December and January respectively, rather than October and November as originally planned. The reason for the delay is to take account of the ONS population revisions (www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/popest0903.pdf). In particular, we will, with the Government Actuary's Department, be revisiting the migration assumptions and the mortality assumptions for specific ages. Despite the delay, the sub-national projections should still be available slightly earlier than in previous years. GROS hope that this delay does not cause any significant difficulties with the use of the projections locally, but it was decided that a small delay was necessary to ensure the quality and robustness of the projections. GROS are aiming to consult Local authorities on the proposed assumptions for council areas in November 2003.

At the beginning of September, PAMS members were sent a paper asking for comments by 17 October on some aspects of the methodology used to produce the sub-national projections. The results of this scoping study will be taken forward by a new “Projections Methodology Working Group”. Please see PAMS paper (03) 15 for more details. Due to time constraints and vacancies in the branch, the majority of this development work will be considered for the 2004 based and possibly later projections.

Quarterly Population Estimates

A requirement has been stated by a number of users, principally a number of ONS surveys and Eurostat, for timely quarterly population estimates (QPE). To meet this requirement a project has been initiated within the Population and Demography section of ONS. The aim of the project is to deliver a method for producing quarterly population estimates 6-8 weeks after the end of each quarter. ONS is leading this work with comment from GROS and NISRA on the appropriateness of the proposals in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Once a method has been devised and agreed throughout the UK, the production of quarterly estimates will be the responsibility of each of the Registrars General. ONS’s target date for the QPE for the quarter ending at the end of September 2003 will be mid November 2003, and the target for the next quarter's QPE will be mid February 2004. GROS will discuss with ONS and NISRA the suitability of the approach for Scotland and plan to take over producing the QPE for the mid February target. Quarterly population estimates will be revised to be in line with the mid year estimates when they are published.

Estimates of single year of age above 90

As you may know, the population is aging with greater proportions of people in the 90+ age group. Therefore, it makes sense to try and produce more age detail for this growing group. GROS are researching methods to produce single year of age population estimates for ages 90 to 99. Work will be carried out to compare the Kannisto-Thatcher method with a simplified method of rolling the population forward and subtracting deaths. It is hoped that initial results will be available around end-November 2003.

**GROS
October 2003**