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Note by the editor:

Cross-references to other parts of the chapter and to other chapters are highlighted in yellow. They have NOT been updated at this stage. I will do them when the paragraph numbers have settled down.

References to private pension funds are highlighted in red. These will be changed when we have an agreement on which schemes will be included in the core accounts.

Anne Harrison

Chapter 9: THE USE OF INCOME ACCOUNT

A. Introduction

- 9.1. The purpose of the use of income account is to show how households, government units and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) allocate their disposable income between final consumption and saving. There are two versions of the use of income account which correspond to two concepts of disposable income and consumption. The first version, shown in table 9.1, attention is focused on disposable income and the expenditure on consumption goods and services that can be met out of that income. In the second version, shown in table 9.2, attention is focused on the consumption goods and services acquired and used by institutional units, especially households, whether acquired by expenditure or by social transfers in kind. To explain the difference it is necessary to first define some key terms.
- 9.2. ***A consumption good or service is defined as a good or service that is used (without further transformation in production as defined in the System) by households, NPISHs or government units for the direct satisfaction of individual needs (or wants or for the collective needs of members of the community.***
- 9.3. ***An individual consumption good or service is one that is acquired by a household and used to satisfy the needs and wants of members of that household.*** Individual goods and services can always be bought and sold on the market, although they may also be provided free, or at prices that are not economically significant, as social transfers in kind. In practice, all goods and most services are individual.
- 9.4. ***A collective consumption service is a service provided simultaneously to all members of the community or to all members of a particular section of the community, such as all households living in a particular region.*** Collective services are automatically acquired and consumed by all members of the community, or section of the community, without any action on their part. Typical examples are public administration and the provision of security, either at a national or local level. Collective services are the “public goods” of economic theory. By their nature, collective services cannot be sold to individuals on the market, and they are financed by government units out of taxes or other revenues. The differences between individual and collective consumption goods or services are elaborated further in paragraphs 9.80 to 9.89 below.
- 9.5. Some of the services provided by NPISHs to the members of the associations that own them have some of the characteristics of collective services; for example, some research carried out by NPISHs may benefit all members of the community. However, most of the services provided by NPISHs are individual in nature and, for simplicity, all the services provided by NPISHs are treated by convention as individual.
- 9.6. As explained in later sections of this chapter, expenditures are attributed to the institutional units that bear the costs even if they are not the units to whom the goods or services are delivered. Thus, expenditures that government units or NPISHs make on individual goods and services that they provide to households as social transfers in kind be recorded as final consumption expenditure incurred by government units or NPISHs. Although they do not physically consume the goods and services provided as social transfers in kind, government units or NPISHs are the units that pay for them and take the decisions about the amounts to be provided. Information about their expenditure on such goods and services must, therefore, be recorded in the accounts of the System in conjunction with their disposable income. However, merely to record the expenditure is not sufficient when the

goods and services are consumed by different units from those that control and finance the expenditure. In order to identify the units that benefit from their consumption it is necessary to recognize that the goods and services are in fact transferred to and used by households.

- 9.7. In the use of income account, the main resource is disposable income which is the balancing item carried down from the secondary distribution of income account. The main use is final consumption expenditure. **Final consumption expenditure is the amount of expenditure on consumption goods and services.** In the use of adjusted disposable income account, the main resource is adjusted disposable income which is the balancing item carried down from the distribution of income in kind account. The main use is actual final consumption. **Actual final consumption measures the amount of consumption goods and services acquired.**
- 9.8. As explained in **chapter VIII**, the adjusted disposable income of households is derived from their disposable income by adding the value of social transfers in kind receivable, while that for government units and NPISHs is derived by subtracting the value of social transfers in kind payable. Similarly, the actual final consumption of households is derived from their final consumption expenditure by adding the value of social transfers in kind receivable, while the actual final consumption of government units and

NPISHs is derived by subtracting the value of social transfers in kind payable.

- 9.9. Both the use of disposable income account and the use of adjusted disposable income account, an adjustment item is needed in order to show the change in pension entitlements recorded in the financial account. Saving is the balancing items for both the use of income account and the use of adjusted income account. It is calculated as disposable income, adjusted for the change in pension entitlements less final consumption expenditure or as adjusted disposable income, further adjusted for the change in pension entitlements less actual final consumption. It follows that saving is the same whether it is calculated in the use of disposable income account or the use of adjusted disposable income account.
- 9.10. Saving, like disposable income and adjusted disposable income, may have to be recorded gross of consumption of fixed capital because of the difficulty of measuring the latter. However, consumption of fixed capital is a cost of production and should be excluded, if possible.
- 9.11. Corporations do not make final consumption expenditures. They may purchase the same kinds of goods or services as households use for final consumption (e.g., electricity or food) but such

Table 9.1

Account II.4.1: Use of income account
Uses

		S.11	S.12	S.13	S.14	S.15	S.1	Corresponding entries of the		
		Non-financial corporations	Financial corporations	General government	Households	NPISHs	Total economy	Rest of the world account	Goods and services account	Total
B.6g	Disposable income, gross									
B.6n	<i>Disposable income, net</i>									
P.3	Final consumption expenditure			368	1 015	16	1 399			1 399
P.31	Individual consumption expenditure			212	1 015	16	1 243			1 243
P.32	Collective consumption expenditure			156			156			156
D.8	Change in pension entitlements	0	11	0		0	11	0		
B.8g	Saving, gross	185	21	20	202	27	455			455
B.8n	<i>Saving, net</i>	48	11	- 10	160	24	233			233
B.12	<i>Current external balance</i>							- 41		- 41

goods or services are either used for intermediate consumption or provided to employees as remuneration in kind. It is assumed in the System that corporations do not make transfers of consumption goods or services to households. As corporations neither make nor receive social transfers in kind, it is also not possible to draw a meaningful distinction between their disposable and adjusted disposable incomes. It follows that both the use of disposable income account and the use of adjusted disposable income account for corporations are only dummy accounts which contain no entries for final consumption expenditure or actual final consumption. Apart from the adjustment item for pension entitlements referred to above and explained in more detail in paragraphs 9.14 to 9.16 below, the gross or net saving of corporations must be equal to their gross or net disposable, or adjusted disposable, incomes. In other contexts, the *saving of corporations is often described as the “retained earnings” or “undistributed incomes” of corporations.*

1. The use of disposable income account

9.12. As shown in Table 9.1, the use of disposable income account contains only three entries apart from the balancing item, saving. Disposable income, the balancing item carried forward from the secondary distribution of income account, is recorded on the right-hand side of the account

under resources, while final consumption expenditure is recorded on the left-hand side under uses. As just noted, the account is relevant mainly for the three sectors that make final consumption expenditures, namely the general government, NPISHs and household sectors and, of course, for the total economy.

