

DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL INCOME

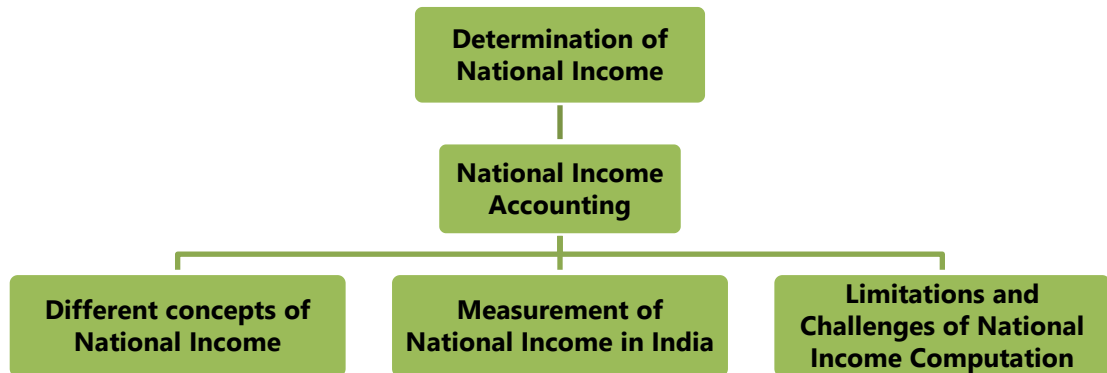


UNIT I: NATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTING

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- ❑ Define national income
- ❑ Explain the usefulness and significance of national income estimates
- ❑ Differentiate among the various concepts of national income
- ❑ Describe the different methods of calculation of national income
- ❑ Outline measurement of national income in India
- ❑ Describe the system of regional accounts in India
- ❑ Identify the challenges involved in national income computation.

UNIT OVERVIEW**1.1 INTRODUCTION**

When we undertake the study of national economies, we are interested in macroeconomic aggregates such as, aggregate income, output, employment, prices, consumption, savings, investment etc. Just as there are accounting conventions which measure the performance of business, there are conventions for measuring and analyzing the economic performance of a nation. National Income Accounting, pioneered by the Nobel prize-winning economists Simon Kuznets and Richard Stone, is one such measure.

National Income is defined as the net value of all economic goods and services produced within the domestic territory of a country in an accounting year plus the net factor income from abroad. According to the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) 'National income is the sum total of factor incomes generated by the normal residents of a country in the form of wages, rent, interest and profit in an accounting year'.

**1.2 USEFULNESS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL INCOME ESTIMATES**

National income accounts are fundamental aggregate statistics in macroeconomic analysis and are extremely useful, especially for the emerging and transition economies.

1. National income accounts provide a comprehensive, conceptual and accounting framework for analyzing and evaluating the short-run performance of an economy. The level of national income indicates the level of economic activity and economic development as well as aggregate demand for goods and services of a country.
2. The distribution pattern of national income determines the pattern of demand for goods and services and enables businesses to forecast the future demand for their products.
3. Economic welfare depends to a considerable degree on the magnitude and distribution of national income, size of per capita income and the growth of these over time.
4. The estimates of national income show the composition and structure of national income in terms of different sectors of the economy, the periodical variations in them and the broad sectoral shifts in an economy over time. It is also possible to make temporal and spatial comparisons of the trend and speed of economic progress and development. Using these information, the governments can fix various sector-specific development targets for different sectors of the economy and formulate suitable development plans and policies to increase growth rates.
5. National income statistics also provide a quantitative basis for macroeconomic modeling and analysis, for assessing and choosing economic policies and for objective statement as well as evaluation of governments' economic policies. These figures often influence popular and political judgments about the relative success of economic programmes.
6. National income estimates throw light on income distribution and the possible inequality in the distribution among different categories of income earners. It is also possible make comparisons of structural statistics, such as ratios of investment, taxes, or government expenditures to GDP.
7. International comparisons in respect of incomes and living standards assist in determining eligibility for loans, and or other funds or conditions on which such loans, and/ or funds are made available. The national income data are also useful to determine the share of nation's contributions to various international bodies.
8. Combined with financial and monetary data, national income data provide a guide to make policies for growth and inflation.

9. National income or a relevant component of it is an indispensable variable considered in economic forecasting and to make projections about the future development trends of the economy.



1.3 DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF NATIONAL INCOME

The basic concepts and definitions of the terms used in national accounts largely follow those given in the UN System of National Accounts (SNA) developed by United Nations to provide a comprehensive conceptual and accounting framework for compiling and reporting macroeconomic statistics for analysing and evaluating the performance of an economy. Each of these concepts has a specific meaning, use and method of measurement.

National income accounts have three sides: a product side, an expenditure side and an income side. The product side measures production based on concept of value added. The expenditure side looks at the final sales of goods and services. Whereas the income side measures the distribution of the proceeds from sales to different factors of production. Accordingly, national income is a measure of the total flow of 'earnings of the factor-owners' which they receive through the production of goods and services. Thus, national income is the sum total of all the incomes accruing over a specified period to the residents of a country and consists of wages, salaries, profits, rent and interest.

On the product side there are two widely reported measures of overall production namely, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP).

1.3.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP_{MP})

Gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure of the market value of all final economic goods and services, gross of depreciation, produced within the domestic territory of a country during a given time period. It is the sum total of 'value added' by all producing units in the domestic territory and includes value added by current production by foreign residents or foreign-owned firms. The term 'gross' implies that GDP is measured 'gross' of depreciation. 'Domestic' means domestic territory or resident production units. However, GDP excludes transfer payments, financial transactions and non-reported output generated through illegal transactions such as narcotics and gambling (these are also known as 'bads' as opposed to goods which GDP accounts for).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is in fact Gross Domestic Product at market prices (GDP_{MP}) because the value of goods and services is determined by the common measuring unit of money or it is evaluated at market prices. Money enables us to measure and find the aggregate of different types of products expressed in different units of measurement by converting them in terms of Rupees, say tonnes of wheat may, thus, be added with millions of apples and with value of services such as airplane journeys.

