

SNA/M1.06/32.2

**Fourth meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts
30 January – 8 February 2006, Frankfurt**

Clarification C11

Concept of jobs and concept of persons

**REPORT ON e-DISCUSSION ON
THE CONCEPT OF PERSONS IN THE 1993 SNA REV. 1**

United Nations Statistics Division

**Update of the 1993 SNA –Issue for Clarification No. 11
Jan-Feb 2006 AEG meeting, Frankfurt**

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Introduction

1. Chapter 17 of the 1993 SNA seems to reject the concept of persons employed from the national accounts. This is in contradiction with the practice of many countries, which publish and transmit data in terms of persons employed in the framework of national accounts. It is proposed to make the revised SNA less restrictive than the present one on the concept of persons employed. The clarification proposed in this regard is on the similar lines mentioned in the ESA 95.

Response received

2. The proposal (document no. SNA/M1.06/32.1) to introduce of the concept of persons employed in the revised SNA was referred to the AEG members soliciting their opinions through a questionnaire. The questions asked of AEG members and responses received through e-discussions have been summarized in the following table.

Table: Questions asked of the AEG members and response received as on 24 January 2006

No.	Question(s)	Response received			
		Total	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
1	Do you support the introduction of the concept of persons employed in the new SNA?	23	22	-	1
2	Do you support that the new SNA inspires itself from the existing paragraphs of the ESA 95 defining employment, self-employment, and unemployment?	23	19	-	4

Conclusions

3. The AEG members participating in the e-discussion overwhelmingly supported the proposal for introduction of the concept of persons employed in the revised SNA.

An extract of comments made by AEG members is annexed.

Extract of Comments Made by AEG Members in the Questionnaire

The original response and full comments are available on the UN website¹. The objective of this annex is only to give limited extracts to encourage readers to read the full comments of the AEG members.

Question 1

- Introducing "persons employed" as an official SNA concept is not useful because it would have no links to other concepts in the System.
- There is a need to maintain consistency between the ILO and the SNA standards on 'persons employed'.

Question 2

- The question posed is unclear. There is no need to include paragraphs taken from the ESA95 dealing with persons employed. The paragraphs mentioned in the paper relating to employment, self-employment, employment and residence, and unemployment may be modified as a result of the revision of ILO standards in 2008. To be consistent with the future ILO standards, only brief indicative description of these definitions should be mentioned with an emphasis on the ILO definitions as standards.
- There is difference in the ILO and SNA standards on the treatment of 'unpaid voluntary workers'.
- In the proposed text, employment is equivalent to employed persons. Whether the term "employment" can be used in a more general way for the relevant activity, and subsequently, whether this activity of employment can be expressed in several denominators: persons, jobs, full time equivalents, hours worked, etc.

¹ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/clarviewvote.asp?cID=11>