9.13. As already noted, the balancing item for the account is saving. Before the balance is struck, however, the adjustment item showing the change in pension entitlements is entered in order to reallocate a certain amount of saving between sectors. This item is needed because of the way in which pension contributions and benefits are recorded in the secondary distribution of income accounts. The adjustment is shown on the right-hand side under resources for households and on the left-hand side under uses for financial corporations or employers operating non-autonomous pension schemes.

9.14. Final consumption expenditure is shown in table 9.1, disaggregated between individual consumption expenditure and collective consumption expenditure to bring out accounting interrelationships described below. However, it is usually desirable to break down final consumption expenditure using a classification of expenditure by purpose or by type of good or service. Disaggregated expenditure data may be needed for various analytical or policy purposes.

Table 9.1

Account II.4.1: Use of income account
Resources

		S.11	S.12	S.13	S.14	S.15	S.1	Corresponding entries of the		
		Non-financial corporations	Financial corporations	General government	Households	NPISHs	Total economy	Rest of the world account	Goods and services account	Total
Transactions and balancing items										
B.6g	Disposable income, gross	185	32	388	1 206	43	1 854			1 854
B.6n	<i>Disposable income, net</i>	48	22	358	1 164	40	1 632			1 632
P.3	Final consumption expenditure								1 399	1 399
P.31	Individual consumption expenditure								1 243	1 243
P.32	Collective consumption expenditure								156	156
D.8	Change in pension entitlements				11		11	0		11
B.8g	Saving, gross									
B.8n	<i>Saving, net</i>									
B.12	<i>Current external balance</i>									

9.15. Most users will expect at least some degree of disaggregation, for example, between expenditures on goods or services or between expenditures on durable and non-durable goods. This sort of classification by purpose of consumption expenditure is discussed further in **chapter ???**

2. The use of adjusted disposable income account

9.16. As shown in Table 9.2, the use of adjusted disposable income account also contains three entries apart from the balancing item, saving. Adjusted disposable income, the balancing item brought forward from the redistribution of income in kind account, is recorded on the right hand side of the account under resources, while actual final consumption is recorded on the left hand side under uses. As with the use of income account, before the balancing item, saving, is struck, the change in pension entitlements is entered. The account is relevant mainly for the general government, NPISHs and household sectors.

9.17. As already noted, the actual final consumption of households is obtained by augmenting their final consumption expenditure by the value of social transfers in kind receivable, while that for government units and NPISHs is obtained by subtracting from their final consumption expenditure the value of social transfers in kind

payable. By convention, social transfers in kind are assumed to take place only between resident units, so that the total value of the transfers in kind receivable by resident households must equal the total value of those payable by government units and NPISHs, and the value of actual final consumption for the total economy must be equal to that of total final consumption expenditure.

9.18. The actual final consumption of households is a measure of the value of the consumption goods and services acquired by households, whether by purchase or by transfer from government units or NPISHs, and used by households for the satisfaction of their needs and wants. It is therefore a better indicator of their living standards than their final expenditure alone. In some countries, the value of the individual non-market goods and services provided to households as social transfers in kind may be quite large, depending upon the kinds of economic and social policies pursued by their governments, so that the value of the actual final consumption of households may exceed that of their expenditure by a significant margin. For these reasons, the actual final consumption of households has sometimes been described as their “enlarged” consumption or their “total” consumption, although these terms are not used in the System. The actual final consumption of the general government sector may, of course, be


Table 9.2

Account II.4.2: Use of income account

		Uses						Corresponding entries of the		
		S.11	S.12	S.13	S.14	S.15	S.1	Total economy	Rest of the world account	Goods and services account
Transactions and balancing items		Non-financial corporations	Financial corporations	General government	Households	NPISHs	Total economy	Rest of the world account	Goods and services account	Total
B.6g	Adjusted disposable income, gross									
B.6n	<i>Adjusted disposable income, net</i>									
P.3	Actual final consumption			156	1 243		1 399			1 399
P.31	Actual individual consumption				1 243		1 243			1 243
P.32	Actual collective consumption			156			156			156
D.8	Change in pension entitlements	0	11	0		0	11	0		
B.8g	Saving, gross	185	21	20	202	27	455			455
B.8n	<i>Saving, net</i>	48	11	- 10	160	24	233			233
B.12	<i>Current external balance</i>							- 41		- 41

considerably smaller than government final consumption expenditure.


3. The relationship between the two versions of the use of income account

9.19.  two versions of the use of income account are not sequential or hierarchical. They are parallel accounts that serve different analytical or policy purposes. The values of the goods and services involved in social transfers in kind are recorded in two different ways in the System, both of which represent uses of resources by government units or NPISHs:

- (a) As final consumption expenditure, payable by government units or NPISHs; and
- (b) As social transfers in kind, payable by government units or NPISHs.

9.20. Although the difference between disposable and adjusted disposable income is attributable to social transfers in kind, disposable income should not be interpreted as if it were a measure of income available in cash. Its several non-cash elements, such as those associated with production for own consumption or remuneration in kind, were pointed out in paragraphs 8.13 and 8.14 of chapter VIII on the secondary distribution of income account.

4. Change in pension entitlements (D.8)

9.21.  **Private funded** pension schemes are treated in the System as having liabilities towards the households with claims on the schemes. The payments of pension contributions into the funds and the receipts of pensions by pensioners constitute the acquisition and disposal of financial assets. However, this may not accord with the perception of the households concerned, especially pensioners' households, who tend to regard the pensions they receive as income in the form of current transfers. Moreover, pensions received under social security schemes are in fact treated as current transfers in the System.

9.22. In order to present income information that may be more useful for analysing the behaviour of the households concerned, the payments of pension contributions under **private funded** schemes and unfunded social insurance schemes and the receipts of pensions by pensioners' households under such schemes are recorded in the secondary distribution of income account as social contributions and social insurance benefits, respectively. They are therefore recorded as contributing to the disposable incomes of households.

