Understanding the Differences between the Household Sector Balance Sheet and Household Wealth Estimates

	Household Sector Balance Sheet	Household Wealth Estimates
Purpose	- Insights on assets and liabilities held by households in Singapore, and trends in household net worth	- Insights into households' financial health, distribution and inequality across different groups of households
Coverage	✔ Includes individuals who reside or have the intention to work and live in Singapore for more than one year: - Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents - Foreigners (e.g., foreign professionals and skilled workers) Note: Aggregated administrative sources meant that data on assets and liabilities of foreigners cannot be separately identified in the household sector balance sheet.	✔ Includes resident households in Singapore where the household reference person* is a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident ✖ Excludes non-resident households in Singapore (i.e., household reference person is a foreigner)
Compilation Methodology	- Compiled from a **macroeconomic** perspective, using **aggregated** data from administrative sources	- Compiled from a **microeconomic** perspective, using **survey** data and augmented with administrative data
Data Sources	- Administrative sources, e.g., Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Central Provident Fund Board (CPFB), Housing & Development Board (HDB), and Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)	- Household Expenditure Survey (HES) and administrative sources, e.g., CPFB and HDB
Data Category	- Measures the assets and liabilities of Singapore's **household sector** as at end of period **Assets** a. Financial Assets b. Residential Property Assets **Liabilities** a. Mortgage Loans b. Personal Loans **Net Worth (Assets – Liabilities)**	- Measures the assets and liabilities of different **groups of households** as at end June **Assets** a. Financial Assets b. Residential Property Assets **Liabilities** a. Mortgage Loans b. Other Liabilities **Net Worth (Assets – Liabilities)**
Frequency of Data Update	- Quarterly	- Once in every 5 years
Links to Data	Household Sector Balance Sheet (End of Period) in the SingStat Table Builder Household Sector Balance Sheet Dashboard on the SingStat Website	Ministry of Finance (MOF)'s Occasional Paper on Income Growth, Inequality, and Social Mobility Trends in Singapore

**As reported by the surveyed household and usually refers to the oldest member, the main income earner, the owner-occupier of the house, the person who manages the affairs of the household or the person who supplied the information pertaining to other members.*

Examples

1 How is household wealth in Singapore measured?

The **household sector balance sheet**, compiled from a macroeconomic perspective, shows Singapore's total household wealth at the overall level, like the size of the whole pie. It presents the overall assets and liabilities held by Singapore's household sector.

Household wealth estimates, compiled from a microeconomic perspective, show how that pie is divided among households and how wealth is distributed among different household groups, e.g., by wealth quintiles. Two countries with similar household sector balance sheets could have very different social and economic outcomes if wealth for one is evenly distributed while the other is highly concentrated.

2 David, a foreign professional who has been working in Singapore for over a year, lives alone and has $10,000 in a local bank savings account.

Although I am a foreigner, my bank balance is incorporated in financial assets in Singapore's household sector balance sheet as I have lived and worked in Singapore for more than one year.

In contrast, my bank balance is not recorded in the household wealth estimates because I belong to a non-resident household.

Relevant Resources

Household Sector Economic Indicators Resources

MOF's Occasional Paper on "Income Growth, Inequality, and Social Mobility Trends in Singapore"