

## Comments on draft SNA chapter: Chapter 19: Population and labour inputs

**Deadline for comments: 26 September 2008**

**Send comments to: [sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org)**

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Submission date:	<a href="#">Click here and enter your submission date</a>

This template allows you to record your comments on draft SNA chapter 19 "Population and labour inputs" and, at the same time, makes it easy for us to use your comments in considering revisions to the draft chapter. You may complete any or all parts of the template.

There is no file comparing existing text with draft text for this chapter because the draft is largely new text.

Save this template and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address:

[sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org)

### **Part I: General comments**

In the space below, please provide any general comments. This may cover e.g. the structure of the chapter, issues missing and (lack of) consistency with other chapters of the 2008 SNA.

*General comments:*

General comment	<p>The ABS is generally happy with the contents and style of this chapter.</p> <p>Population estimates are compiled for a number of purposes. Although the chapter recommends using population estimates aligned conceptually with SNA residency and economic territory, other concepts of the population, for example for planning demand on utilities services, will include transient/non-resident visitors. Some words about the alternatives that may legitimately occur and why it is important to seek out the equivalent of "economic population" from the range of possible alternatives might be useful.</p> <p>It is highly desirable to line up definitions of resident population used in the compilation of economic accounts and in population estimates. However, the economic accounts attempt to capture all economic activity without gaps or duplication so must use definitions which lead to exclusivity (recording a person as resident in only one economic territory) and the identification and allocation of the economic activity of the individual. Given this, there is limited room for compromise. One is that an estimate of the "economic" population could also be maintained and used, for instance in the calculation of ratios such as GDP per head.</p>
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	<p>There are some general problems with numbering of sub headings.</p>
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## Part II: Comments on specific draft paragraphs and sections

All comments on specific draft paragraphs are welcome. They can be about e.g. scope, content and clarity. Proposing a concrete alternative text or table is also possible. For the paragraphs in separate sections, separate forms are used for providing and collecting comments (see below).

### A. Introduction (paragraphs 19.1-19.8)

General comment	Click here and start typing.
19.1	The second last sentence is too long. Its flow could be improved by deleting the words 'by measuring GDP per capita'.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

### B. Population (paragraphs 19.9-19.14)

General comment	Click here and start typing.
19.9	Suggest delete the last two sentences. The reality is that population is a point in time measure.
19.10	The intent of the first sentence is unclear. Is it referring to official statistics on population? How does it relate to the second sentence in the previous paragraph? Is population and residence the same thing?
19.13	First sentence – suggest add the words 'change in the' before the word 'average'.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

### C. Measuring the labour force (paragraphs 19.15-19.37)

General comment	In the discussion of residence, the special treatment given to foreign students should be mentioned.  The section on the non-observed economy could possibly be deleted as the relevance to labour inputs is tenuous. It is covered in Chapter 25.
19.19	The important issue of the treatment of owner managers of corporations as employees should be mentioned here and/or in paragraph 19.23.
19.26	This also has implications where labour force data for employment are used as input to the derivation of compensation of employee estimates.  Is it worthwhile clarifying what is meant by 'jobs' when it is first used? It excludes 'vacancies'.

19.27	Suggest item g is elevated to item f.
19.28	a. suggest insert ‘in another country’ after the word ‘workers’ c. suggest reword as ‘employees of foreign government agencies (including local employees) located on the geographic territory of the country’.
19.29 d.	The words ‘living permanently in an institution’ require clarification. Is ‘permanently’ necessary? What is meant by ‘institution’ in this context (such as prisons?)
19.31	Last sentence replace ‘labour statistics also’ with ‘both sets of statistics’. Add a new sentence – ‘Comparisons between labour statistics derived from household surveys (adjusted for the incidence of multiple job holding) and the number of employed persons from business surveys can be used to check or improve the coverage of the national accounts.’
19.32	Delete the word ‘generally’.
19.34	First sentence – replace ‘these rates’ with ‘the remuneration actually received’.
19.35	Suggest append a new sentence – ‘This is not to say that they are not involved in productive activity, but it is occurring outside of the SNA production boundary. Satellite accounts, such as those described for NPIs and household production in Chapter 23, may adopt a wider production boundary to that applying in the SNA.’

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

#### **D. Standardized measures of labour inputs (paragraphs 19.38-19.55)**

General comment	Click here and start typing.
19.44	Suggest delete the word ‘illness’ and insert the words ‘on account of illness’ after the word ‘leave’.
19.46	It is not clear what additional information is being provided in points (5) and (6) of this paragraph beyond that provided in points (3) and (4). The statistics should have the same coverage as the definitional statements. Point (7) does not actually seem to be referring to specifying hours worked in the same way that as the other six points (an no clarification is provided as to their treatment).

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

**E. Estimating labour productivity (paragraphs 19.56-19.68)**

General comment	Problem with numbering of sub-headings
19.57	Suggest change words ‘capital stock’ to ‘capital services’
19.63	Should words ‘working time’ be replaced with ‘hours worked’?
19.64	Second sentence is confusing. Should the words ‘by industry’ be replaced with ‘for the whole economy’?
19.65	<p>The flow would be improved by moving the third sentence ‘One particular problem..’ to after the sentence ending ‘...provision of personnel.’.</p> <p>The same issues occur where an enterprise group sets up a company with the sole or main purpose of providing labour services to the rest of the group. This should be included in the discussion above.</p> <p>Second last sentence – suggest delete the words after the word ‘staff’ to improve the flow.</p>
19.66	.
19.67	<p>First sentence – insert the word ‘are’ after ‘countries’.</p> <p>Second sentence – insert the words ‘ of comparing levels’ after the word ‘alternative’.</p> <p>Second last sentence – insert the word ‘best’ before the word ‘means’.</p> <p>The interpretation of comparisons across countries of percentage growth in productivity is complicated because there is an implicit assumption that the countries are starting from the same base - a 2% productivity increase in a highly productive country is different from a 2% productivity increase in a country that has not previously reached the same levels of productivity. This weakness in the statement made in the first sentence is not identified or explored.</p>

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

**F. A note on source data (paragraphs 19.69-19.74)**

General comment	Click here and start typing.
19.69	Suggest insert the word ‘census’ after the word ‘population’.

19.71	First sentence – delete the word ‘being’.
19.72	This paragraph is too strong in its dismissal of administrative sources for employment data for use in the national accounts. A number of countries use personal income tax records as a high quality source for annual benchmarking of wages and salaries data. Although employment data derived from these sources may have deficiencies such as timeliness as described in the paragraph, they may also have some strengths (such as coverage) and should be at least compared with other sources that might be theoretically preferred.  Suggest as a minimum that words ‘, although they may be useful as a annual or periodic benchmark’ at the end of the first sentence.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

### Part III. Other specific comments

You are welcome to make other specific comments. To assist you in doing so, the following points are provided as a guide to the types of points on which you might wish to comment. Note, though, that you are not restricted to commenting on only these points.

1. Are the details of the labour force and the differences between the ILO and SNA conventions sufficiently clear?
2. Is the discussion of standardised labour inputs sufficient?
3. Is the discussion of labour productivity sufficient?
4. Can you recommend references to be included?

*Specific comments:*

Specific comments	Click here and start typing.
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You are also welcome to comment directly on the PDF file of the draft chapter. Please do so by using Adobe Acrobat Version 6 or 7.

If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Version 6 or 7 and would like to make detailed comments, please send a message to [sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org) requesting a version of the draft chapter

that permits you to comment. To optimize your commenting tools, please download Adobe Reader 7.0 for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>