

# Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators – social aspects

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# What do we mean by social aspects?



# Environmental impacts of consumption

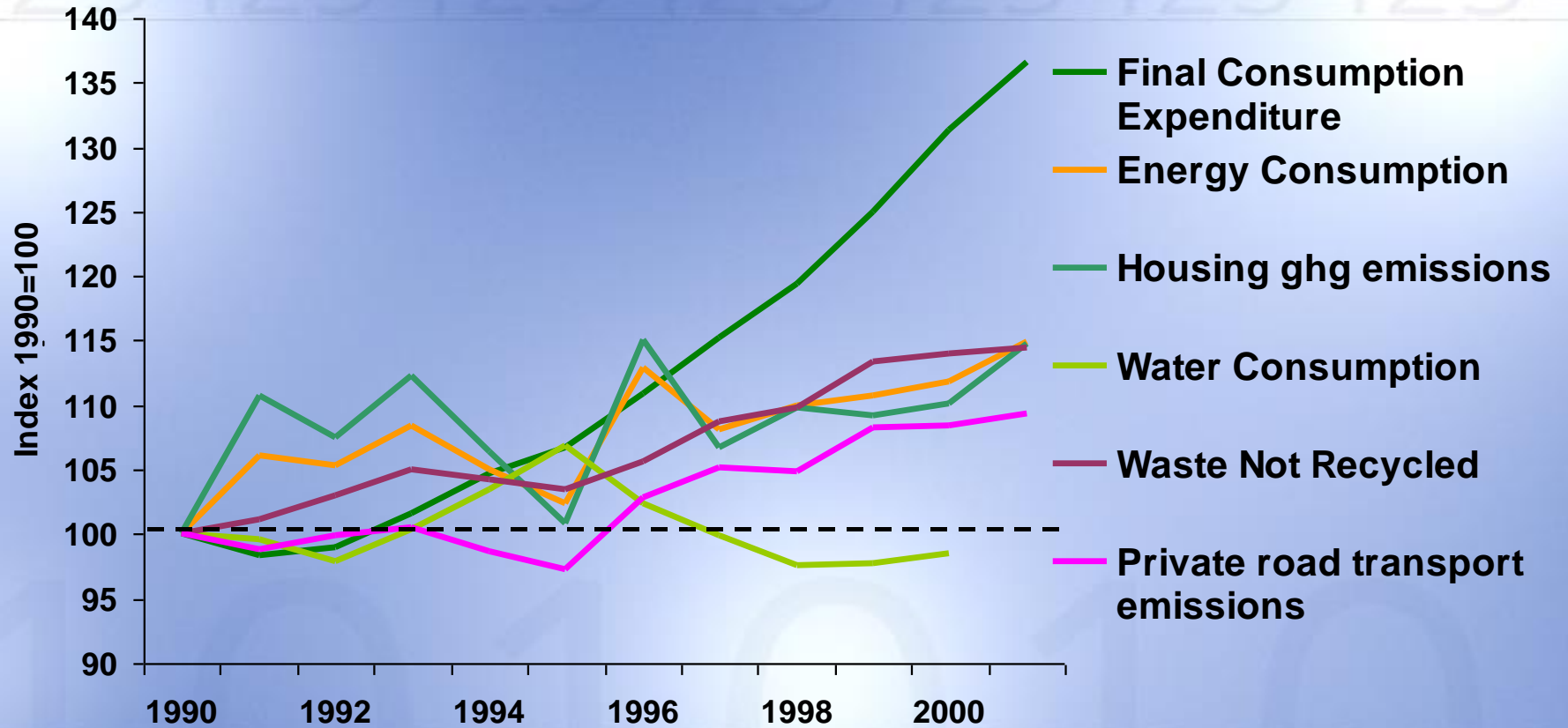
Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators emphasised

- Greater coverage of the environmental impact of consumption
- Need to relate specific expenditures to resource use
- Need better understanding of the impacts of different social groups and patterns of consumption

But

- Consumer responsibility is limited – can it be measured?

