

Adding Distributions to the SNA Framework; Constructing the Household Sector from Micro Data

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Driven by influential reports from Stiglitz *et al*, and the IMF and FSB, together with impressive research on inequalities by Piketty, Atkinson and others, distributional measures in the National Accounts gained more attention. In much of the research by NSI's and many of the publications in this field, distributions are added to the national accounts data which serve as the benchmark totals. However, in construction of the household sector accounts micro data sources are often not used, resulting in unaccounted data gaps.

In this article we work the other way around, we create the national accounts totals from micro data, thus including distributions from the very first moment of constructing the national accounts. This approach improves the national accounts in two ways, first the household sector accounts are less dependent on counterpart information or the residual approach, and second, the distributions within the sector are consistent with the macro totals. Furthermore, the framework of the national accounts differs from micro economic frameworks which are still often used in describing inequality. We feel that the present approach adds an important perspective in analysing inequality, because we include otherwise unaccounted transactions.