

NRS' 2010-based population projections for Argyll and Bute

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Improvement and Organisational Development



Introduction

- 2010-based population projections for local authority areas published 29 February 2012
- Over projection period (2010-2035) in Argyll and Bute:
 - Total population will fall
 - Number of children will fall
 - Number of working age people will fall, despite increases in pension age
 - An increase in the number of people of pensionable age
 - Population aged 75+ to increase by 73.6%
- There will be more deaths than births
- Migration flows will not compensate

Background (1)

- NRS produces population projections every two years
- Projections
 - make assumptions about
 - Future fertility rates
 - Future mortality rates
 - Migration (hardest to predict)
 - Are based on past trends
- Projections affect policies; policies affect projections
- Projections are NOT predictions

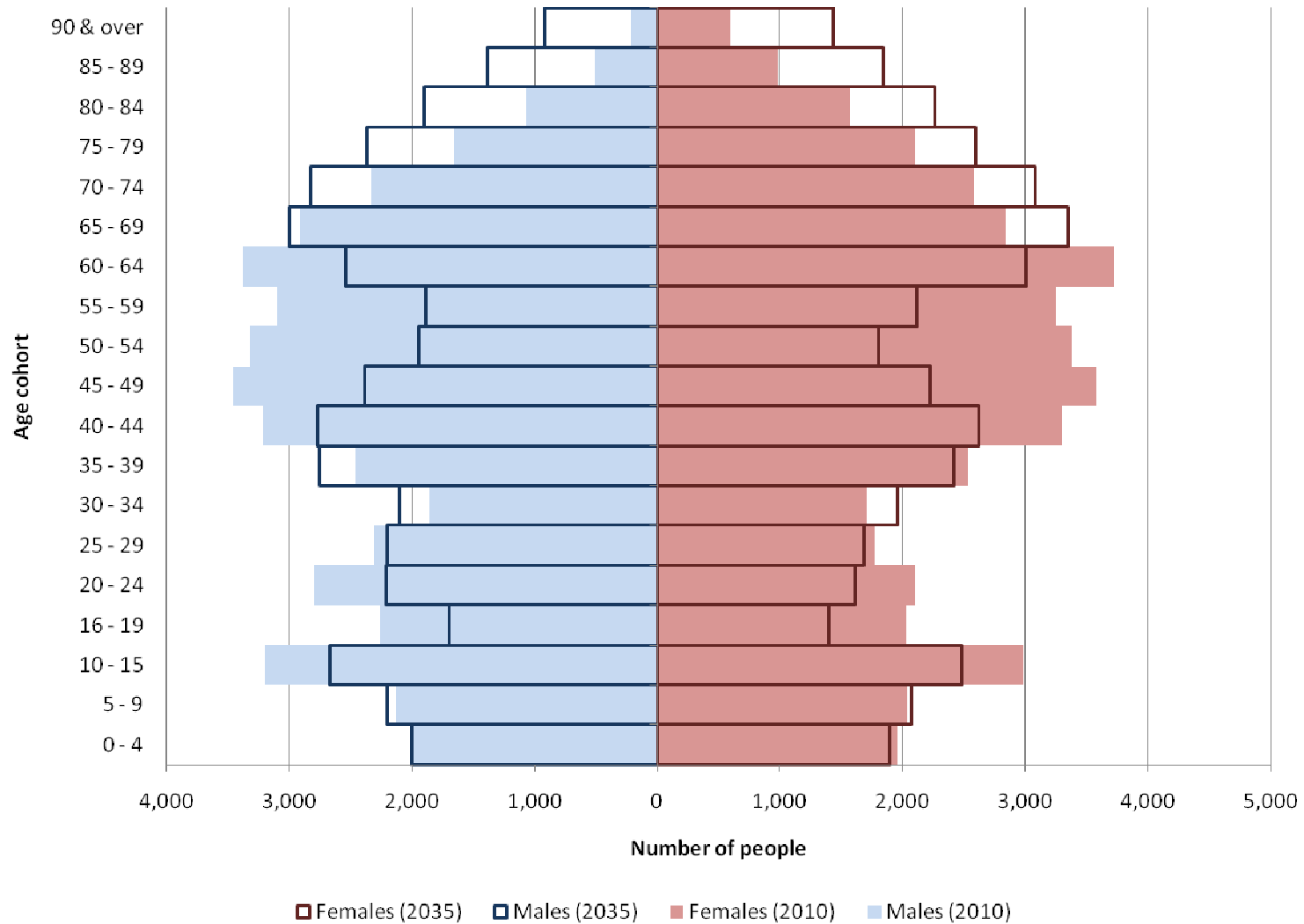
Background (2)

- Over the period 2010 to 2035:
 - Population of Scotland to increase from 5.22million to 5.7million
 - 32 Scottish local authorities:
 - 22 expected to show population growth
 - 10 expected to experience population decline.
- Argyll and Bute's population is projected to decline.

