UK experiences in presenting coherent 'Beyond GDP' estimates – Inclusive income 2005-2021

Richard Heys

Inclusive.Wealth@ons.gov.uk

April 2024



GDP: A Short History



London, 1948: Birthplace of the SNA

- Produced capital heavily destroyed / depreciated
- Little human capital ~ <3% of workforce attend university
- Heavily polluted natural capital
- In short only <u>flows</u> matter. More consumption depends on your ability to produce more output.

But in modern economies capital matter, and not just the capitals on the balance sheet...



Will the new SNA revision tackle this?

New capital inclusions make important steps

- New intangible assets
- Inclusion of a wider range of environmental resources
- Tackling global ownership of assets
- But...
 - Not all the intangible assets (branding assets)
 - No human capital
 - No atmosphere
 - Market valuations of environment give very low

Will the new SNA revision tackle this?

New capital inclusions make important steps

- New intangible assets
- Inclusion of a wider range of environmental resources
- Tackling global ownership of assets
- But...
 - Not all the intangible assets (branding assets)
 - No human capital
 - No atmosphere
 - Market valuations of environment give very low

- However...
- Satellite Accounts and SEEA provide sufficient data in exchange price terms to consider how to take a wider perspective.

What is Inclusive Income?

- Measures of <u>economic welfare</u>, which reflect all the goods and services households consume, whether from the market economy (as shown by GDP) or not.
- Based on <u>national accounting</u> principles, which are more <u>inclusive</u> of a broader definition of economic benefits and better capture the <u>sustainability</u> of economic activity
- Gross Inclusive Income: Based on Gross Domestic Product (per capita).
 Broad/<u>inclusive</u> measure of economic activity
- Net Inclusive Income: based on Net National Disposable Income (per capita). Broad/<u>inclusive</u> measure of <u>sustainable</u> income

SNA Production/Economic Activity

SNA Assets

SNA / National Accounts

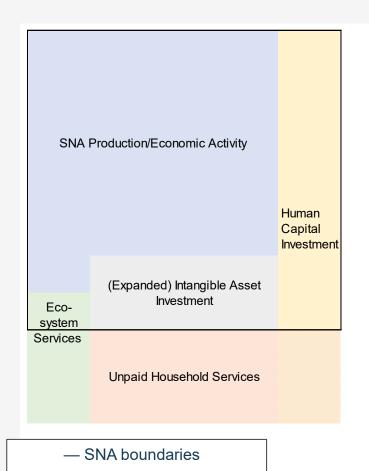
SNA defines two key boundaries for understanding value;

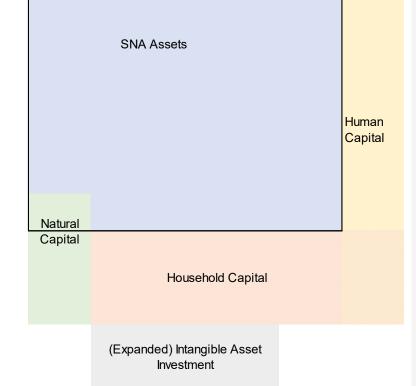
The "Production boundary" defines what counts as value-creating economic activity