$$GDP_{MP} = \text{Value of Output in the Domestic Territory} - \text{Value of Intermediate Consumption}$$

$$GDP_{MP} = \sum \text{Value Added}$$

While learning about national income, there are a few important points which one needs to bear in mind:

- (i) The value of only final goods and services or only the value added by the production process would be included in GDP. By 'value added' we mean the difference between value of output and purchase of intermediate goods. Value added represents the contribution of labour and capital to the production process.
- (ii) Intermediate consumption consists of the value of the goods and services consumed as inputs by a process of production, excluding fixed assets whose consumption is recorded as consumption of fixed capital. Intermediate goods used to produce other goods rather than being sold to final purchasers are not counted as it would involve double counting. The intermediate goods or services may be either transformed or used up by the production process. For example, the value of flour used in making bread would not be counted as it will be included while bread is counted. This is because flour is an intermediate good in bread making process. Similarly, if we include the value of an automobile in GDP, we should not be including the value of the tyres separately.
- (iii) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of production activity. GDP covers all production activities recognized by SNA called the 'production boundary'. The production boundary covers production of almost all goods and services classified in the National Industrial Classification (NIC). Production of agriculture, forestry and fishing which are used for own consumption of producers is also included in the production boundary. Thus, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any nation represents the sum total of gross value added

(GVA) (i.e, without discounting for capital consumption or depreciation) in all the sectors of that economy during the said year.

- (iv) Economic activities, as distinguished from non-economic activities, include all human activities which create goods and services that are exchanged in a market and valued at market price. Non-economic activities are those which produce goods and services, but since these are not exchanged in a market transaction they do not command any market value; for e.g. hobbies, housekeeping and child rearing services of home makers and services of family members that are done out of love and affection.
- (v) National income is a 'flow' measure of output per time period—for example, per year—and includes only those goods and services produced in the current period i.e. produced during the time interval under consideration. The value of market transactions such as exchange of goods which already exist or are previously produced, do not enter into the calculation of national income. Therefore, the value of assets such as stocks and bonds which are exchanged during the pertinent period are not included in national income as these do not directly involve current production of goods and services. However, the value of services that accompany the sale and purchase (e.g. fees paid to real estate agents and lawyers) represent current production and, therefore, is included in national income.
- (vi) An important point to remember is that two types of goods used in the production process are counted in GDP namely, capital goods (business plant and equipment purchases) and inventory investment—the net change in inventories of final goods awaiting sale or of materials used in the production which may be positive or negative. Additions to inventory stocks of final goods and materials belong to GDP because they are currently produced output.

The national income in real terms when available by industry of origin, give a measure of the structural changes in the pattern of production in the country which is vital for economic analysis.

1.3.2 Nominal GDP vs Real GDP: GDP at Current and Constant prices

Since we measure the value of output in terms of market prices, GDP, which is essentially a quantity measure, is sensitive to changes in the average price level. The same physical output will correspond to a different GDP level if the average level of market prices changes. That is, if prices rise, GDP measured at market prices will also rise without any real increase in physical output. This is misleading because it does not reflect the changes in the actual volume of output. To correct this i.e. to

eliminate the effect of prices, in addition to computing GDP in terms of current market prices, termed 'nominal GDP' or 'GDP at current prices', the national income accountants also calculate 'real GDP' or 'GDP at constant prices' which is the value of domestic product in terms of constant prices of a chosen base year. Real GDP changes only when production changes. As a rule, when prices are changing drastically, nominal GDP and real GDP diverge substantially. The converse is true when prices are more or less constant. For example, the GDP of 2015-16 may be expressed either at prices of that year or at prices that prevailed in 2011-12. In the former case, GDP will be affected by price changes, but in the latter case GDP will change only when there has been a change in physical output.

1.3.3 Gross National Product (GNP)

Gross National Product (GNP) is a measure of the market value of all final economic goods and services, gross of depreciation, produced within the domestic territory of a country by normal residents during an accounting year including net factor incomes from abroad. Gross National Product (GNP) is evaluated at market prices and therefore it is in fact Gross National Product at market prices (GNP_{MP}).

$$GNP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$$

$$GDP_{MP} = GNP_{MP} - \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$$

NFIA is the difference between the aggregate amount that a country's citizens and companies earn abroad, and the aggregate amount that foreign citizens and overseas companies earn in that country.

If Net Factor Income from Abroad is positive, then GNP_{MP} would be greater than GDP_{MP} .

You might have noticed that the distinction between 'national' and 'domestic' is net factor income from abroad.

$$\text{National} = \text{Domestic} + \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$$

The two concepts GDP and GNP differ in their treatment of international transactions. The term 'national' refers to normal residents of a country who may be within or outside the domestic territory of a country and is a broader concept compared to the term 'domestic'. For example, GNP includes earnings of Indian corporations overseas and Indian residents working overseas; but GDP does not include these. In other words, GDP excludes net factor income from abroad.

Conversely, GDP includes earnings from current production in India that accrue to foreign residents or foreign-owned firms; GNP excludes those items. For instance, profits earned in India by X Company, a foreign-owned firm, would be included in GDP but not in GNP. Similarly, profits earned by Company Y, an Indian company in UK would be excluded from GDP, but included in GNP.

1.3.4 Net Domestic Product at market prices (NDP_{MP})

Net domestic product at market prices (NDP_{MP}) is a measure of the market value of all final economic goods and services, produced within the domestic territory of a country by its normal residents and non residents during an accounting year less depreciation. The portion of the capital stock used up in the process of production or depreciation must be subtracted from final sales because depreciation represents capital consumption and therefore a cost of production.

$$\text{NDP}_{\text{MP}} = \text{GDP}_{\text{MP}} - \text{Depreciation}$$

$$\text{NDP}_{\text{MP}} = \text{NNP}_{\text{MP}} - \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$$

As you are aware, the basis of distinction between 'gross' and 'net' is depreciation or consumption of fixed capital.

$$\text{Gross} = \text{Net} + \text{Depreciation or Net} = \text{Gross} - \text{Depreciation}$$

1.3.5 Net National Product at Market Prices (NNP_{MP})

Net National Product at Market Prices (NNP_{MP}) is a measure of the market value of all final economic goods and services, produced by normal residents within the domestic territory of a country including Net Factor Income from Abroad during an accounting year excluding depreciation.

$$\text{NNP}_{\text{MP}} = \text{GNP}_{\text{MP}} - \text{Depreciation}$$

$$\text{NNP}_{\text{MP}} = \text{NDP}_{\text{MP}} + \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$$

$$\text{NNP}_{\text{MP}} = \text{GDP}_{\text{MP}} + \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad} - \text{Depreciation}$$

1.3.6 Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost (GDP_{FC})

The production and income approach (which we will discuss later in this unit) measure the domestic product as the cost paid to the factors of production. Therefore, it is known as 'domestic product at factor cost'. GDP at factor cost is

called so because it represents the total cost of factors viz. labor, capital and entrepreneurship.