Table 9.2

Account II.4.2: Use of income account
Resources

		S.11	S.12	S.13	S.14	S.15	S.1	Corresponding entries of the		
								Total economy	Rest of the world account	Goods and services account
Transactions and balancing items		Non-financial corporations	Financial corporations	General government	Households	NPISHs				Total
B.6g	Adjusted disposable income, gross	185	32	176	1 434	27	1 854			
B.6n	<i>Adjusted disposable income, net</i>	48	22	146	1 392	24	1 632			
P.3	Actual final consumption									1 399
P.31	Actual individual consumption									1 243
P.32	Actual collective consumption									156
D.8	Change in pension entitlements				11		11		0	
B.8g	Saving, gross									
B.8n	<i>Saving, net</i>									
B.12	<i>Current external balance</i>									

9.23. However, in order to reconcile this treatment with the fact that households are treated in the financial accounts and balance sheets of the System as holding claims on private funded pension schemes, both autonomous and non-autonomous, it is necessary to introduce an adjustment item to ensure that any difference between pension contributions and pension benefits (i.e., between “transfers” payable and “transfers” receivable) does not change household saving. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to add back pension contributions to, and subtract pension receipts from, the disposable income, or adjusted disposable income, of households recorded in the secondary distribution of income accounts in order to get back to a figure for the saving of households that is the same as what it would have been if pension contributions and pension receipts had not been recorded as current transfers in the secondary distribution of income account. The necessary adjustment item is therefore equal to:

the total value of the actual and imputed social contributions payable into private funded pension schemes

plus the total value of contribution supplements payable out of the property income attributed to pension fund beneficiaries

minus the value of the associated service charges

minus the total value of the pensions paid out as social insurance benefits by private funded pension schemes.

9.24. This adjustment item is equal to the change in pension entitlements as described in paragraphs 11.93 to 11.96 of chapter XI. It must be added to the disposable income, or adjusted disposable income, of households before calculating saving in order to reconcile the saving of households with the change in pension entitlements recorded in the financial account of the System. Opposite adjustments are, of course, needed in the use of income accounts of the insurance enterprises, autonomous pension funds or employers maintaining non-autonomous pension funds. These adjustments can affect non-resident institutional units, both households and pension funds.

5. Saving (B.8)

9.25. Saving is the balancing item of the two versions of the use of income account. Its value is the same whether it is derived as disposable income less final consumption expenditure or as adjusted disposable income less actual final consumption (in both cases, after adding to income the change in pension entitlements described).

9.26. As already noted, non-financial and financial corporations have no final consumption expenditure or actual final consumption. Their net saving is equal to their net disposable, or adjusted disposable, income (apart from the adjustment item for pension funds).

9.27. Saving represents that part of disposable income (adjusted for the change in pension entitlements) that is not spent on final consumption goods and services. It may be positive or negative depending on whether disposable income exceeds final consumption expenditure, or vice versa. Assuming that saving is positive, the unspent income must be used to acquire assets or reduce liabilities. In so far as unspent income is not used deliberately to acquire various financial or non-financial assets, or to reduce liabilities, it must materialize as an increase in cash, itself a financial asset. If saving is negative, some financial or non-financial assets must have been liquidated, cash balances run down or some liabilities increased. Thus, saving provides the link between the current accounts of the System and the subsequent accumulation accounts.

9.28. If saving is zero, i.e., if final consumption expenditure equals disposable income, the institutional unit is not obliged to dispose of any assets or increase any of its liabilities. As already indicated in chapter VIII, disposable income can, therefore, be interpreted as the maximum amount that an institutional unit can afford to spend on final consumption goods and services in the accounting period without having to reduce its cash, liquidate other assets or increase its liabilities.

6. Calculating savings ratios

9.29. The savings ratio, especially for households, is a key economic variable. It is calculated by dividing saving by disposable income for the sector. However, the entry of the change in

pension entitlements in both the use of disposable income account and the use of adjusted disposable income account complicates this calculation. It is necessary to use not the balancing item from the secondary distribution of income account (disposable income) or from the redistribution of income in kind account (adjusted disposable income) but to add the change in pension entitlements to these figures to derive a figure for total disposable income or total adjusted disposable income. It is this total figure that should be the denominator in the savings ratio calculation.

9.30. Adding the change in pension entitlement into total disposable income gives a figure for the saving ratio which is independent of the amount of pension entitlements shown as accruing through social insurance schemes. The savings ratio for a country which has no social insurance scheme and one where all pension provision is made via such schemes will be strictly comparable.

B. Expenditures, acquisitions and uses

9.31. The distinction between final consumption expenditure and actual final consumption depends on the general distinction between expenditures on, and acquisitions of, goods and services. The purpose of this section is to explain not only how expenditure differs from acquisition but also how both of them differ from the actual or physical use of goods and services. The explanation concentrates on consumption, but is also relevant to other types of activities such as production and capital formation.

1. Expenditures

9.32. *Expenditures are defined as the values of the amounts that buyers pay, or agree to pay, to sellers in exchange for goods or services that sellers provide to them or to other institutional units designated by the buyers.* The buyer incurring the liability to pay need not be the same unit that takes possession of the good or service. As already noted, it is common for government units or NPISHs to pay for goods or services that the sellers provide to households. Moreover, as explained below, the liability incurred by the buyer does not necessarily have to be settled by a payment of cash.

The incidence of expenditures

9.33. In the System, expenditures are attributed to the units that ultimately bear the costs as distinct from the units that may make payments to the sellers. The unit making the payment is usually also the one that bears the cost, but this is not always the case. For example, one unit may pay a seller acting as the agent of another unit to whom

the ownership of the good is transferred. In this case, the agent provides a short-term credit to the buyer that is extinguished when the agent is reimbursed. Another example is where a household purchases a good or service that it retains itself but is subsequently reimbursed out of social security funds for some or all of the amount spent. In this case, the amount reimbursed is treated as expenditure incurred by the social security fund.

The timing of expenditures

9.34. Expenditures on goods or services occur at the times when buyers incur liabilities to sellers. These are usually the times when:

- (a) The ownership of the good is transferred from the seller to the new owner; or
- (b) The delivery of a service by the producer is completed to the satisfaction of the consumer.


9.35. The times at which sellers are actually paid for the goods or services they deliver are not necessarily the times at which the expenditures occur. As explained in [chapter III](#), payments may either precede, or lag behind, the actual deliveries of the goods or services sold. For this reason, the values of expenditures are measured by the values of the amounts receivable and payable at the times the expenditures are incurred. When payments are advanced or deferred there must be consequential changes in the financial assets or liabilities (other than cash) of the two units

concerned at the time the change of ownership takes place or the service is delivered.

- 9.36. The precise moment at which the ownership of a good is transferred, or delivery of service completed to the satisfaction of the consumer, may not be easy to determine in practice in some cases. It may be perceived differently, or even disputed, by the two parties concerned.

2. Acquisitions

- 9.37. *Acquisition of goods and services by institutional units occurs when they become the new owners of the goods or when the delivery of services to them is completed.* Acquisitions are valued at the prices paid by the units that incur the expenditures. The value of the goods or services acquired by an institutional unit or sector consists of the value the goods or services acquired through its expenditure plus the value of goods or services received through social transfers in kind less the value of goods or services transferred to other units as social transfers.

