

## ANNEX E

## Household definitions in other statistical standards

This Annex discusses the household concepts and definitions provided in several other statistical standards used in measuring the economic circumstances of households. These standards, which are referred to in Chapter 3, are:

- *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, published by the United Nations in 2008.
- *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing*, published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2006.
- *Household Income and Expenditure Statistics, Report II* of the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2003, published by the International Labour Office.
- *Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics 2011*, published by the UNECE.
- *European Central Bank Household Finance and Consumption Network Core Output Variables*, March 2011.
- *System of National Accounts 2008*.

Table E.1. **Comparison of household concepts and definitions in other standards**

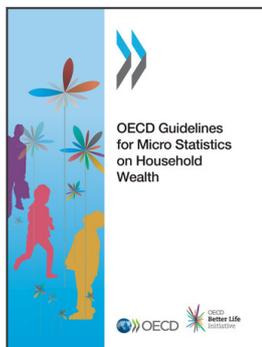
UN World Population Census	<p>The world standard for population censuses identifies individuals within two general frameworks: <i>a</i>) households; and <i>b</i>) institutions (as a sub-set of collective living quarters). Institutions include military institutions, correctional and penal institutions, dormitories of schools and universities, religious institutions, hospitals, retirement homes for the elderly, and orphanages. Persons living in dormitories or similar accommodation in institutions constitute the “institutional population” and are not members of a household. Persons living in other collective living quarters (e.g. hotels, lodging houses, camps and workers’ quarters) are identified within households.</p>
	<p>Its concept of a household – referred to as the “housekeeping concept” – is based on the arrangements made by persons, individually or in groups, for providing themselves with food and other essentials for living. Under this concept, a household is defined as either: <i>a</i>) a one-person household, that is to say, a person who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials of living without combining with any other person to form a multi-person household; or <i>b</i>) a multi-person household, that is to say, a group of two or more persons living together who make common provision for food and other essentials for living. The persons in the group may pool their resources and have a common budget; they may be related or unrelated persons or constitute a combination of persons both related and unrelated. Households usually occupy the whole, or part of, or more than one housing unit but they may also be found in camps, boarding houses or hotels or as administrative personnel in institutions, or they may be homeless.</p>
	<p>This concept of a household does not assume that the number of households and housing units are or should be equal. A housing unit is defined as a separate and independent place of abode that is intended for habitation by one household but may be occupied by more than one household or by part of a household. Under a different household concept, the “household-dwelling concept”, all persons living in a housing unit would be treated as belonging to the same household and there would be one household per occupied dwelling unit. However, the UN standard does not recommend this alternative concept on the grounds that it can obscure information on living arrangements.</p>
	<p>Each person has one and only one place of usual residence, defined as the place where the person lives at the time of the census and has been there for some time and intends to stay there for some time. A threshold of 12 months is recommended in applying the usual residence definition and 2 alternative criteria are provided for implementing this threshold: either, the place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the last 12 months (not including temporary absences) or intends to live for at least 6 months; or, the place at which the person has lived for at least the last 12 months (not including temporary absences) or intends to live for at least 12 months.</p>
	<p>(<i>Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2</i>, published by the United Nations in 2008, paragraphs 1.442, 1.448-1.455, 1.461-1.468)</p>

Table E.1. **Comparison of household concepts and definitions in other standards (cont.)**