At this stage, we need to clearly understand the difference between the concepts: 'market price' and 'factor cost.' In addition to factor cost, the market value of the goods and services will include indirect taxes which are:

- **product taxes** like excise duties, customs, sales tax, service tax etc., levied by the government on goods and services, and
- **taxes on production**, such as, factory license fee, taxes to be paid to the local authorities, pollution tax etc. which are unrelated to the quantum of production.

You might have noticed that the government gives subsidy to many goods and services. The market price will be lower by the amount of subsidies on products and production which the government pays to the producer. Hence, the market value of final expenditure would exceed the total obtained at factor cost by the amount of product and production taxes reduced by the value of similar kinds of subsidies. Direct taxes do not have the same effect since they do not impinge directly on transactions but are levied directly on the incomes. For example if the factor cost of a unit of good X is ₹ 50/, indirect taxes amount to ₹ 15/per unit and the government gives a subsidy of ₹ 10/per unit, then market price will be ₹ 55/-

Thus, we find that the basis of distinction between market price and factor cost is net indirect taxes (i.e., Indirect taxes - Subsidies).

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Market Price} &= \text{Factor Cost} + \text{Net Indirect Taxes} \\ &= \text{Factor Cost} + \text{Indirect Taxes} - \text{Subsidies}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Factor Cost} &= \text{Market Price} - \text{Net Indirect Taxes} \\ &= \text{Market Price} - \text{Indirect Taxes} + \text{Subsidies}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost (GDP}_{FC}) &= \text{GDP}_{MP} - \text{Indirect Taxes} + \text{Subsidies} \\ &= \text{Compensation of employees} \\ &\quad + \text{Operating Surplus (rent + interest + profit)}\end{aligned}$$

+ Mixed Income of Self- employed

+ Depreciation

1.3.7 Net Domestic Product at Factor Cost (NDP_{FC})

Net Domestic Product at Factor Cost (NDP_{FC}) is defined as the total factor incomes earned by the factors of production. In other words, it is sum of domestic factor incomes or domestic income net of depreciation.

As mentioned above, market price includes indirect taxes imposed by government. We have to deduct indirect taxes and add the subsidies in order to calculate that part of domestic product which actually accrues to the factors of production. The measure that we obtain so is called Net Domestic Product at factor cost.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{NDP}_{\text{FC}} &= \text{NDP}_{\text{MP}} - \text{Net Indirect Taxes} \\ &= \text{Compensation of employees} \\ &\quad + \text{Operating Surplus (rent + interest + profit)} \\ &\quad + \text{Mixed Income of Self- employed}\end{aligned}$$

1.3.8 Net National Product at Factor Cost (NNP_{FC}) or National Income

National Income is defined as the factor income accruing to the normal residents of the country during a year. It is the sum of domestic factor income and net factor income from abroad. In other words, national income is the value of factor income generated within the country plus factor income from abroad in an accounting year.

$\text{NNP}_{\text{FC}} = \text{National Income} = \text{FID (factor income earned in domestic territory)} + \text{NFIA}$.

If NFIA is positive, then national income will be greater than domestic factor incomes.

1.3.9 Per Capita Income

The GDP per capita is a measure of a country's economic output per person. It is obtained by dividing the country's gross domestic product, adjusted by inflation, by the total population. It serves as an indicator of the standard of living of a country.

1.3.10 Personal Income

While **national income** is income earned by factors of production, Personal Income is the income received by the household sector including Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households. Thus, national income is a measure of income earned and personal income is a measure of actual current income receipts of persons from all sources which may or may not be earned from productive activities during a given period of time. In other words, it is the income 'actually paid out' to the household sector, but not necessarily earned. Examples of this include transfer payments such as social security benefits, unemployment compensation, welfare payments etc. Individuals also contribute income which they do not actually receive; for example, undistributed corporate profits and the contribution of employers to social security. Personal income forms the basis for consumption expenditures and is derived from national income as follows:

$$\text{PI} = \text{NI} + \text{income received but not earned} - \text{income earned but not received.}$$

An important point to remember is that national income is not the sum of personal incomes because personal income includes transfer payments (eg. pension) which are excluded from national income. Also, not all national income accrues to individuals as their personal income.

1.3.11 Disposable Personal Income (DI)

Disposable personal income is a measure of amount of the money in the hands of the individuals that is available for their consumption or savings. Disposable personal income is derived from personal income by subtracting the direct taxes paid by individuals and other compulsory payments made to the government.