The "Asset Boundary" helps define what is treated as a capital*

— SNA boundaries

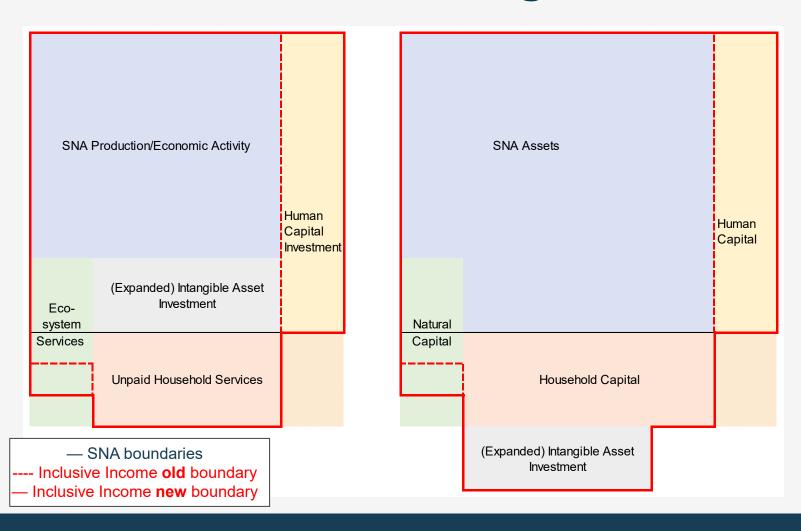
*(For this simplified example I'm ignoring non-produced assets, so this could also be thought of as the capital boundary)





Inclusive Income: End Goal

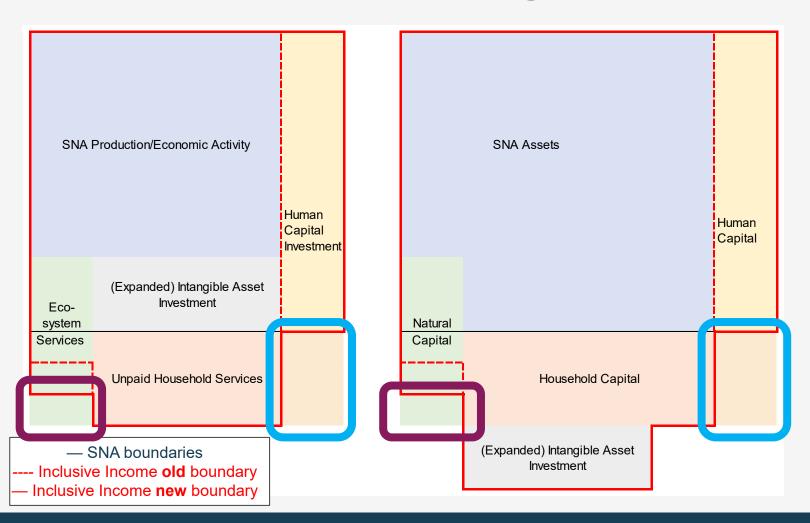
This shows how inclusive income intends to amend the two boundaries, as well as where it intends to make alternations within the boundaries



Inclusive Income: Latest Publication

Our latest publication contains 3 changes to the boundaries:

- A large share of human capital is now capitalised
- A subset of natural capital depletion is included
- More ecosystem services are included



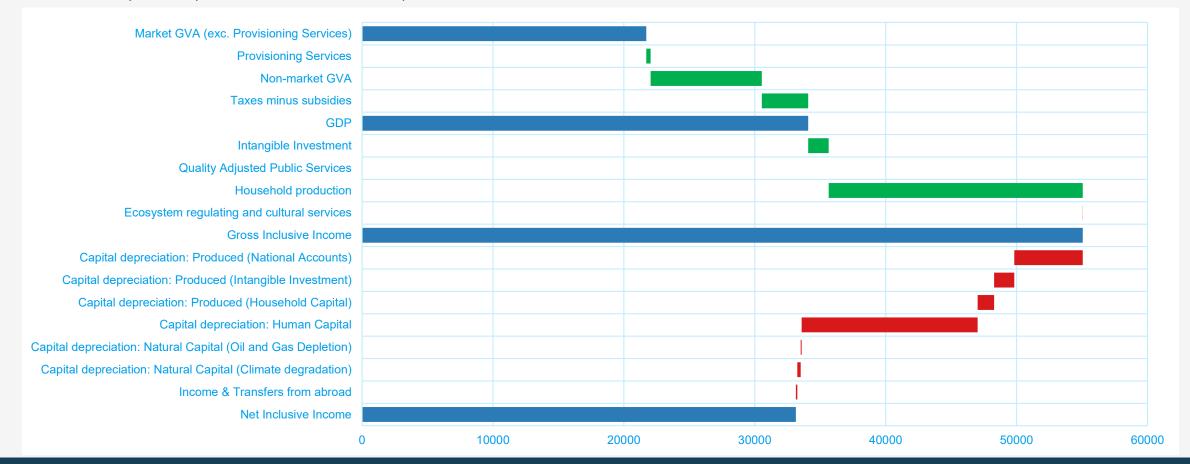
Inclusive Income: Future Work

This still leaves two key areas we will need to work on for future publications, affecting both boundaries:

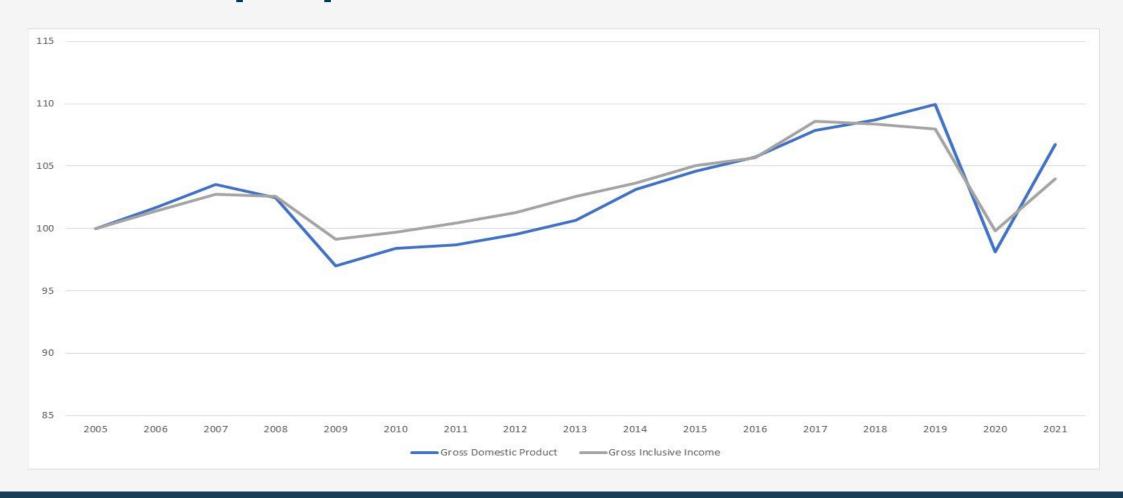
- Missing coverage of natural capitals and the services they provide (mostly due to not have data back to 2005).
- The human capital associated with household unpaid services needs to be capitalised.

Overview: Headline data

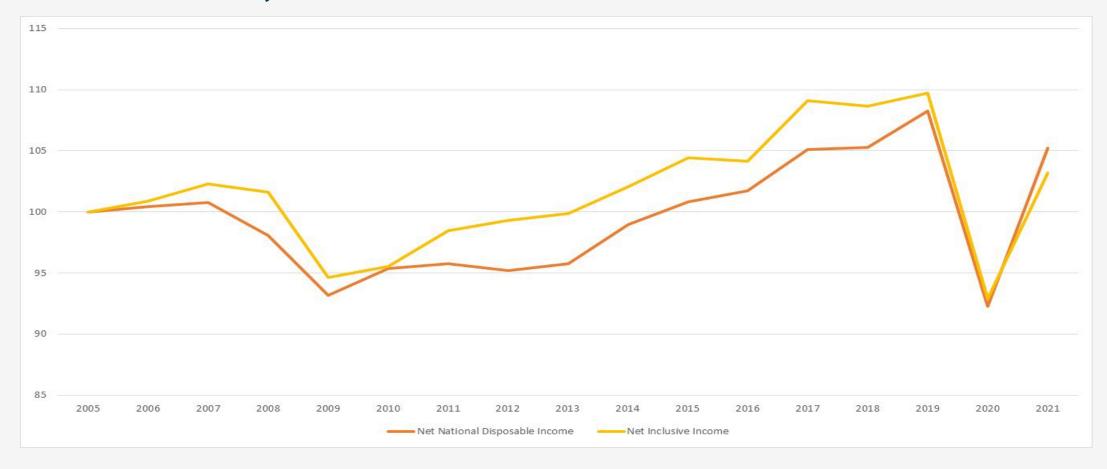
Waterfall contributions to different economic measures, 2021, Current Prices £m, UK



New narratives: Gll per person peaked in 2017, unlike GDP per person.