# Household consumption and environmental impacts



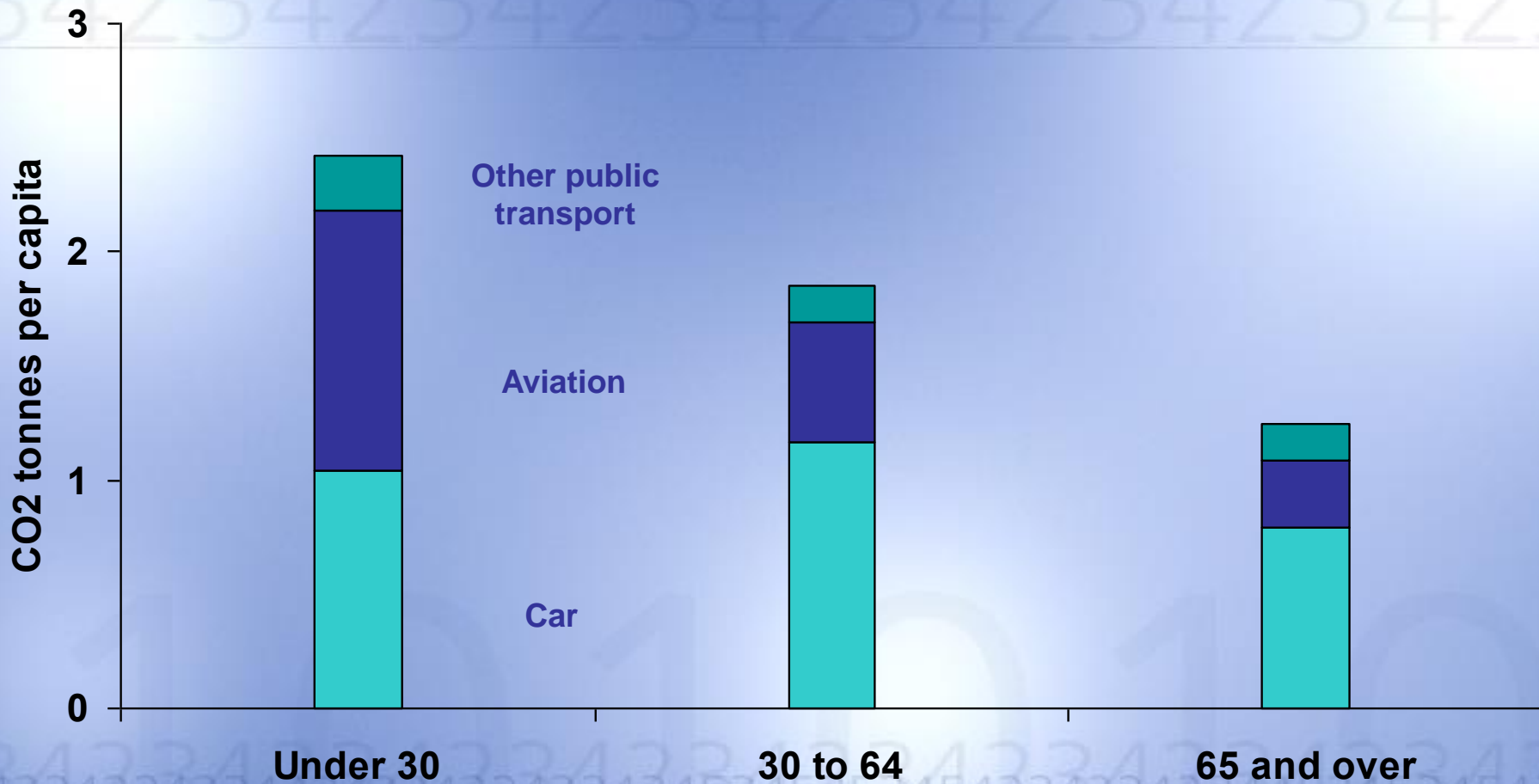
# Expenditure related to impacts

## Relate

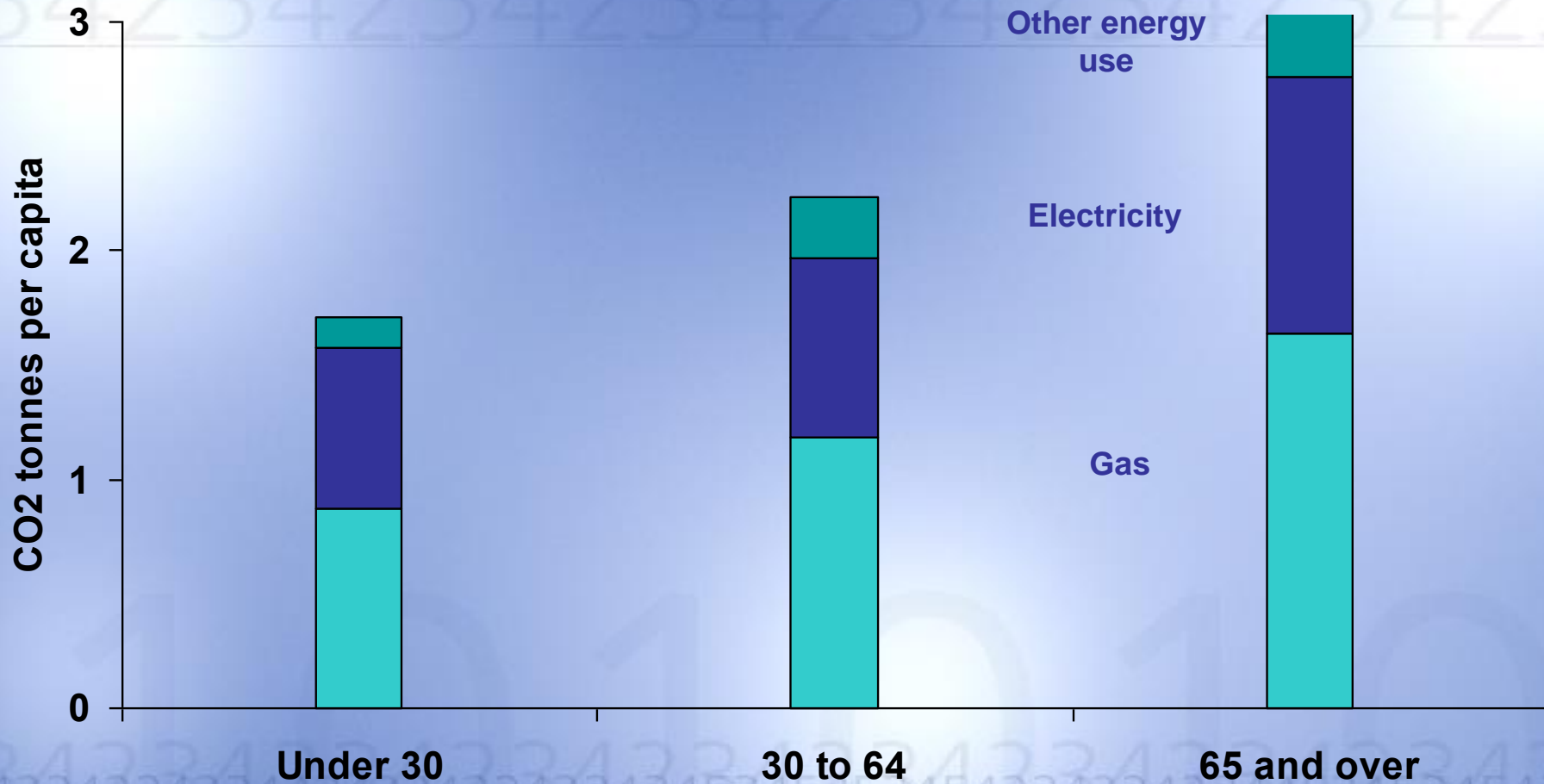
- Expenditure on housing energy with energy use and emissions
- Car travel costs with associated land use, road accidents, emissions etc
- Spending on household goods with “embedded” energy and emissions
- Leisure spending with tourism impacts, land use