$$\text{DI} = \text{PI} - \text{Personal Income Taxes}$$



1.4 MEASUREMENT OF NATIONAL INCOME IN INDIA

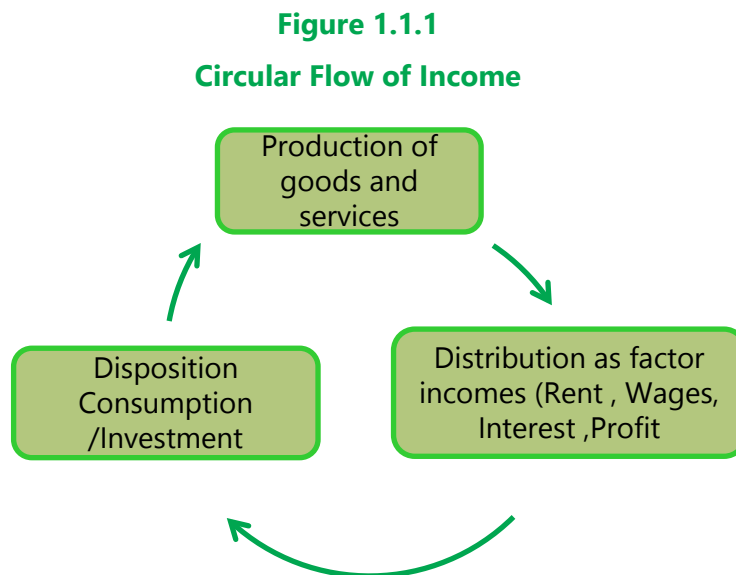
National Accounts Statistics (NAS) in India are compiled by National Accounts Division in the Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Annual as well as quarterly estimates are published. This publication is the key source-material for all macroeconomic data of the country. As per the mandate of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003,

the Ministry of Finance uses the GDP numbers (at current prices) to determine the fiscal targets.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the new series of national accounts, revising the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12. In the revision of National Accounts statistics done by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) in January 2015, it was decided that sector-wise estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA) will now be given at *basic prices* instead of at *factor cost*. In simple terms, for any commodity the 'basic price' is the amount receivable by the producer from the purchaser for a unit of a product minus any *tax on the product* plus any *subsidy on the product*.

1.4.1 The Circular Flow of Income

Circular flow of income refers to the continuous circulation of production, income generation and expenditure involving different sectors of the economy. There are three different interlinked phases in a circular flow of income, namely: production, distribution and disposition as can be seen from the following figure.



- (i) In the production phase, firms produce goods and services with the help of factor services.
- (ii) In the income or distribution phase, the flow of factor incomes in the form of rent, wages, interest and profits from firms to the households occurs

- (iii) In the expenditure or disposition phase, the income received by different factors of production is spent on consumption goods and services and investment goods. This expenditure leads to further production of goods and services and sustains the circular flow.

These processes of production, distribution and disposition keep going on simultaneously and enable us to look at national income from three different angles namely: as a flow of production or value added, as a flow of income and as a flow of expenditure. Each of these different ways of looking at national income suggests a different method of calculation and requires a different set of data. The details in respect of what is measured and what data are required for all three methods mentioned above are given in the following table.

Table 1.1.1

Data requirements and Outcomes of Different Methods of National Income Calculation

Method	Data required	What is measured
Phase of Output: Value added method (Product Method)	The sum of net values added by all the producing enterprises of the country	Contribution of production units
Phase of income : Income Method	Total factor incomes generated in the production of goods and services	Relative contribution of factor owners
Phase of disposition: Expenditure method	Sum of expenditures of the three spending units in the economy, namely, government, consumer households, and producing enterprises	Flow of consumption and investment expenditures

Corresponding to the three phases, there are three methods of measuring national income. They are: Value Added Method (alternatively known as Product Method); Income Method; and Expenditure Method.

1.4.2 Value Added Method or Product Method

Product Method or Value Added Method is also called Industrial Origin Method or Net Output Method. National income by value added method is the sum total of

net value added at factor cost across all producing units of the economy. The value added method measures the contribution of each producing enterprise in the domestic territory of the country in an accounting year and entails consolidation of production of each industry less intermediate purchases from all other industries. This method of measurement shows the unduplicated contribution by each industry to the total output. This method involves the following steps:

Step 1. Identifying the producing enterprises and classifying them into different sectors according to the nature of their activities

All the producing enterprises are broadly classified into three main sectors namely:

- (i) Primary sector,
- (ii) Secondary sector, and
- (iii) Tertiary sector or service sector

These sectors are further divided into sub-sectors and each sub-sector is further divided into commodity group or service-group.

Step 2. Estimating the gross value added (GVA_{MP}) by each producing enterprise

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Gross value added (GVA}_{MP}) &= \text{Value of output} - \text{Intermediate consumption} \\ &= (\text{Sales} + \text{change in stock}) - \text{consumption} \end{aligned}$$

Step 3. Estimation of National income

For each individual unit, Net value added is found out.

$$\sum (GVA_{MP}) - \text{Depreciation} = \text{Net value added (NVA}_{MP})$$

Adding the net value-added by all the units in one sub-sector, we get the net value-added by the sub-sector. By adding net value-added or net products of all the sub-sectors of a sector, we get the value-added or net product of that sector. For the economy as a whole, we add the net products contributed by each sector to get Net Domestic Product. We subtract net indirect taxes and add net factor income from abroad to get national income.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Net value added (NVA}_{MP}) - \text{Net Indirect taxes} &= \text{Net Domestic Product} \\ (\text{NVA}_{FC}) & \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Net Domestic Product (NVA}_{FC}) + (\text{NFIA}) = \text{National Income (NNP}_{FC})$$

The values of the following items are also included:

- (i) Own account production of fixed assets by government, enterprises and households.
- (ii) Production for self- consumption, and
- (iii) Imputed rent of owner occupied houses.

1.4.3 Income Method

Production is carried out by the combined effort of all factors of production. The factors are paid factor incomes for the services rendered. In other words, whatever is produced by a producing unit is distributed among the factors of production for their services.

Under Factor Income Method, also called Factor Payment Method or Distributed Share Method, national income is calculated by summation of factor incomes paid out by all production units within the domestic territory of a country as wages and salaries, rent, interest, and profit. By definition, it includes factor payments to both residents and non- residents.

Thus,

NDP_{FC} = Sum of factor incomes paid out by all production units within the domestic territory of a country

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NNP}_{FC} \text{ or National Income} &= \text{Compensation of employees} \\ &+ \text{Operating Surplus (rent + interest + profit)} \\ &+ \text{Mixed Income of Self- employed} \\ &+ \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad} \end{aligned}$$

Only incomes earned by owners of primary factors of production are included in national income. Transfer incomes are excluded from national income. Thus, while wages of labourers will be included, pensions of retired workers will be excluded from national income. Labour income includes, apart from wages and salaries, bonus, commission, employers' contribution to provident fund and compensations in kind. Non-labour income includes dividends, undistributed profits of

corporations before taxes, interest, rent, royalties and profits of unincorporated enterprises and of government enterprises.