- 9.38.  difference between final consumption expenditure and actual final consumption is exactly the difference between expenditure on consumption goods and services and acquisition of consumption goods and services. Since all consumption goods and services must be both the subject of expenditure and also be acquired, this difference between final consumption expenditure and actual final consumption, sector by sector, explains the redistribution of goods and services by means of social transfers in kind.

- 9.39. Transfers of goods and services to other units which are not regarded as social transfers in kind as recorded as if they were transfers in cash. Accordingly, the values of the goods or services received are actually recorded as expenditures by the institutional units or sectors that acquire them. The institutional units or sectors making the transfer record negative acquisitions. This applies to transfers of goods and services within general government, current international cooperation, and miscellaneous current transfers. The same recording is adopted for transfers of capital; that is there are no capital transfers in kind in the System. The value of the transfers to be recorded must exactly match the expenditure valuation of the goods and services by the unit making the transfer.

3. Uses

- 9.40. *Uses of goods and services happen when institutional units make use of them in a process of production or for the direct satisfaction of human needs or wants.*

- 9.41. In the case of goods, the distinction between acquisition and use is clear. Producers acquire goods which they may hold for varying periods of time before physically using them up in processes of production. Households may hold consumption goods before using them for the satisfaction of their needs or wants. Few goods are so perishable that they have to be used immediately. For example, most foodstuffs need not be eaten until some time after they have been acquired.

- 9.42. In the case of services, however, the distinction between acquisition and use may not be relevant in a practical sense. The situations of units to whom services are delivered are automatically affected by those services and no further action may be needed in order to benefit from them.

Durable versus non-durable goods

- 9.43. In the case of goods, the distinction between acquisition and use is analytically important. It underlies the distinction between durable and non-durable goods that is used extensively in economic analysis. In fact, the distinction between durable and non-durable goods is not based on physical durability as such. Instead, the distinction is based on whether the goods can be used once only for purposes of production or consumption or whether they can be used repeatedly, or continuously. For example, coal is a highly durable good in a physical sense, but it can be burnt only once. *A durable good is one which may be used repeatedly or continuously over a period of more than a year, assuming a normal or average rate of physical usage. A consumer durable is a good that may be used for purposes of consumption repeatedly or continuously over a period of a year or more.*

Consumption as an activity

- 9.44. *The activity of consumption consists of the use of goods and services for the satisfaction of individual or collective human needs or wants.* A consumption function that expresses utility as a function of the quantities of goods and services

consumed describes the use of those goods and services rather than expenditures or acquisitions. In order to measure consumption as an activity, it would be necessary to adopt accounting procedures similar to those used in a production account, where a clear distinction is drawn between purchases of goods to be used in production and their subsequent use as inputs.

- 9.45. In practice, the System measures household consumption only by expenditures and acquisitions. This means that the only way in

which the repeated use of durables by households could be recognized would be to extend the production boundary by postulating that the durables are gradually used up in hypothetical production processes whose outputs consist of services. These services could then be recorded as being acquired by households over a succession of time periods. However, durables are not treated in this way in the System. A possible supplementary extension to the System to allow for such an extension of the production boundary is described in [chapter ????](#)

C. Imputed expenditure

- 9.46. By mutual agreement between the buyer and the seller, the liability incurred by the buyer may be discharged by providing a good, service or asset other than cash in exchange. For example, goods or services may be exchanged for each other in barter transactions, or employees may provide labour in exchange for goods or services received as remuneration in kind.
- 9.47. Since the buyers do not pay cash, or expect to pay cash, values have to be imputed for the expenditures using the appropriate prices of similar goods or services sold for cash on the market.
- 9.48. Imputations must also be made for the value of goods produced and consumed within the same household as well as for those household services falling within the production boundary.
- 9.49. In the interests of brevity, an expenditure for which a value has to be imputed may be described as an "imputed expenditure". Strictly speaking, however, the imputation refers to the value of goods or services involved and not to the expenditure itself. In other words it is the valuation that is imputed, not the fact that the transaction takes place.

1. Barter transactions

- 9.50. The values of the goods or services acquired in barter transactions constitute imputed expenditures. Values have to be imputed for goods or services exchanged in barter

transactions equal to their market values, or their average market values, if the market values of the goods or services exchanged are not the same. Thus, when the goods or services obtained through barter are used for household consumption their imputed values must be recorded as household final consumption expenditure. When a good offered for barter is an existing good and not newly produced output, negative imputed expenditure must be recorded for the unit offering the good, in the same way that sales of existing goods are recorded as negative expenditures.

- 9.51. In barter, both parties to a transaction must be recorded as making expenditures. As the market values of the goods or services bartered may not be the same, the values imputed for the expenditures should be a simple average of the estimated values of the goods or services exchanged, so that equal expenditures are recorded for both parties.

2. Expenditures on goods and services received as income in kind

- 9.52. *Income in kind received by employees is measured by the value of the goods and services provided by employers to their employees in remuneration for work done.* Workers receiving remuneration in kind are treated as making expenditures equal to the market value of the goods or services received (at producers' prices if produced by the employer or at purchasers' prices if bought by the employer), the costs of the expenditures being met out of the income they receive as remuneration in kind. Thus, the values of the goods and services must be recorded as final consumption expenditure incurred by households as well as income in kind.

9.53. A distinction has to be made between goods or services provided to employees as remuneration in kind and goods or services provided because they are needed at work, the latter constituting intermediate consumption by the enterprise. In principle, the distinction is clear. Goods or services that employers are obliged to provide to their employees to enable them to carry out their work, such as tools, equipment, special clothing, etc., constitute intermediate consumption. On the other hand, goods or services that employees are able to use in their own time for the direct satisfaction of their needs or wants, or those of their families, constitute remuneration in kind. In practice, there are inevitably borderline cases, such as uniforms that must be worn at work but are also worn extensively by employees away from work. A detailed listing of the kinds of goods and services that are included in remuneration in kind is given in the section on compensation of employees in [chapter VII](#).

3. Expenditure on goods and services produced on own account

9.54. When institutional units retain goods or services produced by themselves for their own consumption or gross fixed capital formation, they clearly bear the costs themselves. They are, therefore, recorded as incurring expenditures whose values have to be imputed using the basic prices of similar goods or services sold on the market or their costs of production in the absence of suitable basic prices.