UNECE/CES Population Census	<p>The concept of a household is defined differently in the 2006 UNECE/CES population census standard. The UNECE identifies “private households” (defined using a different specification of the housekeeping concept from that in the UN world standard) and “institutional households”. Some persons who do not live in private or institutional households are also recognised, specifically the homeless with no place of usual residence. These persons are implicitly covered in “other households”.</p>
	<p>A private household is defined as either <i>a</i>) a one-person household, that is a person who lives alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household; or <i>b</i>) a multi-person household, that is a group of two or more persons who combine to occupy the whole or part of a housing unit and to provide themselves with food and possibly other essentials for living. Members of the group may pool their incomes to a greater or lesser extent. While this definition relates explicitly to persons occupying a “housing unit”, the UNECE/CES standard also recognises that there may be persons who are part of private households within “collective living quarters”.</p>
	<p>Boarders are distinguished from lodgers in delineating private households within housing units. Boarders take meals with the household and are generally allowed to use the household facilities. They are considered to be members of the household in which they live. Lodgers have hired part of the housing unit for their exclusive use and are considered to belong to a different household.</p>
	<p>An institutional household comprises persons whose need for shelter and subsistence is being provided by an institution. An institution is understood to be a legal body for the purpose of long-term inhabitation and provision of services to a group of persons. The great majority of institutional households are considered to fall into the following categories: residences for students; hospitals, convalescent homes, old people’s homes, etc.; assisted-living facilities and welfare institutions; military barracks; correctional and penal institutions; religious institutions; and worker dormitories.</p>
	<p>The UNECE/CES standard notes that some countries may be unable to collect data on private households based on the housekeeping concept and may therefore use the household-dwelling concept. It also notes that differences can be large for certain household types (e.g. one-person households), and this can affect international comparability.</p>
	<p>“Place of usual residence” is used as the basis of household membership. It is defined as the geographic place where the enumerated person usually resides, that is, the place at which he or she spends most of his/her daily night rest. Each person has one, and only one, place of usual residence. A person’s country of usual residence is the country in which the place of usual residence is located. Recommendations are provided for special cases where problems might be encountered, including: persons who work away from home and return at weekends (usual residence is the family home); school students who are away from home during school term (usual residence is the family home); tertiary students who are away from home while at college or university (usual residence is their term-time address, although as an exceptional measure where the place of education is within the country the usual residence may be considered to be the family home); inmates of institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc., who have spent or are likely to spend 12 months or more in the relevant institution (usual residence is the institution); and a person – including a child – regularly living in more than one residence during the year (usual residence is the one where he/she spends the majority of the year).</p>
	<p>(<i>Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing</i>, published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 2006, paragraphs 158-170, 478-492, 592-595).</p>
ICLS	<p>The ICLS recommendations for household income and expenditure statistics state that the concept of the household should be consistent with the one adopted in the latest version of the UN <i>Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses</i>. A household is defined using the housekeeper concept described in that UN standard, with a small modification: “some common provision for food or other essentials of living” replaces “common provision for food and other essentials for living”. Two additional concepts are also introduced: “private households” and “collective households”. All private households (implicitly those living in housing units, not collective quarters) are to be covered in the statistics, and some collective households may be included provided the members are involved in decision-making about their consumption, including consumption of housing services. Other collective households (e.g. boarding houses, hotels, etc.) and institutions are to be excluded. However, identifiable households within institutions may be included.</p>
	<p>(<i>Household Income and Expenditure Statistics, Report II</i> of the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2003, published by the International Labour Office, paragraphs 181-185, 193-195, resolutions 54-58).</p>
Canberra Group	<p>The Canberra Group recommendations provide a definition of “private household” based on the UNECE/CES definition for use in population censuses. That definition is regarded as the benchmark for household income surveys. A private household is defined as either: <i>a</i>) a person living alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household; or <i>b</i>) a group of two or more persons who combine to occupy the whole or part of a housing unit and to provide themselves with food and possibly other essentials for living. The group may be composed of related persons only or of unrelated persons or of a combination of both. The group may also pool their income. It is noted that this definition of a private household excludes collective ones such as prisons, boarding schools, military barracks, hospitals, etc.).</p>
	<p>(<i>Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics</i>, 2011 version, Boxes 3.2 and 6.1 and Section 3.3.1).</p>

Table E.1. **Comparison of household concepts and definitions in other standards (cont.)**