However, normally, it is difficult to separate labour income from capital income because in many instances people provide both labour and capital services. Such is the case with self-employed people like lawyers, engineers, traders, proprietors etc. In economies where subsistence production and small commodity production is dominant, most of the incomes of people would be of mixed type. In sectors such as agriculture, trade, transport etc. in underdeveloped countries (including India), it is difficult to differentiate between the labour element and the capital element of incomes of the people. In order to overcome this difficulty a new category of incomes, called 'mixed income' is introduced which includes all those incomes which are difficult to separate.

1.4.4 Expenditure Method

In the expenditure approach, also called Income Disposal Approach, national income is the aggregate final expenditure in an economy during an accounting year. In the expenditure approach to measuring GDP, we add up the value of the goods and services purchased by each type of final user mentioned below.

1. Final Consumption Expenditure

(a) Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)

To measure this, the volume of final sales of goods and services to consumer households and nonprofit institutions serving households acquired for consumption (not for use in production) are multiplied by market prices and then summation is done. It also includes the value of primary products which are produced for own consumption by the households, payments for domestic services which one household renders to another, the net expenditure on foreign financial assets or net foreign investment. Land and residential buildings purchased or constructed by households are not part of PFCE. They are included in gross capital formation. Thus, only expenditure on final goods and services produced in the period for which national income is to be measured and net foreign investment are included in the expenditure method of calculating national income.

(b) Government Final Consumption Expenditure

Since the collective services provided by the governments such as defence, education, healthcare etc are not sold in the market, the only way they can be valued in money terms is by adding up the money spent by the government in the

production of these services. This total expenditure is treated as consumption expenditure of the government. Government expenditure on pensions, scholarships, unemployment allowance etc. should be excluded because these are transfer payments.

2. Gross Domestic Capital formation

Gross domestic fixed capital formation includes final expenditure on machinery and equipment and own account production of machinery and equipments, expenditure on construction, expenditure on changes in inventories, and expenditure on the acquisition of valuables such as, jewelry and works of art.

3. Net Exports

Net exports are the difference between exports and imports of a country during the accounting year. It can be positive or negative.

How do we arrive at national income or NNP_{FC} using expenditure method ? We first find the sum of final consumption expenditure, gross domestic capital formation and net exports. The resulting figure is gross domestic product at market price (GDP_{MP}). To this, we add the net factor income from abroad and obtain Gross National Product at market price (GNP_{MP}). Subtracting indirect taxes from GNP_{MP} , we get Gross National Product at factor cost (GNP_{FC}). National income or NNP_{FC} is obtained by subtracting depreciation from Gross national product at factor cost (GNP_{FC}).

Ideally, all the three methods of national income computation should arrive at the same figure. When national income of a country is measured separately using these methods, we get a three dimensional view of the economy. Each method of measuring GDP is subject to measurement errors and each method provides a check on the accuracy of the other methods. By calculating total output in several different ways and then trying to resolve the differences, we will be able to arrive at a more accurate measure than would be possible with one method alone. Moreover, different ways of measuring total output give us different insights into the structure of our economy.

Income method may be most suitable for developed economies where people properly file their income tax returns. With the growing facility in the use of the commodity flow method of estimating expenditures, an increasing proportion of the national income is being estimated by expenditure method. As a matter of fact, countries like India are unable to estimate their national income wholly by one method. Thus, in agricultural sector, net value added is estimated by the production

method, in small scale sector net value added is estimated by the income method and in the construction sector net value added is estimated by the expenditure method.

1.5 THE SYSTEM OF REGIONAL ACCOUNTS IN INDIA

Regional accounts provide an integrated database on the innumerable transactions taking place in the regional economy and help decision making at the regional level. At present, practically all the states and union territories of India compute state income estimates and district level estimates. State Income or Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) is a measure in monetary terms of the volume of all goods and services produced in the state within a given period of time (generally a year) accounted without duplication. Per Capita State Income is obtained by dividing the NSDP (State Income) by the midyear projected population of the state.

The state level estimates are prepared by the State Income Units of the respective State Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DESs). The Central Statistical Organisation assists the States in the preparation of these estimates by rendering advice on conceptual and methodological problems. In the preparation of state income estimates, certain activities such as are railways, communications, banking and insurance and central government administration, that cut across state boundaries, and thus their economic contribution cannot be assigned to any one state directly are known as the 'Supra-regional sectors' of the economy. The estimates for these supra regional activities are compiled for the economy as a whole and allocated to the states on the basis of relevant indicators.

1.6 LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL INCOME COMPUTATION

There are innumerable limitations and challenges in the computation of national income. The task is more complex in underdeveloped and developing countries. Following are the general dilemmas in measurement of national income. GDP measures ignore the following:

- (a) Income distributions and, therefore, GDP per capita is a completely inadequate measure of welfare. Countries may have significantly different income distributions and, consequently, different levels of overall well-being for the same level of per capita income.

- (b) Quality improvements in systems and processes due to technological as well as managerial innovations which reflect true growth in output from year to year.
- (c) Productions hidden from government authorities, either because those engaged in it are evading taxes or because it is illegal (drugs, gambling etc).
- (d) Nonmarket production (with a few exceptions) and Non-economic contributors to well-being for example: health of a country's citizens, education levels, political participation, or other social and political factors that may significantly affect well-being levels.
- (e) The disutility of loss of leisure time. We know that, other things remaining the same, a country's GDP rises if the total hours of work increase.
- (f) Economic 'bads' for example: crime, pollution, traffic congestion etc which make us worse off.
- (g) The volunteer work and services rendered without remuneration undertaken in the economy, even though such work can contribute to social well-being as much as paid work.
- (h) Many things that contribute to our economic welfare such as, leisure time, fairness, gender equality, security of community feeling etc.,
- (i) The distinction between production that makes us better off and production that only prevents us from becoming worse off, for e.g. defence expenditures such as on police protection. Increased expenditure on police due to increase in crimes may increase GDP but these expenses only prevent us from becoming worse off. However, no reflection is made in national income of the negative impacts of higher crime rates. As another example, automobile accidents result in production of repairs, output of medical services, insurance, and legal services all of which are production included in GDP just as any other production.