9.55. Household final consumption expenditure includes the imputed values of goods or services produced as outputs of unincorporated enterprises owned by households that are retained for consumption by members of the household. The production of services for own consumption within the same household falls outside the production boundary of the System, except for housing services produced by owner-occupiers and services produced by employing paid domestic staff. As the costs of producing goods or services for own consumption are borne by the households themselves, it is clear that the expenditures on them are also incurred by households, even

though their values must be imputed. The main types of goods and services produced and consumed within the same household are as follows:

(a) Food or other agricultural goods produced for own final consumption by farmers, including subsistence farmers, or others for whom agricultural production is only a secondary, or even leisure, activity;

(b) Other kinds of goods produced by unincorporated enterprises owned by households that are consumed by members of the same households;

(c) Housing services produced for own final consumption by owner-occupiers (discussed further below); and

(d) Domestic or other services produced for own final consumption by households that employ paid staff for this purpose (domestic staff, cooks, gardeners, chauffeurs, etc.)

9.56. Values are imputed for these goods or services on the basis of the estimated current basic prices of similar goods or services sold on the market, or by costs of production when suitable prices are not available, except for the services of paid staff; services of paid staff, by convention, are valued simply by the compensation of employees paid, in cash and in kind.

4. Sales of existing goods as negative expenditures

9.57. *An existing good is a good that has already been disposed of to a user by the unit that produced or imported it, either in the current or a previous period.* Most existing goods are used structures and machinery and equipment or second-hand consumer durables ([see paragraph 9.38 below](#)), but they may include some unused goods. When an existing good is resold, the amount received from its sale is recorded as negative expenditure on the part of the seller. Capital goods may have to be reclassified as a result of being resold; for example, the sale to a household of an automobile previously used by an enterprise for business purposes is recorded as negative gross capital formation and positive household final consumption expenditure.

D. Household final consumption expenditure (P.3)

1. Introduction

9.58. ***Household final consumption expenditure consists of expenditure incurred by resident households on consumption goods or services.*** Final consumption expenditure excludes expenditure on fixed assets in the form of dwellings or on valuables.

9.59. ***Dwellings are goods used by their owners to produce housing services.*** Expenditure on dwellings by households, therefore, constitutes gross fixed capital formation. When dwellings are rented by their owners, rentals are recorded as output of housing services by owners and final consumption expenditure by tenants. When dwellings are occupied by their owners, the imputed value of the housing services enters into both the output and final consumption expenditure of the owners.

9.60. ***Valuables are expensive durable goods that do not deteriorate over time, are not used up in consumption or production, and are acquired primarily as stores of value.*** They consist mainly of works of art, precious stones and metals and jewellery fashioned out of such stones and metals. Valuables are held in the expectation that their prices, relative to those of other goods and services, will tend to increase over time, or at least not decline. Although the owners of valuables may derive satisfaction from possessing them, they are not used up in the way that consumption goods, including consumer durables, are used up over time.

9.61. Final consumption expenditure includes imputed expenditure on barter transactions, on goods and services received in kind, on goods and services produced and consumed by the same household, as explained above. Sales of existing consumption goods are treated as negative expenditure as also explained above.

9.62. The treatment of expenditure in some specific situations or on certain specific types of goods and services is outlined in the following sections.

2. Expenditures by households owning unincorporated enterprises

9.63. When a household includes one or more persons who own an unincorporated enterprise, all expenditure incurred for business purposes is excluded from household consumption expenditure. It is necessary to ensure that only expenditure for the direct satisfaction of human needs and wants is included in household final consumption expenditure. This may not be easy in practice when the same good or service (for example, electricity or other fuels) may be used equally well for business purposes or for final consumption. Business expenditures cannot therefore be identified purely on the basis of the type of good or service purchased. Particular care needs to be exercised in the case of farms, including subsistence farms, where goods that have been purchased, or produced on own account, may be used either for household final consumption or for intermediate consumption; for example, corn or potatoes may be consumed by members of the households, fed to animals or used as seeds for future crops.

9.64. Care is also needed with purchases of consumer durables such as vehicles, furniture, or electrical equipment, which are to be classified as gross fixed capital formation by the household enterprise when purchased for business purposes but as final consumption expenditure when purchased for the personal use of household members. While the nature of the distinction may be clear in principle, it is often blurred in practice, especially when the owner of the business uses a durable good, such as a vehicle, partly for business purposes and partly for personal benefit. In such cases, the expenditure on the purchase of the durable should be split between gross fixed capital formation by the enterprise and household final consumption expenditure in proportion to its usage for business and personal purposes. When durables are purchased wholly or partly for business purposes, the decline in their value attributable to their use within the business should be recorded under the consumption of fixed capital of the unincorporated enterprise.

3. Expenditures on particular types of goods and services

Expenditures on financial services

- 9.65. When appropriate, values must be imputed for the expenditures that households incur on services provided by financial institutions for which no explicit charges are made. Expenditures on services for which financial institutions do make charges are recorded in the usual way.

Financial services, except insurance and pension fund services

- 9.66. Financial institutions, except insurance corporations and pension funds, and money lenders charge interest rates higher than a reference rate and pay interest at a rate lower than the reference interest rate. As already explained in chapters VI and VII, in the System interest is recorded in the distribution of primary income account at the reference rate and the difference between this and the amounts actually payable and receivable by households are recorded as final consumption expenditure of households.

- 9.67. The imputed values of the services are recorded as expenditures on the services of financial institutions in the use of income account for households. The interest recorded in the primary distribution of income account for households as being received from financial institutions is equal to the amount actually received plus the imputed value the service charge paid on household lending. The amount of interest recorded as paid to financial institutions is equal to the amount actually paid less the imputed value of the service charge on household borrowing.

- 9.68. When households acquire or dispose of securities and bonds, or foreign exchange, the dealer in the financial asset will typically quote a buying price and a selling price for the asset. The difference between the price actually receivable or payable and the average of the buying and selling price at the time of the transaction is also treated as expenditures on the services of financial institutions

Insurance and pension fund services

- 9.69. The way in which the value of the services produced by insurance enterprises is calculated in the System has been explained in chapter VI. The

same method is used to calculate the output of pension funds.

- 9.70. The values of the insurance services consumed by different sectors, sub-sectors or institutional units are estimated by allocating the total value of the services produced by an insurance enterprise or pension fund in proportion to the actual premiums or pension contributions paid. The amounts paid by households are recorded as final consumption expenditure (except for the insurance services purchased by unincorporated enterprises owned by households).

Services of dwellings, repairs and improvements

Services of owner-occupied dwellings

- 9.71. Persons who own the dwellings in which they live are treated as owning unincorporated enterprises that produce housing services that are consumed by the household to which the owner belongs. The housing services produced are deemed to be equal in value to the rentals that would be paid on the market for accommodation of the same size, quality and type. Care must be taken in respect of any taxes paid on housing. Taxes such as value added tax are rarely paid on housing services, but if they are payable, they should be excluded from the value of owner-occupied housing if the owner-occupier is exempt from payment. The imputed values of the housing services are recorded as final consumption expenditures of the owners.

