

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS UPDATE

Introduction

This paper summarises the recent work on population statistics. Population and Migration Statistics (PAMS) is asked to note the paper and other comments. Written comments will also be welcome to the Population and Migration Statistics Head of Branch using our [Contact Form](#).

Staffing

Cecilia Macintyre has left to go to the UK Statistics Authority and Esta Clark has replaced her. Andrew White has also left and moved to work on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) in the Scottish Government. Keira Murray has joined the branch and will initially be involved in the sub-national population projections. Harvey Snowling has taken over the work using POPGROUP for small area projections, with a view to developing in-house skills. Bartlomiej Jaron has joined us on a placement year from Napier University.

Publications

Publications since the last PAMS meeting are:

- Centenarians in Scotland (30 June 2009);
- Local area migration reports (2 July 2009);
- The Registrar General's Annual Review of Scotland's Population (7 August 2009) ;
- 2008 Small Area Population Estimates, Scotland (3 September 2009);
- Life Expectancy in Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Areas, 2005-2007 (2 October 2009);
- Mid-2008 Marital Status Population Estimates, Scotland (6 October 2009);
- Projected Population of Scotland, 2008-based (21 October 2009);
- Life Expectancy in Intermediate Zones, 2003-2007 (28 October 2009);
- Variant Projected Population of Scotland (2008-based) - link to Office for National Statistics website (18 November 2009);
- Population by country of birth and Nationality, April 2008-March 2009 (26 November 2009);
- By Office for National Statistics (ONS) - Long-term International Migration (26 November 2009); and
- Jointly with ONS – Migration indicators tool (26 November 2009).

Future publications:

- 2008-based Population Projections for Scottish Areas (January 2010)
- 2008 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities (March 2010 – to be confirmed)
- 2008-based Population Projections for Other Areas (March 2010 – to be confirmed)
- Life Expectancy in Special Areas in Scotland, 2006-2008 (March 2010)
- Mid-2009 Population Estimates Scotland (April 2010)
- Centenarians in Scotland, 2002-2009 (June 2010)
- Life Expectancy in Administrative Areas of Scotland, 2007-2009 (September 2010)
- 2009 Small Area Population Estimates (September 2010).

Sub-National Population Projections (2008 based)

Council Chief Executives as well as PAMS and PAMS Local Authority side contacts were consulted on the proposed migration assumptions for the sub-national projections as well as views on which, if any, variant projections should be produced at a later date. Seventeen replies have been received by 30 November. More information will be provided at the meeting.

Population Projections Working Group

Ludi Simpson has produced ward level population and household projections for Fife Council using POPGROUP. Phase 2 of the project is now underway with General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) starting to develop, with Ludi, detailed guidance in the production of small area projections for local areas. The resulting guidance, along with the required datazone level data would then be available to all councils to enable them to produce their own small area projections.

Small Area Population Estimates Quality Assurance

Harvey Snowling has completed work to allow the comparison of small area data on population with a range of related sources including Child Benefit, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) old person's data, school census, dwellings, and Census communal establishments. We are still trying to obtain permission from some data owners in order to share this with local authority users, with the aim of drawing on local knowledge to identify factors influencing the Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) estimates.

Life Expectancy

Earlier this year a meeting was held between the Office for National Statistics, Scottish Government, Information Services Division (ISD) and GROS to discuss a number of methodological issues in the publication of life expectancy. As a result work was undertaken to compare the different methods used the main aspect of which looked at the treatment of deaths of non-residents. The outcome of this work supported the decision to use an imputation method to assign non-residents a pseudo place of residence when preparing data for use in the calculation of intermediate zone (IZ) life expectancy estimates. This means that 2003-2007 IZ life expectancy is comparable to the 2001-2005 estimates. At higher level geographies non-resident deaths continue to be counted at place of death.

Dissemination and User Engagement

- Presentations at the PAMS conference 30 October 2009 – Andrew White presented the main results of the 2008-based National Population Projections. Alasdair Anthony ran a workshop on migration data, focussed on the Scottish Migration Reports and the Migration Indicators Tool.
- Reshaping care for older people, drawing it together – Andrew White attended this event which reported on Emerging Proposals from the 8 workstreams established to take forward the Reshaping Care for Older People Programme. The most relevant of these workstreams is the one focusing on funding and demographics. The changing demographics highlighted by GROS population projections are a key driver for all this work, it is understood that, in light of the increasing numbers of older people, care services cannot remain as they are at present.
- Andrew White visited Shetland Islands Council along with Phd student John McCarthy in the latest in a series of council visits. They gave presentations on the work of the branch designed to show the range of statistics available with an emphasis on small area population statistics.
- Cecilia Macintyre gave a presentation to the Royal Commission on Environmental Change, and Alasdair Anthony gave a presentation to the Scottish Institute of Policing Research (jointly with Allan Findlay of St Andrews University).

Research into improving Migration and Population Statistics

- Research into the feasibility of producing Population Estimates split by ethnic group is progressing. Investigation suggests that the ONS methodology can be applied to Scotland, with some minor alterations. Work is currently underway to calculate Scotland level mid-2001 estimates, which will be analysed before a decision can be made regarding the plausibility of rolling the estimates forward a further 7 years to mid-2008. The calculation of Scotland level figures will give us a better idea as to whether the estimates can be carried out at a lower level. At the moment this is looking unlikely due to data constraints.

**General Register Office for Scotland
Population & Migration Statistics Branch**

1 December 2009