There are many conceptual difficulties related to measurement which are difficult to resolve, such as:

- (a) lack of an agreed definition of national income,
- (b) accurate distinction between final goods and intermediate goods,
- (c) issue of transfer payments,
- (d) services of durable goods,

- (e) difficulty of incorporating distribution of income
- (f) valuation of a new good at constant prices, and
- (g) valuation of government services

Other challenges relate to:

- (a) Inadequacy of data and lack of reliability of available data,
- (b) presence of non-monetised sector,
- (c) production for self-consumption,
- (d) absence of recording of incomes due to illiteracy and ignorance,
- (e) lack of proper occupational classification, and
- (f) accurate estimation of consumption of fixed capital

SUMMARY

- National income accounts are extremely useful for analyzing and evaluating the performance of an economy, knowing the composition and structure of the national income, income distribution, economic forecasting and for choosing economic policies and evaluating them..
- Gross domestic product (GDP_{MP}) is a measure of the market value of all final economic goods and services, gross of depreciation, produced within the domestic territory of a country during a given time period gross of depreciation.
- Capital goods (business plant and equipment purchases) and inventory investment—the net change in inventories of final goods awaiting sale or of materials used in the production are counted in GDP
- To eliminate the effect of prices, in addition computing GDP in terms of current market prices, termed 'nominal GDP' or GDP at current prices, the national income accountants also calculate 'real GDP' or GDP at constant prices which is the value of domestic product in terms of constant prices of a chosen base year.
- $GNP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$
- $NDP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} - \text{Depreciation}$
- $NDP_{MP} = NNP_{MP} - \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$

- $NNP_{MP} = GNP_{MP} - \text{Depreciation}$
- $\text{Market Price} = \text{Factor Cost} + \text{Net Indirect Taxes} = \text{Factor Cost} + \text{Indirect Taxes} - \text{Subsidies}$
- $\text{Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost (GDP}_{FC}) = GNP_{MP} - \text{Indirect Taxes} + \text{Subsidies}$
- Net Domestic Product at Factor Cost (NDP_{FC}) is defined as the total factor incomes earned by the factors of production.
- Net National Product at Factor Cost (NNP_{FC}) or National Income
- $NNP_{FC} = \text{National Income} = \text{FID (factor income earned in domestic territory)} + \text{NFIA}$.
- Personal income is a measure of the actual current income receipt of persons from all sources. Disposable Personal Income (DI) that is available for their consumption or savings $DI = PI - \text{Personal Income Taxes}$
- Circular flow of income refers to the continuous interlinked phases in circulation of production, income generation and expenditure involving different sectors of the economy.
- Product Method or Value Added Method is also called Industrial Origin Method or Net Output Method and entails the consolidation of the production of each industry less intermediate purchases from all other industries.
- Under income method, national income is calculated by summation of factor incomes paid out by all production units within the domestic territory of a country as wages and salaries, rent, interest, and profit. Transfer incomes are excluded.
- Under the expenditure approach, also called Income Disposal Approach, national income is the aggregate final expenditure in an economy during an accounting year composed of final consumption expenditure, gross domestic capital formation and net exports.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

I Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. The concept of 'resident unit' involved in the definition of GDP denotes
 - (a) A business enterprise which belongs to a citizen of India with production units solely situated in India
 - (b) the unit having predominant economic interest in the economic territory of the country for one year or more irrespective of the nationality or legal status
 - (c) A citizen household which had been living in India during the accounting year and one whose economic interests are solely in India
 - (d) Households and business enterprises composed of citizens of India alone living in India during the accounting year
2. Read the following statements and answer the following question.
 - I. Intermediate consumption consists of the value of the goods and services consumed as inputs by a process of production,
 - II. Intermediate consumption excludes fixed assets whose consumption is recorded as consumption of fixed capital.
 - (a) Only I is true
 - (b) Both I and II are true
 - (c) Only II is true
 - (d) Neither I nor II is true
3. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any nation
 - (a) excludes capital consumption and intermediate consumption
 - (b) is inclusive of capital consumption or depreciation
 - (c) is inclusive of indirect taxes but excludes subsidies
 - (d) None of the above
4. While computing Gross Domestic Product (GDP), intermediate goods
 - (a) are counted as part of final consumption expenditure
 - (b) are counted on a value added basis but excluded from gross output

- (c) are not counted as it would involve double counting
 - (d) are treated as stock in trade and therefore included in computation
5. Read the following statements
- I 'Value added' refer to the difference between value of output and purchase of intermediate goods.
 - II. Value added' represent the contribution of labour and capital to the production process.
- (a) Statements I and II are incorrect
 - (b) Statements I and II are correct
 - (c) Statement I is correct and II is incorrect
 - (d) Statement II is correct and I is incorrect
6. Non-economic activities are
- (a) those activities whose value is excluded from national income calculation as it will involve double counting
 - (b) those which produce goods and services, but since these are not exchanged in a market transaction they do not command any market value
 - (c) those which do not involve production of goods and services as they are meant to provide hobbies and leisure time activities
 - (d) those which result in production for self consumption and therefore not included in national income calculation
7. Which of the following does not enter into the calculation of national income?
- (a) exchange of previously produced goods
 - (b) exchange of second hand goods
 - (c) exchange of stocks and bonds
 - (d) all the above
8. Which of the following enters into the calculation of national income?
- (a) the value of the services that accompany the sale
 - (b) Additions to inventory stocks of final goods and materials

- (c) Stocks and bonds sold during the current year
- (d) (a) and (b) above
9. Nominal GDP is
- (a) GDP at current prices
- (b) GDP at constant prices
- (c) Real GDP
- (d) (a) and (c) above
10. Gross National Product at market prices GNP_{MP} is
- (a) $GDP_{MP} + \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$
- (b) $GDP_{MP} - \text{Net Factor Income from Abroad}$
- (c) $GDP_{MP} - \text{Depreciation}$
- (d) $GDP_{MP} + \text{Net Indirect Taxes}$
11. Choose the correct statement
- (a) GNP includes earnings of Indian corporations overseas and Indian residents working overseas; but GDP does not include these
- (b) $NNP_{FC} = \text{National Income} = \text{FID (factor income earned in domestic territory)} - \text{NFIA}$.
- (c) capital goods and inventory investment are excluded from computation of GDP
- (d) $NDP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + \text{Depreciation}$
12. The basis of distinction between market price and factor cost is
- (a) net factor income from abroad
- (b) net indirect taxes (i.e., Indirect taxes - Subsidies)
- (c) net indirect taxes (i.e., Indirect taxes + Subsidies)
- (d) depreciation (consumption of fixed capital)
13. If net factor income from abroad is positive, then
- (a) national income will be greater than domestic factor incomes.
- (b) national income will be less than domestic factor incomes.