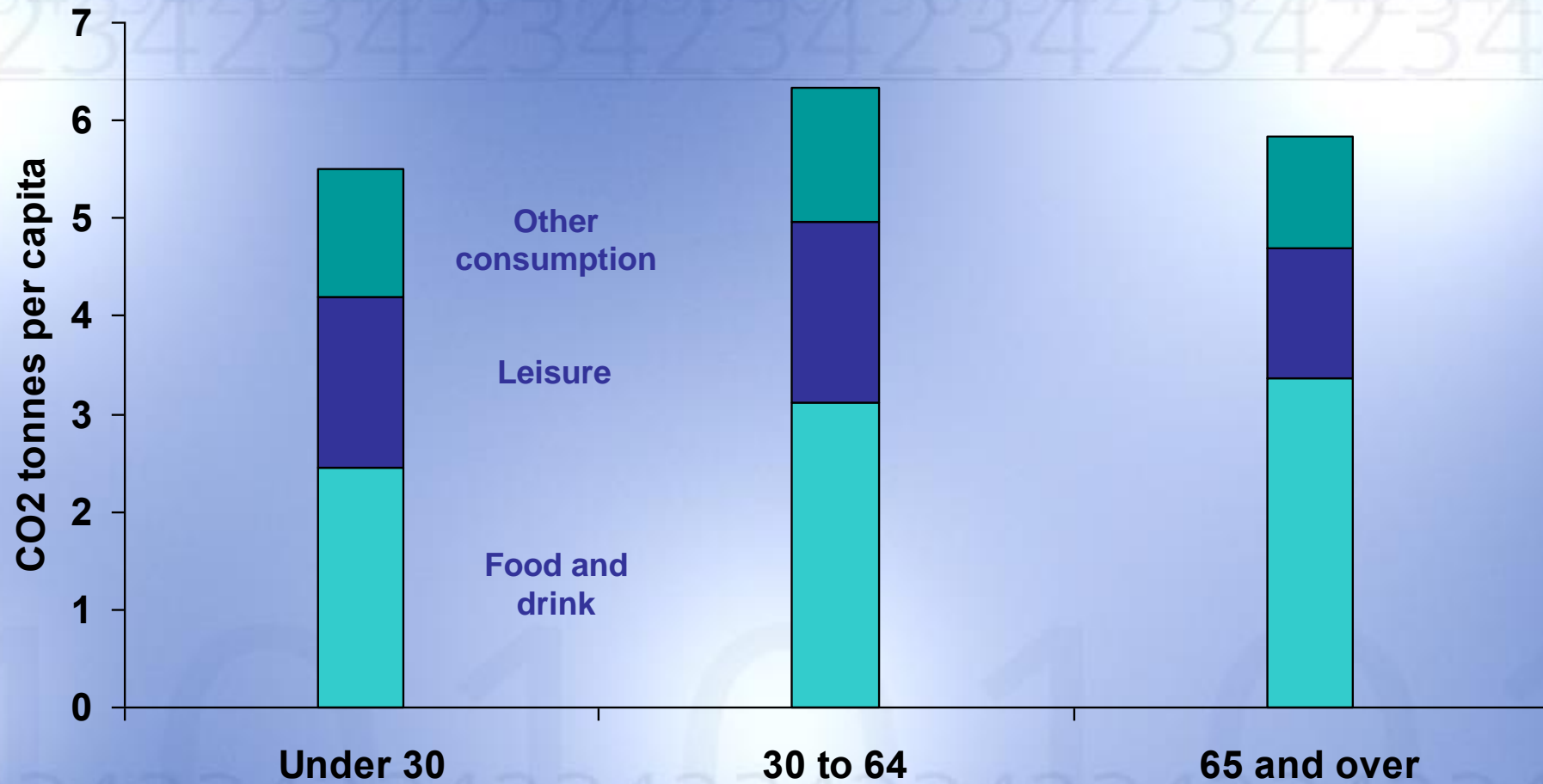
# Transport emissions by age of head of household



# Energy emissions by age of head of household



# “Embedded” emissions in household goods, by age of head of household





# Impact of final demand composition

Change in emissions

= change in eco-efficiency + change in structure of economy + change in volume of final demand

