

SIMD to be published in 2016

The timetable for publishing the next edition of SIMD is now planned for 2016.

This has been decided mainly due to delays in redrawing data zone boundaries. This timetable replaces the anticipated date of 2015. SIMD is normally published every 3 years.

Data zone boundaries are being redrawn to take account of population shifts. These shifts were identified in the last census. This project has experienced delays and we expect redrawn data zones will be available in November 2015.

SIMD is built from information available in data zones. We have explored alternative methods, but without knowing the new boundaries it is difficult to plan for all aspects of SIMD. So we cannot begin our data capture until the boundaries are finalised.

SIMD is created from a snapshot of data available on the 30th of September. This is always done in the year prior to publication. Doing so avoids seasonality (an effect of patterns associated with particular points in the year, such as employment rising nearer to Christmas). As this date has now passed and we cannot find a reliable alternative, our next opportunity is the 30th September 2015.

We aim in 2016 to publish the next SIMD. This will give us extra time to continue to develop the themes identified in the SIMD review. Also the SIMD team will work to provide interim updates for the 'Employment' and 'Income' domains for the new data zones.

The SIMD team will continue to keep you informed through the website and newsletter.

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician

Change to Health indicator

Within the Health domain, SIMD currently includes an indicator called '*Estimated proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis.*'

For the next edition of SIMD, health colleagues are proposing to use newly available data to provide actual counts of people being prescribed the relevant drugs, instead of calculating an estimate.

This will result in an improvement to this Health domain indicator.

Exploration of gas grid coverage

Where households don't have access to gas, they tend to pay more for fuel. This in turn has implications for whether a household finds itself in fuel poverty.

We are currently in the process of investigating new data on how many domestic properties are connected to the gas grid at datazone level.

Although we have done some preliminary analysis on a subset of Scotland's datazones, more work needs to be done before we can decide whether it is appropriate for this data to be included in a future SIMD.

What we are reading

Demos report '[Poverty in Perspective](#)' (pdf)

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#simd12