- (c) net exports will be negative
 - (d) domestic factor incomes will be greater than national income
14. The GDP per capita is
- (a) a measure of a country's economic output per person
 - (b) actual current income receipts of persons
 - (c) national income divided by population
 - (d) (a) and (c) above
15. The new series of national accounts in India, is published revising the base year from
- (a) 2004-05 to 2011-12
 - (b) 2004-05 to 2010-11.
 - (c) 2004-05 to 2014-15.
 - (d) None of the above
16. Which of the following is an example of transfer payment?
- (a) Old age pensions and family pensions
 - (b) Scholarships given to deserving diligent students.
 - (c) Compensation given for loss of property due to floods
 - (d) All the above
17. Mixed income of the self-employed means
- (a) net profits received by self-employed people
 - (b) outside wages received by self-employed people
 - (c) combined factor payments which are not distinguishable,
 - (d) wages due to non-economic activities
18. Demand for final consumption arises in
- (a) household sector only
 - (b) government sector only

- (c) both household and government sectors
 - (d) neither household nor government sector
19. GDP per capita is a completely inadequate measure of welfare because
- (a) It reflects only incomes accrued not earned
 - (b) It does not reflect distribution of income among people
 - (c) It is usually low in underdeveloped countries
 - (d) Net factor income from abroad is not included in it
20. Which of the following is added to national income while calculating personal income?
- (a) Transfer payments to individuals
 - (b) Undistributed profits of corporate
 - (c) Transfer payments made to foreigners
 - (d) Mixed income of self employed

II Short Answer Type Questions

1. Define national income
2. What function does the System of National accounts (SNA) serve?
3. Define GDP_{MP}
4. What do you understand by 'value added'?
5. Distinguish between Intermediate goods and final goods
6. Distinguish between non-economic activities and economic activities
7. Distinguish between nominal GDP and real GDP
8. Draw the basis of distinction between GDP current and constant prices
9. What is the difference between 'national' and 'domestic'?
10. What do you understand by 'factor cost'?
11. Differentiate between 'taxes on production' and 'product taxes'
12. Define 'mixed income of self-employed'
13. Define Per Capita Income

14. How does Personal Income differ from Disposable Personal Income?
15. Define 'Private income' as used in India
16. Illustrate the circular flow of income
17. How do you arrive at 'gross value added'
18. What is meant by intermediate consumption?
19. How is production for self consumption treated in national income accounts?
20. Define 'Net Factor Income from Abroad'
21. What is meant by the term 'net exports'

III Long Answer Type Questions

1. Define national income and explain the usefulness of national income estimates
2. Describe the generally used concepts of national income
3. What are the different methods of calculation of national income
4. Explain the term Gross Domestic Product (GDP). How is it estimated?
5. Distinguish between GDP current and constant prices. What purpose does real GDP serve?
6. What is the difference between the concepts 'market price' and 'factor cost in national income accounting?
7. Illustrate the circular flow of income and describe its relevance for measurement of national income
8. Explain Value Added Method as applied in national income? accounting
9. How is national income calculated under 'Income Method'?
10. Explain 'Expenditure Method' for calculation of national income?
11. Write notes on the system of regional accounts in India
12. Explain with illustrations the limitations of national income computation?

IV Application Oriented Questions

1. Compute National income

Consumption	750
Investment	250
Government Purchases	100
Exports	100
Imports	200

2. Calculate Gross Domestic Product at market Prices (GDP_{MP}) and derive national income from the following data (in Crores of Rupees)

Inventory Investment	100
Exports	200
Indirect taxes	100
Net factor income from abroad	- 50
Personal consumption expenditure	3500
Gross residential construction investment	300
Depreciation	50
Imports	100
Government purchases of goods and services	1000
Gross public investment	200
Gross business fixed investment	300

3. Find GDP_{MP} and GNP_{MP} from the following data (in Crores of Rs) using income method. Show that it is the same as that obtained by expenditure method.

Personal Consumption	7,314
Depreciation	800
Wages	6,508
Indirect Business Taxes	1,000

Interest	1,060
Domestic Investment	1,442
Government Expenditures	2,196
Rental Income	34
Corporate Profits	682
Exports	1,346
Net Factor Income from Abroad	40
Mixed Income	806
Imports	1,408

4. From, the following data calculate the Gross National Product at Market Price using Value Added method

(₹ in Crores)

Value of output in primary sector	500
Net factor income from abroad	-20
Value of output in tertiary sector	700
Intermediate consumption in secondary sector	400
Value of output in secondary sector	900
Government Transfer Payments	600
Intermediate consumption in tertiary sector	300
Intermediate consumption in primary sector	250

ANSWERS/HINTS

I Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (b) 6. (b)
 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (a) 11. (a) 12. (b)
 13. (a) 14. (d) 15. (a) 16. (d) 17. (c) 18. (c)
 19. (b) 20. (a)