Decoration, maintenance and repair

- 9.72. As already noted in chapter VI, expenditures that an owner-occupier incurs on the decoration, maintenance and repair of the dwelling should not be treated as household final consumption expenditure but as intermediate expenditure incurred in the production of housing services. These expenditures may consist either of payments for services provided by professional builders or decorators or purchases of materials for "do-it-yourself" repairs and decoration. In the latter case, no cost of the labour involved in the activity is included. The only value added for the imputed rent of owner-occupied housing is operating surplus. Minor, routine repairs and interior decoration of a kind carried out by tenants as well as owners are treated as falling outside the production boundary. Purchases of materials

used for such repairs or decoration should therefore be treated as final consumption expenditure.

Major improvements

- 9.73. Expenditures on major improvements (that is, reconstructions, renovations or enlargements) to dwellings are not classed as repairs and maintenance. They are excluded from household consumption expenditure and are treated as gross fixed capital formation on the part of the owners of those dwellings.

The repair and maintenance of durables

- 9.74. Expenditures on the repair and maintenance of consumer durables, including vehicles, are treated in the same way as minor repairs to dwellings. They constitute final consumption expenditure whether the repairs and maintenance are carried out by specialist producers or by members of the household as “do-it-yourself “ activities. In the latter case, only the values of the materials purchased should be included in household consumption expenditure.

Licences and fees

- 9.75. Households make payments to government units to obtain various kinds of licences, permits, certificates, passports, etc., and in some cases it is not clear whether the government units actually provide services in return, such as testing or inspection, or whether the payments are de facto taxes. As explained in **chapter VIII, paragraph 8.54 (c)**, the treatment of certain controversial borderline cases has been decided by the following convention, based on the practices followed in the majority of countries: payments by households for licences to own or use vehicles, boats or aircraft and also licences for recreational hunting, shooting or fishing are treated as taxes, while payments for all other kinds of licences, permits, certificates, passports, etc., are treated as purchases of services and included in household consumption expenditure.

4. Classification of household final consumption expenditure

- 9.76. Household final consumption expenditure is typically a large aggregate covering a wide range of goods and services. It is thus usually desirable to break down the figure. The Central Product

Classification (CPC) may be used for a breakdown by type of good or service. The Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) may be used for a breakdown by purpose or function, e.g., food, health and education services. **Chapter XVIII briefly describes this classification and how its inclusion in the System facilitates several kinds of analyses.**

5. Timing and valuation of household final consumption expenditure

Timing

- 9.77. In accordance with the general principles adopted in the System, expenditures should be recorded when the payables are created, that is, when the purchaser incurs a liability to the seller. This implies that expenditure on a good is to be recorded at the time its ownership changes while expenditure on a service is recorded when the delivery of the service is completed. The timing of imputed expenditures (see section C)is when the goods involved are made available to the household.

- 9.78. Expenditures on a good under a hire purchase or similar credit agreement (and also under a financial lease) should be recorded at the time the good is delivered. Even though there is no legal change of ownership at this point, it is assumed that there is a change of economic ownership. De facto, the purchaser exercises the rights and responsibilities of ownership from the time the good is delivered under a hire purchase agreement, financial lease or similar method of financing. A change of ownership is therefore imputed at the time of delivery. The purchaser must also be shown in the financial accounts as incurring a liability to the hire purchase or finance corporation.

Valuation

- 9.79. Household expenditure is recorded at the purchasers' prices paid by households including any taxes on products that may be payable at the time of purchase. As defined in **chapter VI, paragraphs 6.215 to 6.217**, the purchaser's price of a good is the amount payable to take delivery of a unit of the good at the time and place required by the purchaser. It includes any transport charges incurred by the purchaser not already included in the seller's invoice price.

- 9.80. Imputed expenditure on barter and goods received as income in kind are recorded at the prices paid by those units incurring the expenditure initially. Imputed expenditures on goods produced on own account are valued at basic prices, consistently with their valuation as production.
- 9.81. Different households may pay different prices for identical products because of market imperfections. Price differences may persist because households may not be aware of them, or they may have imperfect information because the costs of searching for the retail outlets selling at the lowest prices may be too great. Even when households are aware of the price differences, it may be too inconvenient or costly to visit the outlets selling at the lowest prices. Another reason for the persistence of price differences is that many service producers deliberately practice price discrimination by charging different households different prices for identical services (e.g., by charging lower prices or fees to pensioners or people with low incomes). As services cannot be retraded, price discrimination is extremely common, or even prevalent, among service producers. Household expenditures are nevertheless recorded at the prices actually paid, even though this may mean that goods and services may not be valued uniformly.
- 9.82. Apparent price differences between the same goods or services are often not genuine price differences as they may be due to differences in quality, including differences in the terms or conditions of sale. For example, lower prices are often charged for bulk purchases of goods or off-peak purchases of services. Such expenditures must, of course, be recorded at the prices actually paid; that is, after deducting from the standard or list prices or charges any discounts for bulk or off-peak purchases.

Valuation of purchases on credit

- 9.83. The purchaser's price does not include any interest or service charges that may be added

E. Household actual final consumption (P.4)

- 9.86. *Household actual final consumption consists of the consumption goods and services acquired by individual households.* The value of household

when the seller arranges for credit to be provided to the purchaser. Similarly, the purchaser's price does not include any extra charges that may be incurred as a result of failing to pay within the period stated at the time the purchases were made, such charges being effectively interest payments on the credit extended by the seller. IF the credit is arranged by a financial institution, the total charge may need to be allocated between a financial service charge and interest, as explained above in paras XXXX. If the credit is provided by a non-financial institution, no financial service charge is provided. Note, however, that many large retailers have subsidiaries handling credit facilities which are classed as financial institutions in their own right.