Argyll and Bute

- Population change in Argyll and Bute (2010 to 2035)
 - 89,200 in 2010
 - 82,754 in 2035
 - Deaths will exceed births
 - Migration flows in longer term assumed to be zero
 - Age profile of population will change:
 - Total population will decrease by 7.2%
 - Number of 0 to 15 year olds will decrease by 8.7%
 - Number of working-age people will decrease by 14.4%.
 - Number of people of pensionable age will increase by 9.8%.
 - An increase of 73.6% in the population aged 75 and over.
 - These figures take account of changes in pensionable age.

NRS 2010-based population projections: 2010 base year and projections for 2035 compared (Argyll and Bute)



Argyll and Bute's population (thousands)

Age group	2010	2015	2020	2035
All ages	89.2	88.4	87.3	82.8
0-15	14.3	13.1	13.0	13.1
16-29	13.3	14.5	13.5	10.8
30-49	22.1	19.3	17.7	19.0
50-64	20.2	19.8	19.8	12.7
65-74	10.7	11.9	12.0	12.0
75+	8.7	9.8	11.1	15.1

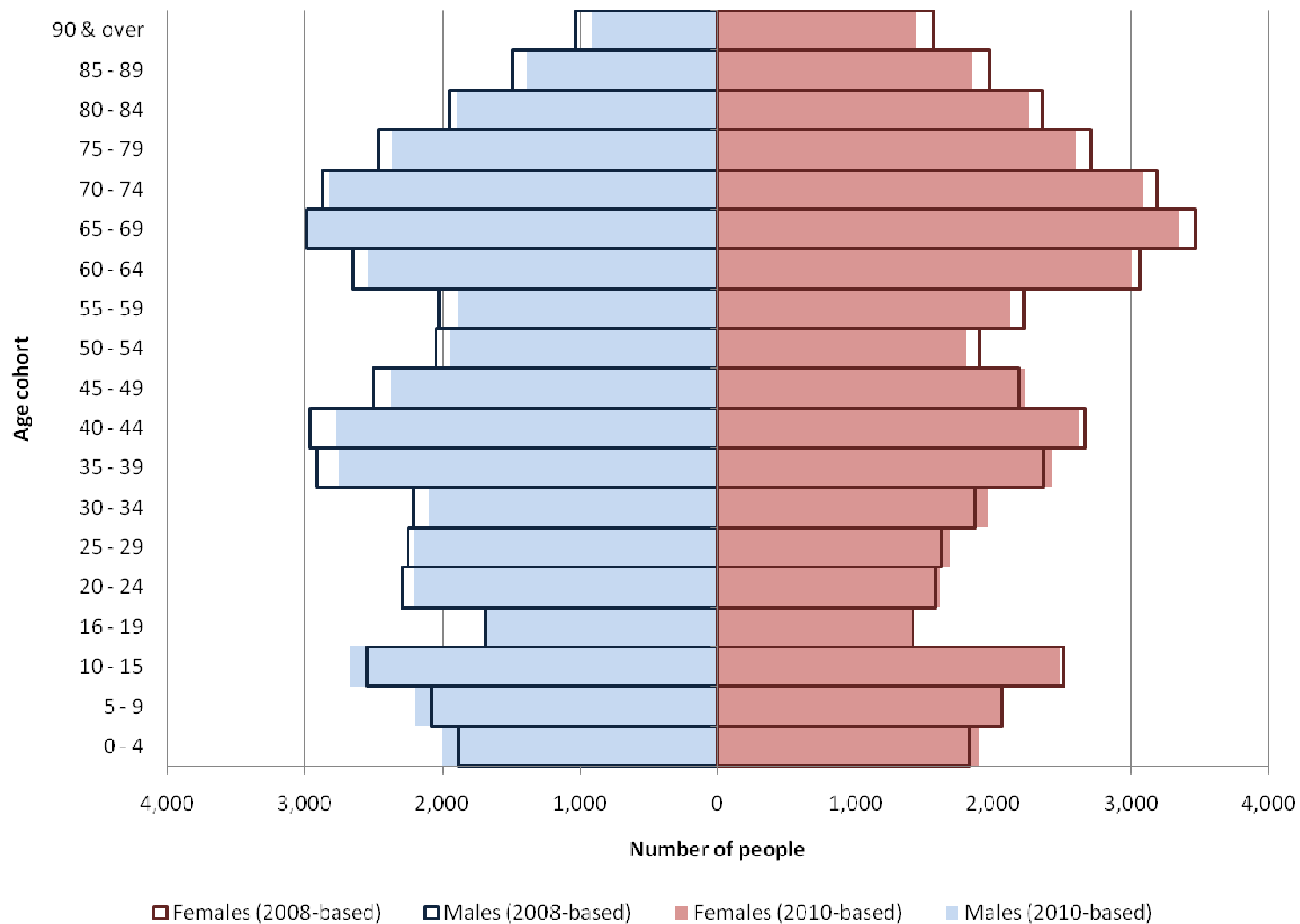
Comparisons with previous projections

- Previous projections also suggested a decrease in Argyll and Bute's population
 - 2008-based projections: 5.7% population decline over 25 years
 - 2010-based projections: 7.2% decline
- Reasons why 2010-based projections show a more rapid decline:
 - Net migration flows have been lowered