II Hints to Short Type Questions

1. The net value of all economic goods and services produced within the domestic territory of a country in an accounting year plus the net factor income from abroad/ the sum total of factor incomes generated by the normal residents of a country in the form of wages, rent , interest and profit in an accounting year'
2. SNA, developed by United Nations, provide a comprehensive conceptual and accounting framework for compiling and reporting macroeconomic statistics for analysing and evaluating the performance of an economy.
3. GDP_{MP} is the market value of all final economic goods and services, gross of depreciation, produced within the domestic territory of a country during a given time period.
4. 'Value added' we mean the difference between value of output and purchase of intermediate goods.
5. Intermediate goods used to produce other goods rather than being sold to final purchasers are not counted as it would involve double counting whereas final goods are those that meant for final consumption
6. Economic activities as distinguished from non-economic activities include all human activities which create goods and services that can be valued at market price . Non-economic activities are those which produce goods and service, but are not exchanged in a market transaction so they do not command any market value.
7. GDP in terms of current market prices, termed 'nominal GDP' or GDP at current prices, the national income accountants also calculate 'real GDP 'or GDP at constant prices' which is the value of domestic product in terms of constant prices of a chosen base year.
8. Refer Hint 7 above.
9. The term 'national' refers to normal residents of a country who may be within or outside the domestic territory of a country and is a broader concept compared to the term 'domestic' which refers to the domestic territory of the country.
10. $\text{Factor Cost} = \text{Market Price} - \text{Net Indirect Taxes} = \text{Market Price} - \text{Indirect Taxes} + \text{Subsidies}$

11. Product taxes are related to the quantum of production and are levied by the government on goods and services (These taxes are known as indirect taxes).
Taxes on production are taxes which are not related to quantum of production like factory, license fee, pollution tax etc.,
12. Mixed income includes all those incomes which are difficult to separate eg. labour income from capital income because people provide both labour and capital services.
13. The GDP per capita is a measure of a country's economic output per person. It is obtained by dividing the country's gross domestic product, adjusted by inflation, by the total population.
14. Personal income is a measure of the actual current income receipt of persons from all sources. Disposable personal income is what is available for their consumption or savings and is derived from personal income by subtracting the direct taxes paid by individuals and other compulsory payments made to the government.
15. National income plus the sum of government transfer payments and interest on national debt and subtracting the property income of government departments and profits of government enterprises.
16. Circular flow of income refers to the continuous circulation of production, income generation and expenditure involving different sectors of the economy. Illustrate
17. Used in the process of production , not counted to avoid double counting
18. Intermediate consumption consists of the value of the goods and services consumed as inputs by a process of production, excluding fixed assets whose consumption is recorded as consumption of fixed capital; the goods or services may be either transformed or used up by the production process.
19. Production for self consumption added under Value Added Method
20. The difference between the aggregate amount that a country's citizens and companies earn abroad, and the aggregate amount that foreign citizens and overseas companies earn in that country.
21. Net exports are the difference between exports and imports of a country during the accounting year. It can be positive or negative.

III to Long Type Questions/ Application Oriented Questions

- I. The length of the answer should relate to the marks allotted.
- II. The answer should be structured in three parts in the following style.
 - (a) Explain the economic fundamentals underlying the action/issue by integrating the course material in innovative ways; not necessarily confined to one unit. This part provides an opportunity for students to explain their understanding of the underlying theory. The examiner may easily discern the level of cognition of the student. This should be a compulsory component with a reasonably high proportion of marks earmarked.
 - (b) Analyse the issue at hand (given the framework and tools) and explain the policy position by applying the fundamentals as explained in (a) above.

Substantiate with illustrations from current economic scenario

IV Application Oriented Question

1. Expenditure Method: National income equals domestic spending

$$Y = C + I + G + (X - M)$$

$$(C + I + G = 1100) \text{ plus exports } (X = 100) \text{ less imports } (M = 200). Y = 1000$$

2. Expenditure Method

GDP_{MP} = Personal consumption expenditure + Gross Investment (Gross business fixed investment + inventory investment) + Gross residential construction investment + Gross public investment + Government purchases of goods and services + Net Exports (Exports-imports)

$$GNP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + \text{Net factor income from abroad}$$

$$GNP_{MP} - \text{Indirect Taxes} = GNP_{FC}$$

$$GNP_{FC} - \text{Depreciation} = NNP_{FC} \text{ (National Income)}$$

$$GDP_{MP} = \text{₹}$$

$$\text{Personal consumption expenditure} = 3500$$

$$+ \text{Gross Investment} = 900$$

$$\text{which include (Gross Business fixed investment)} = 300$$

$$\text{Gross residential construction investment} = 300$$

Gross public investment	=	200
Inventory investment	=	100)
+ Government purchases of goods and services	=	1000
+ Net exports which include:	=	100
(Exports	=	200
Imports	=	100)
GDP _{MP} =	=	5500 Crores
+ Net Factor Income From Abroad	=	-50
GNP _{MP} =	=	5450 Crores
- Indirect Taxes	=	100
GNP _{FC}	=	5350 Crores
- Depreciation	=	50
NNP _{FC} (National Income)	=	5300 Crores

3. Income Method

GDP_{MP} = Employee compensation (wages and salaries + employers' contribution towards social security schemes) + profits + rent + interest + mixed income + depreciation + net indirect taxes (Indirect taxes - subsidies)

$$GDP_{MP} = 6,508 + 34 + 1060 + 806 + 682 + 1,000 + 800 = \mathbf{10,890}$$

$$GNP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + NFIA = 10,890 + 40 = \mathbf{10,930}$$

Expenditure Method

$$Y = C + I + G + (X - M)$$

$$Y = 7314 + 1442 + 2196 + (1346 - 1408)$$

$$Y = (7314 + 1442 + 2196) - 62$$

$$\mathbf{GDP_{MP} = Y = 10890}$$

$$GNP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + NFIA = 10,890 + 40 = \mathbf{10,930}$$

4. GDP_{MP} = (Value of output in primary sector - intermediate consumption of primary sector) + (value of output in secondary sector - intermediate consumption of secondary sector) + (value of output in tertiary sector - intermediate consumption of tertiary sector)

Value of output in primary sector	=	500
- Intermediate consumption of primary sector	=	250
+ Value of output in secondary sector	=	900
- Intermediate consumption in secondary sector	=	400
+ Value of output in tertiary sector	=	700
- Intermediate consumption of tertiary sector	=	300
GDP_{MP}	= ₹ 1150	Crores
GNP_{MP} = GDP_{MP} + NFIA		
GNP_{MP} = 1150 – 20	= ₹ 1130	Crores

