

**Comments on draft SNA chapter:
Chapter 24: The households sector**

**Deadline for comments: 31 October 2008
Send comments to: sna@un.org**

Your name:	Art Ridgeway
Your country/organization:	Canada
Contact (e.g. email address):	Art.ridgeway@statcan.gc.ca
Submission date:	October 31, 2008

This template allows you to record your comments on draft SNA chapter 24 “The households sector” 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

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	For completeness, a section should be devoted to a description of the links between the household sector and other sectors in the framework of the sequence of accounts. See chapter 4 “Links of the household sector to other sectors” in the UN Handbook on Household Accounting: Experience in concepts and compilation.
-----------------	---

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 24.1-24.5)

General comment	
24.1	This section starts abruptly. An overview definition of households (whether in Chapter 4 or not) is warranted. This could cover individuals, households and the role of unincorporated business. Part of paragraph 24.6 would fit well in the opening of this chapter.
24.3	Suggest striking the phrase <i>well being, however measured</i> in the first sentence. The second sentence does not make sense. In any case, it is unlikely that all policy-makers and analysts are concerned with w/r to households is propensity to consume. Suggest striking the word <i>pure</i> in the third sentence.

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

B. Sub-sectoring households (paragraphs 24.6-24.21)

General Comment	The alternative ways of sub-sectoring the household sector are interesting. The sub-sectors of the HH sector in SNA93 were a mixture of these approaches will this be revised?
Production perspective	
Consumption perspective	
24.10	The statement “as household income rises so the pattern of consumption changes...Studies showing consumption patterns according to income deciles ...give interesting information about how pattern of consumption change as the overall level of income increases” is correct. However add the following: In addition to current income, consumption pattern is also affected by the average age of household members and their employment status. In our household study for 2000, we found that the third income quintiles showed net borrowing while the second income quintiles

Income perspective	showed positive saving. We found that households in the third income quintile had a higher proportion of people who were economically secure with full time jobs yet within an age bracket when major expenditures are undertaken that are associated with early stages of life in anticipation of higher incomes in the futures.
24.14 d Sub-section 4 and 5	The heading “income from transfers” should be changed to “property and transfer income” because the sub-heading includes property income which is not a transfer.

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

C. Households as producers (paragraphs 24.22-24.36)

General comment	
24.26 Line 4	“Rent on capital asset “should read rental on capital asset.
*	

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

D. Households as consumers (paragraphs 24.37-24.40)

General comment	Under this section, mention should be made of the two consumption concepts: final consumption expenditure of households and actual final consumption
24.37	
*	

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

E. Household income (paragraphs 24.41-24.45)

General comment	
-----------------	--

24.41	
*	

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

F. Household wealth and associated income flows (paragraphs 24.46-24.50)

General comment	It might be useful to carry this discussion down into the details of the financial account and balance sheet account. These are discussed in detail in the other <i>sector chapters</i> , and it may be useful to have more common threads running through these chapters.
24.46	Suggest replacing the word <i>house</i> in the first sentence with the phrase <i>residential real estate</i> and it might be better to refer more broadly to financial assets instead of just singe out <i>pension funds</i> .
24.46 and 24.49	These paragraphs should be grouped into a sub-section. The title of this sub-section might be related to <i>pensions</i> or it might be titled something more generic like <i>income and dis-saving</i>
24.50	Second sentence, the phrase <i>considerable interest</i> is confusing, as SNA recommends it.

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

G. Data sources (paragraph 24.51)

General comment	
24.51	
*	

* 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 there any other considerations or options for sub-sectoring households that you would wish to see included?
2. Are there any other aspects of household production that should be elaborated in the chapter?
3. Are there any other references you would suggest including?

Specific comments:

Specific comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No.2. No.3. No.
-------------------	--

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 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>