

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

POPULATION STATISTICS UPDATE

Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population statistics. PAMS is asked to note the paper and other comments. Written comments will also be welcome to esta.clark@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Mid-Year Estimates

The 2003 mid-year estimates for Scotland were published on 30 April 2004, the detailed age/sex breakdown and estimates for local authorities and health boards on 25 May 2004. The 2004 mid-year estimates are planned for April 2005.

Small area population estimates (See PAMS (04) 14)

Population Projections

The 2003-based interim national population projections for Scotland and the UK were published on 30 September. These interim projections were produced due to revisions to England and Wales mid-year estimates and to take account of more recent information. The long-term assumptions remained the same. 2003-based sub-national projections for Scotland will not be produced.

The next set of national projections (2004-based) are planned for October 2005, the sub-national projections to follow late 2005 early 2006.

GROS plan to set up a Projections Working group to look into technical issues relating to the production of the sub-national projections. It has not been possible to set up this group yet due to resource constraints. Resources are now available to take this forward.

Due to time constraints it is proposed that:

- ***the possibility of commissioning work from an external consultant to look into the range of methodologies available should be agreed through correspondence, and;***
- ***an initial meeting of the working group should be set up to discuss any findings and the way forward in early 2005.***

Quarterly Population Estimates

As previously reported, the Population and Demography section of ONS have initiated a project to produce timely quarterly population estimates (QPE). A methodology has been produced and quality assured by the methods group in ONS. The first QPEs are planned to be published in December 2004 for England and Wales.

GROS have not been able to devote any resources recently to considering the issues surrounding Quarterly Population Estimates for Scotland. We would like to discuss the demand for and implications of publishing QPEs for Scotland with our users through PAMS, after which we will be able

to provide a firmer view. In the meantime, as with Northern Ireland we will keep in touch with developments with the production of the QPEs for England & Wales and subsequent plans to publish there.

90+ Estimates

We have developed a system of estimating 90+ population, using the same methodology as used by GAD. We are currently investigating the feasibility of using this for local authorities and health boards.

Marital Status Estimates

Marital status estimates have been produced for 2001, 2002 and 2003. These will soon be available from Customer Services and on the website along with a short paper explaining the method used. Following the revisions to the population estimates, revised marital status estimates have been produced for 1982-2000. These will also be published shortly along with the methodology used to produce them.

Life tables

Life tables have recently been published by ONS for Scottish local authorities and health boards. In future, GROS will publish these in the Annual Report in July, using the same methodology. This will allow earlier publication, and the methodology can be adapted to calculate life expectancy for other geographic areas.

International Migration Review – Implementation

Emma Wright of ONS Migration Statistics is coordinating the work programme which followed the Quality Review of International Migration. The first meeting of the project board met in October at which the Project Initiation Document was discussed. Emma Wright is planning to circulate a work plan which will identify the key priority areas for the next year. Cecilia Macintyre will be a member of the subgroup looking at the methodology used to allocate UK IPS immigration estimates between the constituent countries of the UK and the Government Office Regions of England.

Dissemination and training

Recently the Demography team ran a small one day training workshop for the Demography team, to which a number of other GROS and SE staff were invited. The purpose of this was to provide an update on our work plan and to share knowledge of the team members with others working in related areas. As a result of this we have a number of presentations which could be adapted for various audiences, and so would be interested to know if there any potential groups to whom we could present an overview of our current work.

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GROS

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