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Population trends in Scotland, with particular reference to emigration

E.A. Hogan (Scotland)

Summary

Birth and death rates and natural increase higher than in England and Wales, and emigration much higher. Net emigration from Scotland (1951 population 5,096,415) between 1861 and 1951 as great as from England and Wales (1951 population 43,744,924). It was 1,600,000 - 1,300,000 overseas. Standstill in 1930's due to depression and during last war, but contribution to migration has since offset greater part of natural increase.

Analysis of emigrants in June 1952-53 shows even balance of sexes, fully 86 per cent of each sex under 45 and high relative proportion of males in professional and managerial classes and engineering, metal, building industries and carpentry.

On latest available data 244,200 persons born in Scotland enumerated in United States of America, 234,824 Canada, 103,000 Australia, 43,818 New Zealand and 33,000 South Africa.

Declining birth and death rates and emigration are ageing the Scottish population: 25% under 15, 10% over 65. 1951 census showed decline in age groups 5-35 generally. Substantial further improvement in death rate (11.5 per 1,000 in 1953) improbable. Assuming no fall in the number of births, population might increase by 1 1/2 million by 2050, allowing nothing for migration. If migration continues as in immediate past, growth of population might cease about 1970.

General distribution of this document is limited to the introductory summary. Participants who have been invited to take part in the meeting referred to above will receive also the full text of the paper. Other participants in the Conference will receive the full text upon request.

Pour la traduction française voir au verso.

Tendances démographiques en Ecosse, notamment en ce qui concerne l'émigration

E. A. Hogan (Ecosse)

Résumé. Les taux de natalité et de mortalité, ainsi que l'accroissement naturel de la population, sont plus élevés en Ecosse qu'en Angleterre et au Pays de Galles; de même, l'émigration y est beaucoup plus importante. Entre 1861 et 1951, l'émigration nette hors d'Ecosse (en 1951 l'Ecosse avait 5.096.415 habitants) a été aussi importante que pour l'Angleterre et le Pays de Galles (en 1951 l'Angleterre et le Pays de Galles avaient 43.744.924 habitants). Elle s'est élevée à 1.600.000 individus, dont 1.300.000 sont partis outre-mer. Le mouvement s'est arrêté aux environs de 1930, à cause de la crise, et au cours de la dernière guerre; depuis lors, l'émigration nette a annulé, dans une large mesure, l'accroissement naturel de la population.

Il ressort d'une analyse des émigrations qui ont eu lieu entre juin 1952 et juin 1953 que les deux sexes sont représentés dans des proportions identiques, qu'il y a au moins 86 pour 100 d'émigrants de chaque sexe en dessous de 45 ans et que, parmi les hommes, une forte proportion se répartit entre les catégories suivantes : professions libérales, hommes d'affaires, ingénieurs; industries des métaux et du bâtiment, menuiserie.

D'après les plus récentes données disponibles, on compte 244.200 personnes nées en Ecosse aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique, 234.824 au Canada, 103.000 en Australie, 43.818 en Nouvelle-Zélande et 33.000 en Afrique du Sud.

La baisse des taux de natalité et de mortalité ainsi que l'émigration entraînent le vieillissement de la population écossaise. Il y a 25 pour 100 d'Ecossais de moins de 15 ans et 10 pour 100 de plus de 65 ans. Le recensement de 1951 indique que les groupes d'âge qui se situent entre 5 et 35 ans ont, d'une manière générale, tendance à diminuer. Il est peu probable que le taux de mortalité (qui était de 11,5 pour 1.000 en 1953) baisse encore de façon sensible. Avec un chiffre de naissance constant au niveau actuel et sans mouvement migratoire, la population augmenterait de 1.500.000 individus d'ici 2050. Si les mouvements migratoires se maintenaient au rythme qui était le leur au cours des récentes années, l'accroissement de la population se trouverait réduit à néant aux environs de 1970.