NRS Mid Year Estimates and 2006-, 2008- and 2010-based population projections for Argyll and Bute compared



NRS 2008- and 2010-based population projections for 2033 compared (Argyll and Bute)



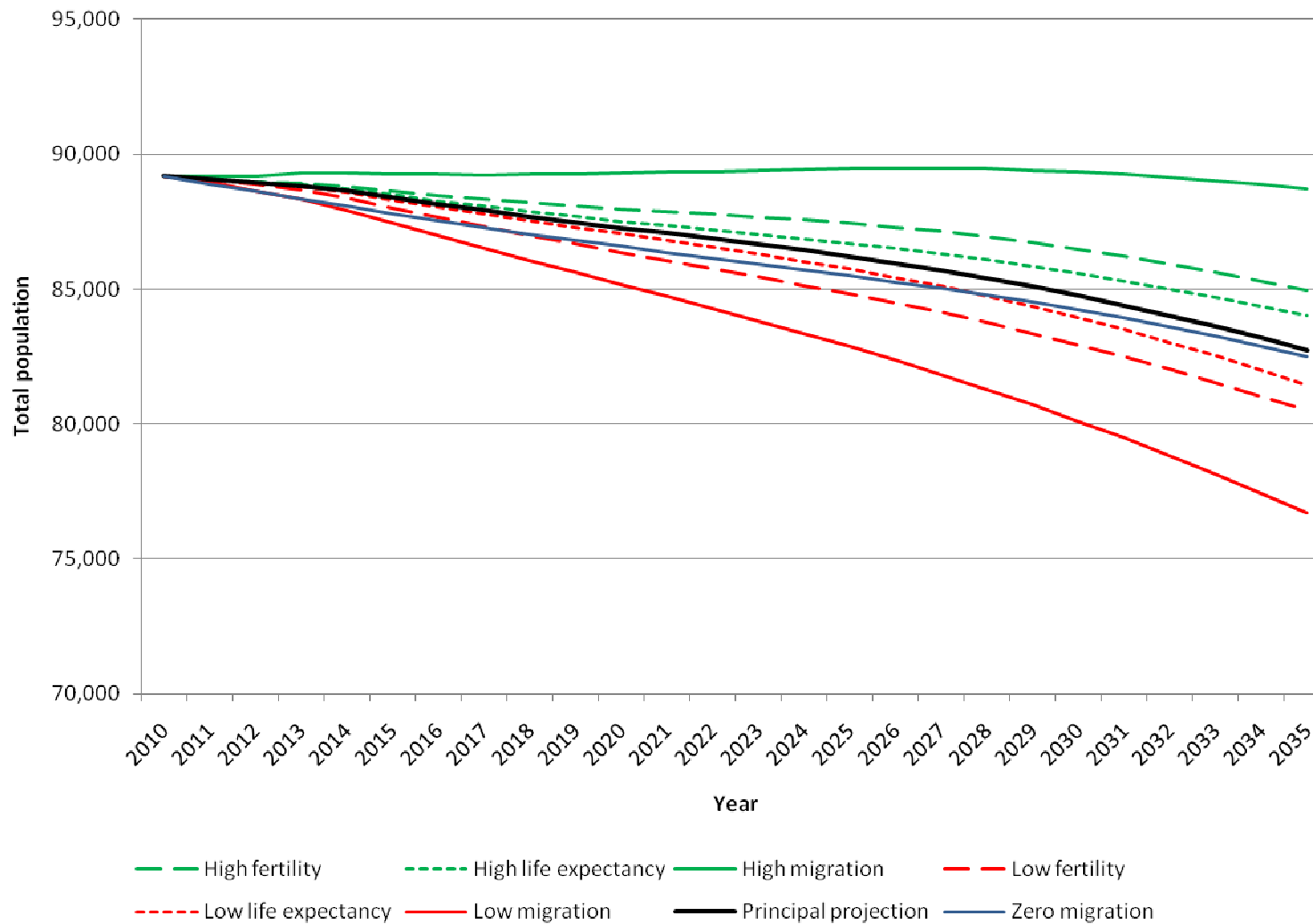
How accurate are projections?

- Overall accuracy depends on:
 - Accuracy of base year population
 - Accuracy of assumptions built into the model
 - Whether past trends will continue into future
- Can only tell how accurate projections are by looking at them retrospectively
- Calibration with Census 2011 will be helpful

Variant projections

- NRS has published:
 - Principal projection
 - Seven variant projections
- Variant projections suggest alternative, plausible scenarios for what might happen
- Note the impact of changing migration assumptions

NRS 2010-based Population Projections for Argyll and Bute: principal projection and variants



Conclusion

- Projections are not predictions
- With one exception, all variants and principal projection suggest population decline
- Projections are used to inform budget allocations
- How will these projections be used to inform policies?
- What are the impacts of these projections for service planning?