6. Expenditures by resident and non-resident households

- 9.84. Resident households make expenditures while travelling abroad, and non-resident households may make expenditures inside the economic territory of a country. Household final consumption expenditure in the System refers to the expenditure incurred by resident households, whether that expenditure is incurred within the economic territory or abroad.
- 9.85. In order to calculate total household final consumption expenditure it may be convenient to calculate the total expenditure made by all households, whether resident or not, within the economic territory and to adjust this figure by adding expenditures by residents abroad and subtracting expenditures by non-residents within the economy territory. Expenditures by residents abroad constitute imports, while expenditures by non-residents are exports. However, while the total expenditures by all households within the economic territory may be used for calculation in this way, it is not an aggregate recognized within the System.

actual final consumption is given by the sum of three components:

- (a) The value of households' expenditures on consumption goods or services including expenditures on non-market goods or services sold at prices that are not economically significant;
- (b) The value of the expenditures incurred by government units on individual consumption goods or services provided to households as social transfers in kind; and
- (c) The value of the expenditures incurred by NPISHs on individual consumption goods or services provided to households as social transfers in kind.
- 9.87. The values of expenditures on social transfers in kind incurred by government units or NPISHs are equal to the imputed values of the goods or services supplied to households less the amounts of any expenditures incurred by households when prices are charged that are not economically significant.
- 9.88. The term "consumption" on its own can be ambiguous and misleading. Sometimes it is used by economists to refer to consumption expenditures, sometimes to acquisitions of consumption goods and services and sometimes to the physical use of the goods and services for the direct satisfaction of human needs or wants. By distinguishing between consumption expenditure and actual final consumption, such ambiguity can be avoided. When consumption is recorded on an expenditure basis, the purpose is to identify the institutional units that incur the expenditures and hence control and finance the amounts of such expenditures. When consumption is recorded on an acquisitions basis, the purpose is to identify the units that actually acquire the goods and services and benefit from their use, either immediately or subsequently. The value of total final consumption is the same, however, whichever basis is used.

F. Consumption expenditures incurred by general government (P.3)

- 9.89. Expenditures on a wide range of consumption goods and services are incurred by general government, either on collective services or on selected individual goods or services. The government expenditures are financed principally out of taxation or other government revenues.
- 9.90. The consumption expenditures of general government can be classified in several ways. In particular, they may be classified:
- (a) According to whether the goods or services have been produced by market or non-market producers;
- (b) According to whether the expenditures are on collective services or individual goods or services;
- (c) By function or purpose according to the classification of the functions of government (COFOG); or
- (d) By type of good or service according to the CPC.
- 1. Expenditures on the outputs of market and non-market producers**
- 9.91. Expenditures on the outputs of non-market producers that are provided free, or at prices that are not economically significant, to individual households or the community account for most of the final consumption expenditure by general government. It is therefore appropriate to take them first.
- Expenditures on the outputs of non-market producers**
- 9.92. Most production by units of general government is non-market in nature and, as explained in **chapter ???**, the value of the non-market output is estimated by the sum of the costs involved in production. Although government delivers goods and services to the population individually and collectively, the costs of so doing are shown as final consumption expenditure by government.
- 9.93. The value of government final consumption expenditure on non-market goods and services is not necessarily exactly equal to the value of

government output of these goods and services. The values of these expenditures are equal to the imputed values of the non-market outputs less the values of any receipts from sales. These receipts may be derived from sales of some goods or services at prices that are not economically significant or from sales of a few goods or services at prices that are economically significant (sales of secondary market output).

Expenditures on consumption goods and services produced by market producers

- 9.94. Government units also purchase consumption goods and services produced by market producers that are supplied directly to households. The role of the government unit is confined to paying for the goods or services and ensuring that they are distributed to households as social transfers in kind. The government unit does not engage in any further processing of such goods or services and their expenditures are treated as final consumption expenditure and not intermediate consumption. The values of the goods or services distributed in this way are also recorded under social benefits in kind, including social assistance benefits in kind. In this way, expenditure by government on market goods and services on behalf of households is recorded as both final consumption expenditure of government and actual final consumption of households.

Government output and final consumption expenditure

- 9.95. Final consumption expenditure of government can be derived as follows

The value of non-market production of general government,

less the value of sales of goods and services at both economically insignificant prices and at economically significant prices,

plus the value of goods and services purchased from market producers for delivery to households at economically insignificant prices.

2. Expenditures on individual and collective goods and services (P.31/P.32)

- 9.96. The consumption expenditures incurred by government units have to be divided into those incurred for the benefit of individual households

and those incurred for the benefit of the community as a whole, or large sections of the community.

Individual goods and services

- 9.97. Individual goods and services are essentially “private”, as distinct from “public”, goods and services. They have the following characteristics:

(a) It must be possible to observe and record the acquisition of the good or service by an individual household or member thereof and also the time at which it took place;

(b) The household must have agreed to the provision of the good or service and take whatever action is necessary to make it possible, for example, by attending a school or clinic; and

(c) The good or service must be such that its acquisition by one household or person, or possibly by a small, restricted group of persons, precludes its acquisition by other households or persons.

- 9.98. The reference to a small, restricted group of persons is needed because certain services are provided to small groups of people simultaneously; for example, several persons may travel in the same bus, train, ship or plane or attend the same class, lecture, concert or live theatre performance. However, these are still essentially individual services if there is a restriction on the number of individuals who can consume them. Other members of the community are excluded and derive no benefit from them.

- 9.99. From a welfare point of view, the important characteristic of an individual good or service is that its acquisition by one household, person or group of persons brings no (or very little) benefit to the rest of the community. While the provision of certain individual health or education services (for example, vaccination or immunization) may bring some external benefits to the rest of the community, in general the individuals concerned derive the main benefit. Thus, when a government unit incurs expenditures on the provision of individual goods or services, it must decide not only how much to spend in total but how to allocate, or distribute, the goods or services among individual members of the community. From the point of view of economic

and social policy, the way in which they are distributed may be as important as the total amount spent.

Collective services

9.100. Most goods can be privately owned and are individual in the sense used here. On the other hand, certain kinds of services can be provided collectively to the community as a whole. The characteristics of these collective services may be summarized as follows:

(a) Collective services can be delivered simultaneously to every member of the community or of particular sections of the community, such as those in a particular region of a locality;

(b) The use of such services is usually passive and does not require the explicit agreement or active participation of all the individuals concerned; and

(c) The provision of a collective service to one individual does not reduce the amount available to others in the same community or section of the community. There is no rivalry in acquisition.

9.101. The collective services provided by government consist mostly of the provision of security and defence, the maintenance of law and order, legislation and regulation, the maintenance of public health, the protection of the environment, research and development, etc. All members of the community can benefit from such services. As the individual usage of collective services cannot be recorded, individuals cannot be charged according to their usage or the benefits they derive. There is market failure and collective services that must be financed out of taxation or other government revenues.

The borderline between individual and collective services

9.102. Expenditures incurred by governments in connection with individual services such as health and education are to be treated as collective when they are concerned with the formulation and administration of government policy, the setting and enforcement of public standards, the regulation, licensing or supervision of producers, etc. For example, the expenditures incurred by

Ministries of Health or Education at a national level are to be included in collective consumption expenditures as they are concerned with general matters of policy, standards and regulation. On the other hand, any overhead expenses connected with the administration or functioning of a group of hospitals, schools, colleges or similar institutions are to be included in individual expenditures. For example, if a group of private hospitals has a central unit that provides certain common services such as purchasing, laboratories, ambulances, or other facilities, the costs of these common services would be taken into account in the prices charged to patients. The same principle must be followed when the hospitals are non-market producers: all the costs which are associated with the provision of services to particular individuals, including those of any central units providing common services, should be included in the value of expenditures on individual services.