* Seule la présente analyse d'introduction fait l'objet d'une distribution générale. Les participants qui ont été invités à assister à la séance mentionnée ci-dessus recevront en outre le texte intégral du document. Les autres participants au Congrès recevront le texte intégral sur leur demande.

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Population trends in Scotland, with particular reference to emigration

A study of United Kingdom populations as a whole is apt to give a misleading picture of the trend in the individual countries. The experience in Scotland is in many ways different from that in England. Birth and death rates are different and migration plays a large part in Scotland's population trends.

The population of Scotland increased from 1,608,420 in 1801, when the first official census was taken, to 5,096,415 in 1951 when the last census was taken. The increase is one of 217 per cent. In the same time the population of England and Wales rose from 8,892,536 to 43,744,924, an increase of 392 per cent. The ratio of the Scottish population to that of England and Wales, very roughly, was about 1 to 5 in 1801 and about 1 to 9 in 1951, so in the comparison it was only about half as strong in 1951 as in 1801.

It is not because of a comparative defect in the Scottish birth rate that the strength of the Scottish population has thus diminished in relation to that across the border. The death rate in Scotland, though showing a continuing improvement for many years, has lagged rather behind that of England and Wales, but the birth rate has more than compensatingly kept ahead in the comparison. Consequently the natural increase of population in Scotland has for many years been proportionately greater than in England and Wales.

It is the heavy contribution that Scotland has made by emigration to other countries that has kept its population so much in check. It was not till 1855 that

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there came into operation in Scotland a general system of registration of births, deaths and marriages. Consequently it was not until the first intercensal period after that, namely 1861-71, that the vital statistics and comparative census populations were available to measure the effects of migration. In the 90 years between the census of 1861 and that of 1951 the loss to Scotland on the balance of outward over inward movements of migration was approximately 1,600,000. / In the same period the corresponding loss to England and Wales was also about 1,600,000.

It will be seen from these figures that the net contribution of emigration from Scotland to other countries in the period 1861-1951 was as great absolutely as that from England and Wales. In proportion to population it was (taking the 1901 population figures as an intermediate point) fully seven times as great. On a very conjectural estimate it is thought that of the 1,600,000 emigrants from Scotland probably at least 1,300,000 were to countries overseas and the remainder to England and Wales.

The loss of population involved to Scotland in 1861-1951 was equal to more than half of its 1861 population and in the same period the net loss from England and Wales was less than a twelfth of their 1861 population.

The following short summary gives the estimated numerical net losses by migration from Scotland in each intercensal period between 1861 and 1951, and also expresses them as a percentage of the population of the country at the beginning of each intercensal period. Allowance should always be made, by the way, for the fact that the intercensal period 1931-51 covered 20 years whereas between all previous censuses the interval was one of 10 years.

Estimated Net Loss by Migration

<u>Intercensal period</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent.</u>
1861-1871	118,561	3.9
1871-1881	93,238	2.8
1881-1891	217,790	5.8
1891-1901	53,355	1.3
1901-1911	254,092	5.7
1911-1921	238,596	5.0
1921-1931	391,903	8.0
1931-1951	220,000	4.5

The rate of loss has varied; never inconsiderable, it was particularly high in 1881-91, and again in the first 30 years of this century. In the decade 1921-31 it was little short of 400,000 or 8 per cent. of the 1921 population of Scotland.

Taking one half of the percentage loss in 1931-51, to provide a rough and ready basis of comparison between those 20 years and the previous intercensal intervals of 10 years, there was a sharp fall from the 8 per cent. of 1921-31 to 2 per cent. The period, however, was quite an exceptional one. In the 1930's there was widespread economic depression affecting most of the countries to which emigrants usually went, which checked migration overseas from Scotland and indeed brought home again a number of those who had emigrated before. This standstill on emigration overseas was continued by the conditions of the second world war and overseas migration from Scotland did not really begin again until the war ended in the middle of 1945.