Euro area HFCS	<p>The household definition adopted in the euro area Household Finance and Consumption Survey is similar in many instances to the above definitions. However, it is adjusted to the specificities of the main theme of the survey, namely household wealth. Besides the usual condition of sharing expenditures inherent in the housekeeping concept, the HFCS definition also considers financial interdependence as an additional criterion to decide on household membership for specific borderline cases. Sharing household expenses includes benefiting from expenses (e.g. children, persons with no income) as well as contributing to expenses.</p> <p>The target reference population is all private households and their current members residing in the national territory at the time of data collection. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded. A (private) household is defined as a person living alone or a group of people who live together in the same private dwelling and share expenditures, including the joint provision of the essentials of living. Employees of other residents (i.e. live-in domestic servants, au pairs, etc.) and roommates without family or partnership attachments to household members (e.g. resident boarders, lodgers, tenants, visitors, etc.) are considered to be separate households.</p> <p>The following persons, if they share expenses, are regarded as household members (if expenses are not shared then the person constitutes a separate household at the same address): persons usually resident but temporarily absent from the dwelling for reasons of holiday travel, work, education, etc., if they have no private address elsewhere and the actual or intended duration of absence is less than 6 months; partners and children of household members (such as financially dependent children being educated away from home and persons working away from home) irrespective of the actual or intended duration of absence if they continue to retain close ties with the household, regularly return to the household address and consider it to be their main residence; and persons temporarily absent but having household ties, such as persons in a hospital, nursing home, boarding school or other institution if they have clear financial ties to the household and the actual or expected duration of absence is less than 6 months.</p> <p>(European Central Bank Household Finance and Consumption Network <i>Core Output Variables</i>, March 2011).</p>
SNA	<p>The SNA defines "households" as institutional units consisting of one individual or a group of individuals. All physical persons in an economy must belong to one and only one household. A multi-person household is defined as a group of persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their income and wealth, and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food. In general each member of a household should have some claim on the collective resources of the household. At least some decisions affecting consumption or other economic activities must be taken for the household as a whole. Unincorporated enterprises owned by households are treated as an integral part of the household to which they belong except under specific conditions.</p> <p>Domestic staff who live on the same premises as their employer do not form part of their employer's household even though they may be provided with accommodation and meals as remuneration in kind. They should be treated as belonging to separate households from their employers.</p> <p>Persons living permanently in an institution, or who may be expected to reside in an institution for a very long, or indefinite, period of time are treated as belonging to a single institutional household when they have little or no autonomy of action or decision in economic matters. Examples of persons belonging to institutional households are: members of religious orders living in monasteries, convents or similar institutions; long-term patients in hospitals; prisoners serving long sentences; and old persons living permanently in retirement homes. Persons who enter institutions for short periods should be treated as members of the individual households to which they belong.</p> <p>Resident households are distinguished separately from non-resident households. The SNA's household sector consists of all resident households. A household is resident in the economic territory in which its members maintain or intend to maintain a dwelling or dwellings treated and used by them as their principal dwelling. If there is uncertainty about which dwelling is the principal dwelling, it is identified from the length of time spent there. Being present for one year or more in a territory or intending to do so is sufficient to qualify as having a principal residence there. The residence of individual persons is determined by that of the household of which they form a part and not by their place of work. All members of the same household have the same residence as the household itself, even though they may cross borders to work or otherwise spend periods of time abroad. If they work and reside abroad so long that they acquire a centre of economic interest abroad, they cease to be members of their original households. Additional guidance is provided for a number of specific cases, including students, patients, crews of ships, diplomats, military personnel, cross-border workers, refugees and highly mobile individuals having no principal dwelling or two or more principal dwellings.</p> <p>(<i>System of National Accounts 2008</i>, paragraphs 1.48, 2.17-2.20, 4.10-4.37, 4.149-4.159, 4.172, 24.12-24.17, 26.29, 26.37-26.39).</p>



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