



United Nations Statistics Division
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Comments on draft SNA chapters Chapter 8 addendum

General comment

We found section F “Social benefits” difficult to understand: the text lacks a logical structure and some notions are not clearly defined (for example pensions or social assistance). We strongly support a new drafting of the entire section.

§8.78

“Social benefits are current transfers received by households intended to provide for the needs that arise from certain events or circumstances, for example....”

In our opinion it is necessary at this point to clearly state when an event or circumstance gives rise to a social benefit. For this purpose, it would be helpful to list examples which clarify ambiguous cases. Examples such as those listed in paragraphs 8.79 to 8.82 could be part of such a list.

§8.83

“Social benefits may be categorised in two different ways...”

What is the purpose of distinguishing between pensions and other social benefits payable in cash?

We would prefer a simple division in social benefits in cash and social benefits in kind. A description of the two types of benefits (in cash, in kind) should then be added (in the same or in the following paragraph).

A new paragraph should then introduce the categorization of social benefits according to the scheme under which they are provided. As employment-related social insurance schemes and social security are already described in section D, a reference to this section should be added. On the other hand, a description of social assistance schemes is necessary (perhaps by moving § 8.90-8.91).

§8.83-8.92

In our opinion there is an important lacuna in these paragraphs, because no reference is made to social benefits provided by NPISHs.

§8.88

“...For all social security schemes, the difference between the contributions receivable and the benefits payable is monitored...”

We don't see the rationale of this sentence in this context.

§8.93

We think that this paragraph should be reformulated by simply saying that in the secondary distribution of income account only social benefits in cash are recorded.

Section H “Social benefits and redistribution in kind

We suggest changing the title of this section into “Social transfers in kind”.