After that the estimated annual migration out of Scotland is as shown in the following summary, which indicates also the annual natural increase in the population.

For the years 1945 and 1946 these estimates are a good deal more conjectural than for the later years. The reason is that it was difficult to disentangle - as the estimates try to do - movements of emigrants proper from returning

movements of persons, mainly women and children, who had come to Scotland temporarily during the war from London and other areas in the south of England.

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Natural Increase</u>	<u>Loss by Migration</u>
1945	24,269	36,000
1946	39,808	42,000
1947	46,947	34,250
1948	39,365	6,450
1949	32,186	28,400
1950	28,534	21,850
1951 (January to March)	1,197	11,750
Totals	<u>212,306</u>	<u>180,700</u>

It will be observed that the total estimated loss of 180,700 in this comparatively short period of six years accounts for much the greater part of all the estimated aggregate loss of 220,000 to Scotland by emigration in the whole 20 years of the intercensal period 1931-51. Though the special reasons referred to checked emigration during the first 14 of those 20 years it is probable on the other hand that in the post-war years it was swollen by numbers of persons who had been prevented from emigrating by the standstill imposed by the conditions of the war and by the general economic prewar depression. The high estimates for 1945, 1946 and 1947 strongly suggest that this was not an inconsiderable element.

Over the whole intercensal period 1931-51 the natural increase in the population of Scotland was 502,294, compared with the net migration loss of 220,000. But since the second world war the annual loss by migration has accounted for the greater part of the annual natural increase in the Scottish population. In 1949 the loss was seven-eighths of the natural increase, in 1950 three-quarters and in 1951 eleven-twelfths. The years 1952 and 1953, which do not enter into the foregoing comparisons as they are subsequent to the last census, show the same trend, the estimated migration in 1952 having been 23,700 out of a natural increase of 28,912 (82 per cent.), and in 1953 27,800 out of a natural increase of 32,031 (87 per cent.).

The age grouping of overseas emigrants from Scotland in the year ended 30th June 1953 has been analysed by three broad groups. 24 per cent. of them were under 15 years of age, 62 per cent. between 15 and 45 and 14 per cent. over 65. The contribution from each sex was approximately equal, both in the total and in each of these three broad age groups.

The occupations of the male overseas emigrants in the same year have also been analysed in broad groups. The following table, based on the one per cent. sample of the 1951 census, shows the proportion per 10,000 of all occupied males in Scotland in broad occupational groupings. This is compared with the corresponding proportion per 10,000 of the emigrants in the analysis. It will be seen that the emigrants in the professional and managerial class were $2\frac{1}{2}$ times higher than the national proportion. Proportions were also high in the engineering and metal industries, and building and carpentry. Emigrants were low in the mining and quarrying and textile and clothing groups.

SCOTLAND

Occupational Distribution of Male Emigrants - year ended 30th June 1953

Occupation.	1951 Census		1953 Emigrants	
	Occupied Male Population		Males	
	Numbers (Thousands)	Proportion per 10,000	Numbers	Proportion per 10,000
Total	1,528	10,000	7,300	10,000
Professional and Managerial	88	576	1,074	1,471
Clerical, Distributive & Non-Manual	300	1,963	918	1,258
Agricultural	146	956	472	646
Building and Carpentry	157	1,028	870	1,192
Mining and Quarrying	96	628	150	205
Engineering and Metal Industries	302	1,976	1,724	2,362
Textile and Clothing Industries	64	419	100	137
Other Industries	160	1,047	962	1,318
Transport and Communications	158	1,034	484	663
Ill-defined and Not Stated	57	373	546	748