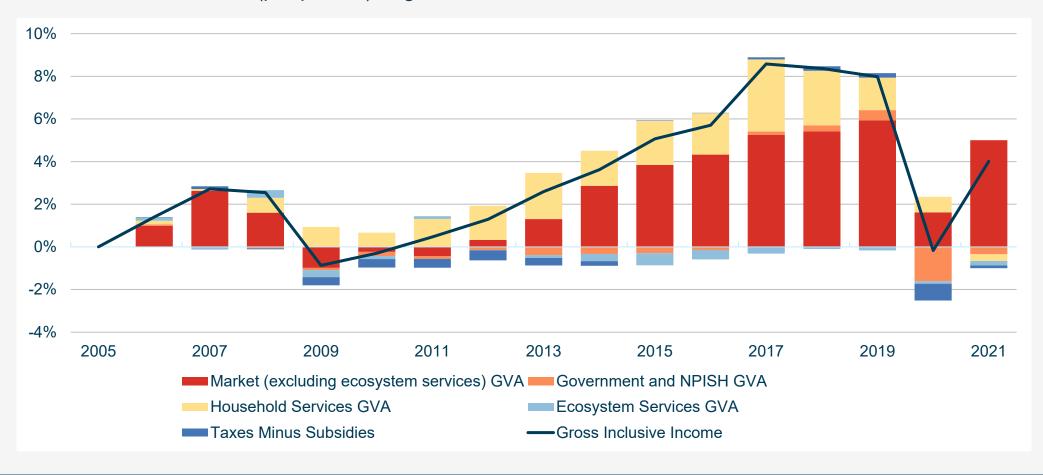


New narratives: NII per person out-stripped NDNI per person growth pre-Covid, the pandemic reversed this,



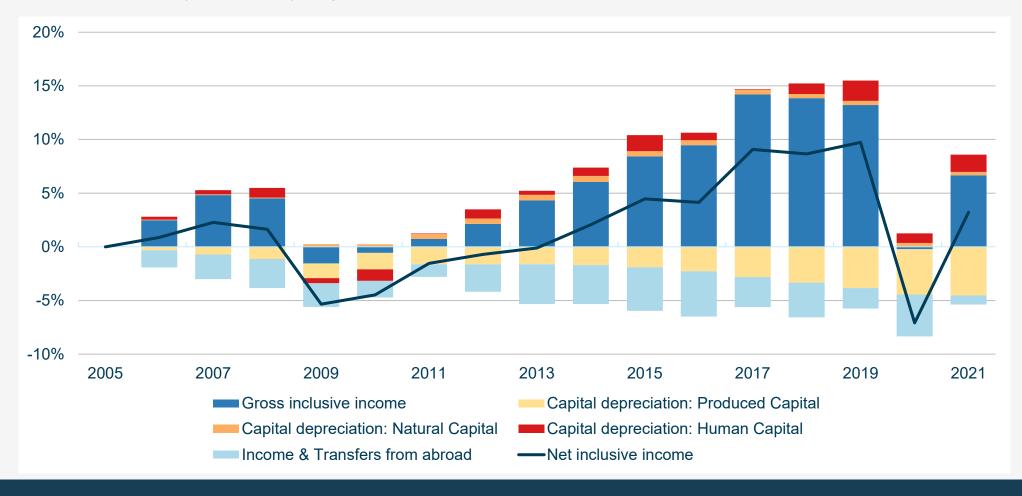
New narratives: Household Production was disproportionately hit post-Covid.

