

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

2001 Census: Progress, plans and feedback

Action for committee

1. The Committee is asked to
 - a. Note progress and plans and comment as appropriate
 - b. Provide suggestions as to how GROS might consult users further about the successes and failures of the 2001 Census output programme (paragraph 8).

Progress

2. Since the last meeting of the committee, the following products have been released:
 - a. The final tables in the Area Statistics (Tables UV75-79 on workplace) on the SCROL website
 - b. Thematic mapping on the SCROL website
 - c. Final SCROL CD (CD7) containing tables on migration, workplace and living rent free
 - d. Output Area level tables from the origin-destination statistics: migration, travel (origins in Scotland), workplace (origins elsewhere in GB). Note that NISRA have opted out of any workplace/travel output for output areas for origins in NI.
 - e. Preliminary findings of the Post Census Vacants Survey (by Scottish Executive at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/housing/hsbref>).
3. GROS has conducted a further three sessions of training in SuperTABLE – the software that is provided on the SCROL CDs.

Plans

4. GROS plan to
 - a. Reissue SCROL CDs1-6 with those tables identified as in error replaced by corrected versions. Tables known to contain errors are at <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/census-known-errors>. Customers who were issued with the original CDs will get replacement CDs by the end of August 2004.
 - b. Combine the contents of SCROL CDs1-7 into a single product, the SCROL DVD. The expected date for release for the DVD is September 2004. We have canvassed views among users on a number of issues affecting the design of the DVD with the following results:

users want tables in both SuperTABLE and comma delimited (csv) formats

users want the DVD to have a 'SCROL' interface to access the SuperTABLE files and a few also wanted the interface to provide access to the csv files

users want a mix of geography with tables containing areas both as hierarchies and in 'flat' non-hierarchical form, but there were comments saying that subsets of areas should be more easily selected

other comments were that we should include area identifiers/codes of areas as well as names, and we should include the table index spreadsheet previously issued to PAMS

- c. Release the remaining parts of the Origin-Destination Statistics product as follows:

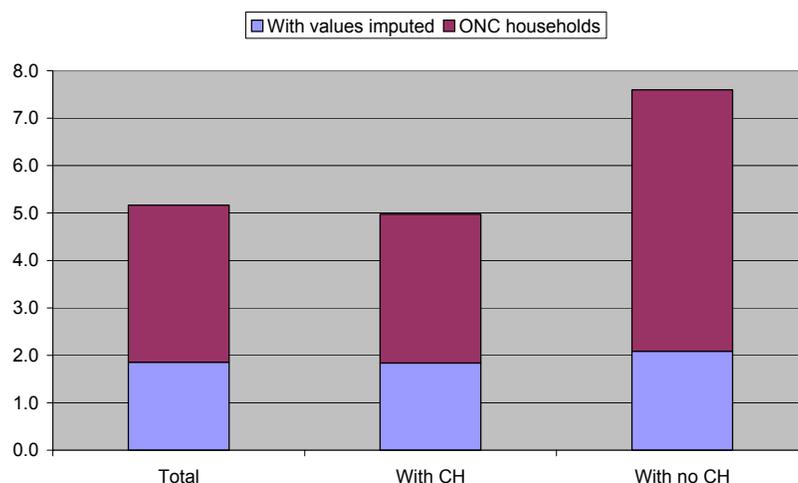
Ward level tables for migration (<i>excluding</i> moving groups tables), travel and workplace	late June 2004
Postcode sector level tables for migration (<i>excluding</i> moving groups tables) and travel	late July 2004
Local authority level tables for migration (<i>excluding</i> moving groups tables), travel and workplace.	mid September 2004
Ward, postcode sector and local authority level migration tables for moving groups	end October 2004

Note: migrants are assigned to the same moving group if they belonged to the same household at the time of the Census and they had the same address (actually the same postcode or country) one year previously

5. Other plans include

- a. To produce, with ONS and NISRA, an individual (3%) sample of anonymised records (SAR) and a household (1%) SAR. The main outstanding work is to amend or remove disclosive records in the current 'unsafe' versions of the SARs to render the products safe for release. Current plans are to include in these two SARs the SE index of deprivation calculated at datazone level. Because of a shortage of IT staff at ONS, it is difficult to give a date at which these products will appear. The latest dates of July and October for the 3% and 1% now seem unachievable – in fact September now seems likely for the 3% SAR. In the meantime, the Census Offices are considering whether and how selected researchers may be given controlled access to the unsafe SARs. GROS has still to decide whether or not Scottish data will be included in a third 5% SAR, with a sub-Scotland geography. Not least of the reasons for this reserve is the fact that dealing with disclosive records will be a challenging task.
- b. To complete the delivery to ONS Scottish parts of tables meant for the UK reports 'Focus on ...'. ONS are also assembling UK tables meant for Eurostat – with contributions from GROS.
- c. To provide on the GROS website further material to help users to take a view on the quality of the Census results. An example of a chart that may appear is show below. Evaluation material will also include an assessment of the operations of the Census and on its value for money. We expect to produce this material over this summer.

**Households with data not supplied on Census form:
central heating**



- d. To publish this summer, with ONS and NISRA, the 2001 Census Definitions Volume. Some of this material is already available in the Supporting Information to be found in SCROL products.
- e. To provide tables commissioned by users. Over 80 requests have been met so far with some including as many as 50 tables.
- f. To publish further analyses from the 2001 Census. So far we have been asked to produce a report on Gaelic.

Feedback

6. We have conducted a number of limited exercises aimed at getting the views of Census users about the Census products and how we have supplied them. For example:
 - a. Users of the SCROL CDs were asked to complete a questionnaire about the product.
 - b. Users in the Scottish Executive were asked to provide information about what they used Census results for and how that use may have been limited by how variables were defined or by how the data was supplied.
 - c. Potential users of the SCROL DVD were asked for views about the format of the DVD (see paragraph 4b).
7. GROS has started its strategic planning for a 2011 Census – with the possibility of an alternative to the Census alongside a conventional exercise or instead of it. The choices GROS make for 2011 should take account of users' needs and so work on a full consultation programme is underway. In outline our plans are to consult through the web initially on question content and through an autumn roadshow on 2001 output and the lessons to be drawn for 2011. We will also encourage views on wider statistical issues such as population bases and the methodology for dealing with under-enumeration. Papers for the autumn roadshow will address all these issues. Paper PAMS(04)03 describes the proposed consultation process more fully.

- 8.** The roadshow will probably fail to reach the inexperienced and casual users, or those users whose use of the Census is now over and who are happy not to think about it for another 10 years. GROS welcomes suggestions about how we can get the views of those who don't turn up at the roadshow. Trawling lists of known customers is one possibility, as is inserting a feedback slot into the SCROL website and on the SCROL DVD.

General Register Office
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