The classification of individual and collective government expenditures

9.103. The classification of the functions of government is a classification of transactions designed to apply to general government and its sub-sectors. This classification, which is described briefly in **chapter XVIII**, distinguishes between expenditure by government on individual services and collective services. By convention, all government final consumption expenditures under each of the following headings should be treated as expenditures on individual services except for expenditures on general administration, regulation, research, etc.:

07	Health
08.1	Sport and recreation
08.2	Culture
09	Education
10	Social Protection.

Non-market services to enterprises

9.104. Many government expenditures benefit enterprises as much as households; expenditures on the cleaning, maintenance and repair of public roads, bridges, tunnels, etc. including the provision of street lighting are examples. These

are services whose consumption can be monitored and for this reason they are frequently provided on a market basis by charging tolls on road usage. When they are provided free, however, it would be difficult to separate the services provided free to enterprises from those provided free to households and, by convention, all these

expenditures are treated as collective final expenditure.

9.105. Collective services such as the provision of security by the police, fire services, etc. which are provided free to the community at large also benefit individual enterprises as well as households.

G. Actual final consumption of general government (P.4)

9.106. As government final consumption expenditure must be either individual or collective, the value of the actual final consumption of general government is equal to the value of its total final consumption expenditure less its expenditure on individual goods or services provided as social transfers in kind to households. The value of the actual final consumption of government units is taken to be equal to the value of the expenditures they incur on collective services. Although collective services benefit the community, or certain sections of the community, rather than the government, the actual consumption of these services cannot be distributed among individual households, or even among groups of households such as sub-sectors of the household sector or to enterprises, as just noted. It is therefore attributed to the same government units that incur the corresponding expenditures.

9.107. The identification and measurement of government actual final consumption serves two main analytical or policy purposes:

(a) Collective services can be identified with “public goods” as defined in public finance and economic theory. While it may be technically possible to charge individual consumers of certain collective services according to their usage or benefits they derive, the transactions costs of so doing would be prohibitively high, leading to market failure. This provides an economic, rather than political, rationale for government involvement as the provision of such services has to be financed collectively out of taxation or other government revenues;

(b) Collective services do not provide a mechanism for redistributing resources among individual households. As redistribution may be one of the main economic objectives of government policy, it is useful to separate the collective services that do not serve this purpose from the individual goods and services that are ultimately channelled to individual households, even though paid for by government.

H. Consumption expenditures incurred by NPISHs (P.3)

9.108. The treatment of consumption expenditures incurred by NPISHs is very similar to that for general government. This section itemises only those aspects that differ. Whereas government expenditures are financed principally out of taxation or other government revenues, those of NPISHs are financed principally out of subscriptions, contributions or donations or property income.

9.109. The services provided by NPISHs are often confined to the members of the associations that control them, although they may also provide individual goods or services to third parties. Many NPISHs are only concerned with protecting the interests or welfare of their members or providing recreational, sporting or cultural facilities that households or persons cannot otherwise easily obtain for themselves acting individually. Although NPISHs may provide services to their members in groups, the services are essentially individual rather than collective. In general, persons other than their members are

excluded and derive no benefit from the services provided. Therefore, all the services provided by NPISHs are by convention treated as individual even though some are partly collective in nature.

9.110. All the goods and services covered by the final expenditures of NPISHs are, therefore, assumed to be provided to individual households as social transfers in kind. It follows that NPISHs have no actual final consumption, so that their adjusted disposable income is equal to their saving.

9.111. The consumption expenditures of NPISHs can be classified in several ways. In particular, they may be classified:

(a) According to whether the goods or services have been produced by market or non-market producers;

(b) By function or purpose according to the classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions serving households (COPNI); and

(d) By type of good or service according to the CPC.

9.112. For NPISHs as for government, it is possible that they purchase goods from market producers for distribution to households. It is also possible that they may have some receipts from sales either of non-market output at prices that are not economically significant or from sales of secondary market production at economically significant prices. However for many NPISHs, the value of their consumption expenditure will exactly match the value of their non-market output.

I. Final consumption expenditure and actual final consumption: summary

9.113. The purpose of this section is to summarize the conceptual interrelationship between the main consumption aggregates for the three sectors in which final consumption takes place, namely, the household sector, the NPISH sector and the general government sector. On a practical level, it may be noted that each of the aggregates, whether referring to consumption expenditure or actual final consumption, has to be derived from data on expenditures.

1. Final consumption expenditure

9.114. Household final consumption expenditure consists of the expenditure, including imputed expenditure, incurred by resident households on individual consumption goods and services, including those sold at prices that are not economically significant and including consumption goods and services acquired abroad;

9.115. Final consumption expenditure of NPISHs consists of the expenditure, including imputed expenditure, incurred by resident NPISHs on individual consumption goods and services;

9.116. General government final consumption expenditure consists of expenditure, including

imputed expenditure, incurred by general government on both individual consumption goods and services and collective consumption services. This expenditure may be divided into:

(a) General government expenditure on individual consumption goods and services;

(b) General government expenditure on collective consumption services.

2. Actual final consumption

9.117. Actual final consumption of households is measured by the value of all the individual consumption goods and services acquired by resident households. There are three sets of goods and services entering into household actual final consumption:

(a) Those acquired through expenditure by households themselves;

(b) Those acquired as social transfers in kind from NPISHs; their value is equal to total consumption expenditure of NPISHs;

(c) Those acquired as social transfers in kind from general government: their value is equal to general government expenditure on individual goods and services.

9.118. NPISHs have no actual final consumption, as explained above. Thus, actual final consumption is confined to households and general government.

9.119. *Actual final consumption of general government is measured by the value of the collective consumption services provided to the community, or large sections of the community, by general government.*

3. Total final consumption in the economy

9.120. Total final consumption in the economy may be viewed from two angles. It may be defined from the expenditure side as the total value of

all expenditures on individual and collective consumption goods and services incurred by resident households, resident NPISHs and general government units. Or, it may be defined in terms of actual final consumption as the value of all the individual goods and services acquired by resident households plus the value of the collective services provided by general government to the community or large sections of the community.

9.121. The coverage of the goods and services is the same in both cases. In order to ensure that the values of the two aggregates are the same, the goods and services acquired by resident households through social transfers in kind must always be valued at the same prices at which they are valued in the expenditure aggregates and the time of recording the goods and services acquired by social transfers in kind must be the same as the time of recording in the expenditure aggregates.