Contributions to GII (per person) % growth since 2005

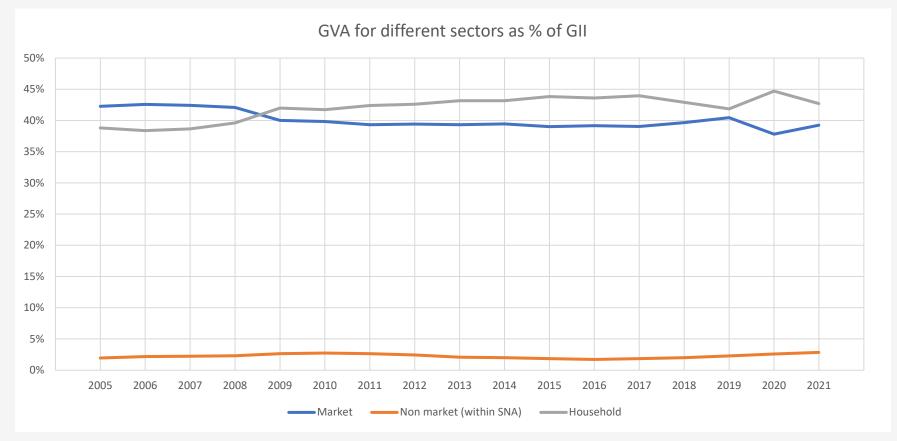


New narratives: Human and natural capital depreciation slowed relative to 2005

Contributions to NII (per person) % growth since 2005

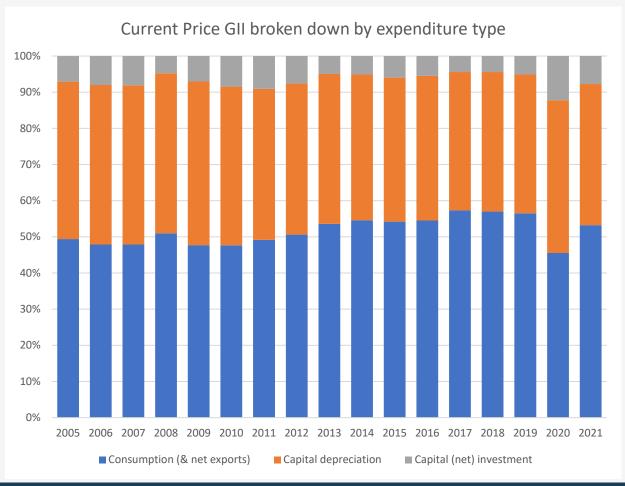


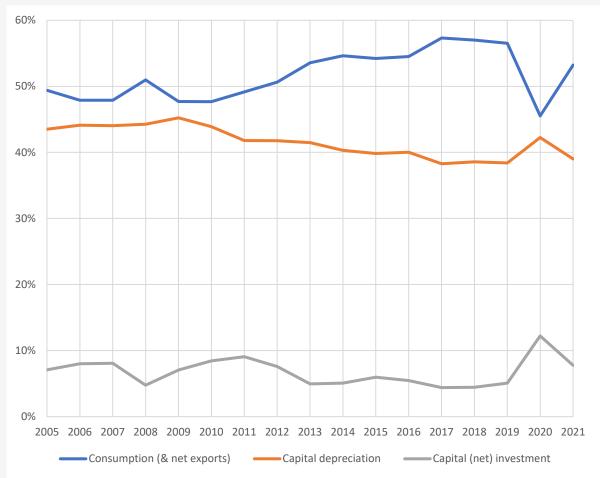
New narratives: The emergence of the household economy replacing the dominance of the market.



Note: Includes imputed rental of owner-occupied housing within households

New narrative: Pre-Covid, growth was increasingly consumption- rather than investment-led





Conclusions

- Feasible using satellite account data to generate long time series of new data to complement GDP and other national accounts measures.
- Doing so introduces us to new narratives which change our perception of what is important in our economies