+ change in composition of final demand (de Haan)

OR

= change in fuel mix + change in energy intensity + change in input mix + change in volume of final demand

+ change in composition of final demand (Wier)

# Social impacts of consumption and production

## Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators recognised

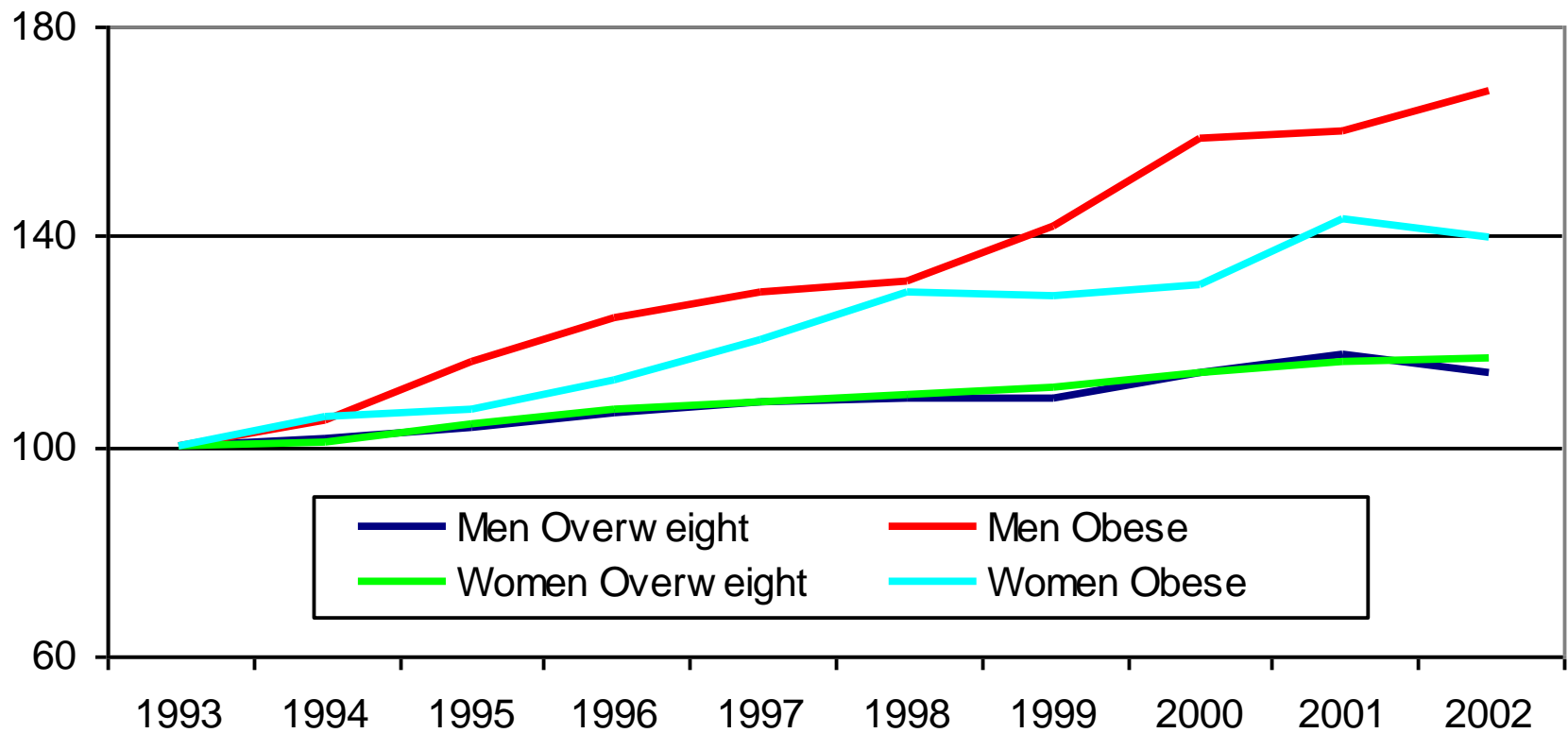
- A need for more emphasis on social dimension of sustainable economy
- Relatively unexplored area requiring more detailed thought
- Little or no agreement on main issues or indicators

