

Report on the Outcome of the Global Consultation on the Draft 2025 SNA

Chapter 32: Households

27 comments were received from 10 respondents.

Question 1 – Have the agreed recommendations been reflected appropriately?

No substantive issues were raised.

No additional issues requiring changes of the current text were raised.

Question 2 – Is the material in the chapter clear?

No substantive issues were raised.

Five minor additional issues were raised which are considered relevant for inclusion:

- Paragraph 32.8a: It is proposed to insert the word “most” to clarify that some income transfers are made at household level thus the sentence would become “that most income is earned by individuals but consumption is undertaken by households”
- Paragraphs 32.14, 32.22 and 32.109: It is proposed to apply the wording “private household” rather than “individual household” as proposed in the GN WS.2 and as applied in social statistics.
- Paragraph 32.64: It is proposed to clarify the intended treatment of unpaid household service work with respect to the production boundary by including the following words at the start of the paragraph “Although unpaid household service work is not recorded in the integrated framework of national accounts, in Chapter 34 ...”
- Paragraph 32.84: It is proposed to add a new paragraph following this paragraph to explain in brief the effects of the recognition of pension entitlements making a reference to Chapter 24, Section K.
- Para 32.106: It is proposed to rephrase the final sentence to read: “In addition, on the financial side, imputations may be required for entries concerning currency and pension entitlements as these data are difficult to collect via household surveys.” This replaces the previous text: “On the financial side, it may also concern currency and pension entitlements.”

Question 3 – Are there any errors in the chapter, or inconsistencies within this chapter or with other chapters?

No substantive issues were raised.

No additional issues requiring changes of the current text were raised.

Question 4 – Are there any other concerns?

Six substantive issues were raised.

Issue 32.4.1: It was proposed to refer also to household wealth surveys in addition to surveys of household income and expenditure in paragraph 32.8c and 32.24. Issue was raised by 1 respondent.

Proposed response: While this addition is possible, given the matter has only been raised by one respondent and does not add significant value, no change is proposed. Further, surveys of household wealth are specifically mentioned in 32.86.

Issue 32.4.2: Concerns were raised on the messages in the text concerning the treatment of institutional households. These concerns were (a) the need to be more explicit that considering institutional households as a single individual will always result in errors (para 32.93 – current text suggests it may); and (b) the observation that by excluding institutional households then inequality is likely to be underestimated.

Proposed response: In response to the first concern the following change is proposed: Para 32.93: replace the words “may” with “will” thus: “Furthermore, treating them as a single household comprising many individuals will ~~may~~ lead to heterogeneous results and will ~~may~~ distort distributional analyses. In response to the second concern, while this may be the case analytically, the stated focus of the section is on private households and hence no change to the text is proposed.

Issue 32.4.3: It was suggested that a more refined message concerning the treatment of the use of equivalence scales for wealth should be applied.

Proposed response: In paragraph 32.95 it is proposed to:

- Add the following words to the end of the first sentence: “While approaches for estimating and applying equivalence scales for income and consumption are well developed, for wealth there is less consensus on ~~the appropriate equivalence scale~~ whether to use equivalence scales and what the appropriate scale would be (see also para 32.112)”.
- Add the following words to the end of the last sentence: “...including the option to present distributional results by household size and composition without rescaling.”

Issue 32.4.4: It was suggested that in the section D on Households as producers, that household electricity production should be mentioned as well as user-generated content on digital platforms produced by households fulfilling the criteria of assets (IPPs).

Proposed response: It is agreed that the scope of this section could be expanded to cover these examples of own-account production within the production boundary. It is proposed to include a new sub-section “Other household production included within the production boundary of the integrated framework”. This new sub-section would be included just prior to the current fifth sub-section (D.5) that notes household production of unpaid household service work. The new sub-section would be 1-2 sentences long and make relevant references to guidance in Chapter 7.

Issue 32.4.5: It was noted that in paragraph 32.81 it is stated that “By treating pension schemes as social insurance schemes, pension benefits are shown as current transfers, and thus income, rather than as a run-down of saving.” but this doesn’t really

reflect the role of the adjustment for change in pension entitlements. A reference to the role of this adjustment was suggested.

Proposed response: It is agreed that the SNA should describe the alternative ways of recording pensions in terms of income/expenditure and as accumulating wealth. This text will be reviewed to incorporate a reflection of these alternative presentations.

Issue 32.4.6: It was suggested that in section G.3 on pension considerations it may be useful to draw attention to the supplementary pension table and reference could also be made to a possible table on household retirement resources.

Proposed response: It is agreed that a reference to these tables would be appropriate and hence it is proposed to include a sentence at the end of paragraph 32.84 building on the current text in that paragraph that describes an asset account for pension entitlements.

Issue 32.4.7: Paragraph 32.103 describes the broad compilation steps for distributional accounts. It was suggested that the final phrase in step #2 could be deleted, thus becoming “Select relevant micro data for the purposes of disaggregating macro accounting entries ~~for each household subsector/group.~~”

Proposed response: It is agreed that the wording of step #2 can be improved and better aligned with the original discussion in the Guidance Note. It is proposed to revise the text to “Select relevant variables from micro data sources that link to national accounts variables”.

Two minor additional issues were raised which are considered relevant for inclusion:

- Para 32.102: It is proposed to refer to the correct publication year of the Handbook, i.e. 2024.
- Para 32.108: It is proposed to refer to “real disposable income” rather than “real adjusted disposable income” in the last sentence since it is difficult to properly assign a price level to STiK (as it is provided for free) and to properly take it into account in deriving deflators per household group

Disagreement with agreed recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA – provided for information only

There were no recommendations regarding which five or more respondents disagreed.

Substantive concerns with 2008 SNA text unaffected by agreed recommendations – provided for information only

There were no substantial concerns regarding the 2008 SNA text unaffected by agreed recommendations.