It is observed from the 1953 Statistical Abstract of the United States of America that at the census of 1950 244,200 persons were returned as having been born in Scotland. 463,325 more were returned as being of Scottish parentage. In Canada at the census of 1941 234,824 of the population were returned as having been born in Scotland, and in the Canadian Year Book for 1938 it is noted that the number of people of Scottish origin was given as 1,346,350. In Australia at the 1941 census the number of Scottish born population was returned as 103,000, and in New Zealand in 1945 as 43,818. In 1941 the number of Scottish born in South Africa was 33,000. These figures give some indication of the extent to which, in spite of its comparatively small population, Scotland has contributed directly or indirectly to the population of countries overseas. There is, of course, also a considerable movement of population within Great Britain and at the 1951 census there were enumerated in England and Wales some 570,000 persons born in Scotland, and in Scotland nearly 230,000 persons born in England and Wales. It will be observed that in spite of the great disparity in population, the number of Scottish born across the border far outnumbered those in Scotland who were born in England and Wales.

Since records became available in 1855 the death rate in Scotland reached its highest point in 1864 when it was 23.6 per 1,000 of the population. After that it declined more or less steadily to 12.9 per 1,000 of the population in 1951. Over the first half of the century it was on an average 1.1 per 1,000 of the population higher than the death rate in England and Wales. The birth rate reached its peak of 35.6 per 1,000 of the population in 1876, and fell to no more than half of that by 1951 when it stood at 17.7. Even so, it has been better than the rate for England and Wales by 2.3 per 1,000 of the population on the average since the beginning of the century, thus outweighing the comparative disadvantage of the less favourable death rate.

The three factors, namely the decline in the birth rate, the improvement in the death rate and the loss of population by migration, largely from the younger people of the country, are all producing an increasingly older population in Scotland. The average age was 26.5 in 1861, 27.1 in 1901 and 34.0 in 1951. A comparison of the age structure of the Scottish population in three main age groups at various points from 1861 to 1951 is given in the following summary.

	<u>Percentage Age grouping</u>		
	<u>0-15</u>	<u>15-65</u>	<u>65+</u>
1861	36.0	59.0	4.9
1881	36.6	58.5	5.0
1901	33.4	61.7	4.8
1921	29.5	64.5	6.0
1931	26.9	65.8	7.3
1951	24.6	65.4	9.9

For 3 children in every 10 of the population in 1861 there were 2 in every 10 in 1951. The population over the age of 65 has more than doubled from less than 5 to nearly 10 in every 100 of the 1951 population.

The trends of population in Scotland are already and as the years go on will continue to be materially affected by the progressive ageing of the population, affecting as it does the birth rate, the death rate and the possible contribution of population to other countries in the future by emigration.

The average size of family, among other factors that enter into the consideration of future population trends, tends downwards though it is higher in Scotland than in England and Wales at roughly 2.5 compared with 2. The loss of population due to the downward trend has been offset however by an increase in the marriage rate in Scotland from 7 to 8 per 1,000 of the population since the beginning of the century.

Looking at the immediate past, since the last census, the birth rate in 1952 was 17.7 and in 1953 17.8. It is back, broadly speaking, to the level around which it stood for some years before the second world war. In spite of the ageing of the population the increased number of marriages may maintain the birth rate around the 17 to 18 per 1,000 level for some years to come. In 1953 the death rate fell to its lowest level of 11.5 per 1,000 of the population, only .1 per 1,000 more than the comparable figure in England and Wales in the same year.

Having regard to the age constitution of the population, it is doubtful whether the death rate can fall appreciably further in Scotland. Indeed it may not be many years before it will reach a minimum point and turn upwards in sympathy with the growing age of the population.

On the purely hypothetical assumptions that the birth rate will not fall but remain around its present level for some time and then begin to fall, and that the death rate may improve a little to some figure like 11 per 1,000 of the population, and then start to rise again till it reaches the same level as the declining birth rate, the population of Scotland may continue diminishingly to increase by perhaps about a million and a half in all till about the middle of next century. This allows nothing for losses by migration and if these continued as in the immediate past at a rate say of 25,000 per annum, then the population would begin to fall perhaps about 1970. If migration were at a rate of 20,000 per annum, the downward turn might not come until about 1985.

E.A. HOGAN

Edinburgh,
10th May, 1954.