# Social dimension - issues raised

- Health – smoking-related diseases, obesity, accidental deaths from traffic and work
- Socio-economic – personal debt, income and wealth distribution, currency speculation
- Specific behaviours – work-life balance, fair employment regimes, fair trade, ethical accounts holding, social-tourism
- Social capital – level of education, level of crime
- “Quality of Life”

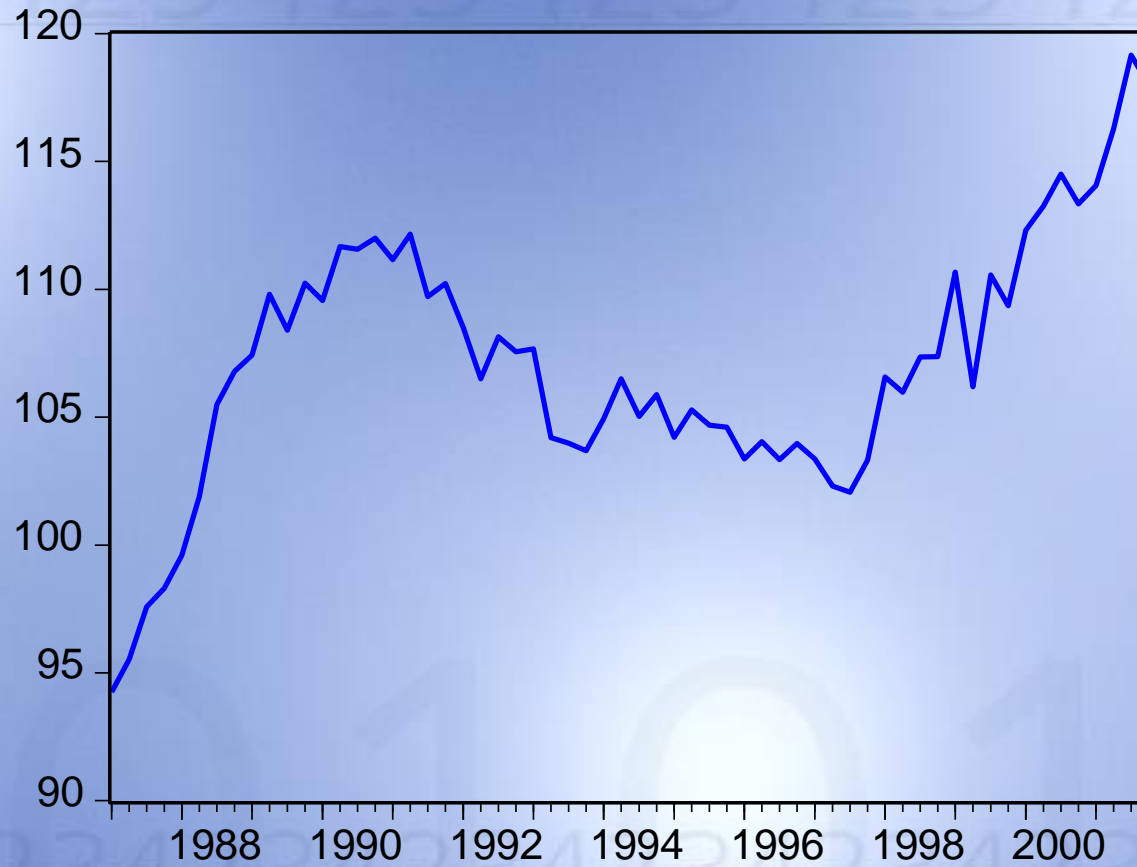
# Health issues

## UK overweight/obesity in males/females



# Socio-economic issues

Chart 1 : household debt to income ratio



# Distributional issues

## Average savings (£ per household) UK 1996

Households mainly dependent on:-

Wages and salaries	Mixed income	Retirement income	Other transfer income	Total
1,900	5,400	-1,500	0	1,400

Source: Social Accounting Matrix, Office for National Statistics