

General information
08-506 942 60
aku@scb.se

To book an interview
in another language
or in sign language
019-17 65 30
aku-tolk@scb.se

www.scb.se/aku

Please help to describe the labour market!

In a few weeks, someone from Statistics Sweden (Statistiska centralbyrån or SCB) will call you. He or she would like to ask you about your work situation – about whether you have a job, are looking for work, are retired, studying or doing something else. This is part of the Swedish Labour Force Survey (Arbetskraftsundersökningen), a survey that is done in almost every country.

An assignment from Parliament

In Sweden, Statistics Sweden does the survey. Statistics Sweden is a government agency that is responsible for describing Sweden with numbers and statistics. The survey is an assignment given to Statistics Sweden from the Parliament.

Your answers matter

Your answers are important, whether you work or not – they will help people to understand what the Swedish labour market is really like.

Everybody's answers are put together and become statistics that describe things like unemployment and the hours that people work. Among other things, the statistics are used when the Government makes decisions for the future, or when TV programmes or newspapers report about the situation on the labour market.

Your answers are protected

Everyone working on this survey is bound by professional secrecy and the answers you give are also protected as secret. This means that nobody else or any government agency can find out what you say.

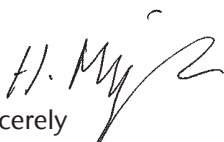
You cannot be replaced

Every month, we at Statistics Sweden contact about 29 500 people. You have been chosen at random.

You cannot be replaced by anyone else. The statistics will be more correct if you are able to take part in the survey.

About the interview

The interview is done over the telephone and takes about 5–10 minutes. If you like, we can arrange for your interview to be done in a different language instead of Swedish – just call 019-17 65 30, or write to aku-tolk@scb.se. Your answers are important, so we do hope you take part.


Sincerely
Hassan Mirza
Head of Labour Force Survey





Who is behind the survey?

Statistics Sweden carries out the Swedish Labour Force Survey (Arbetskraftsundersökningen) on behalf of the Swedish Parliament.

The survey is done in nearly every country and has been done in Sweden since 1959. It is part of Sweden's official statistics and is therefore not done for profit.

What will my answers be used for?

Your answers are used together with other people's answers to describe the labour market: things like unemployment, how many people are permanently employed and the hours that people work.

The number of unemployed people, often mentioned in the media (TV, radio, newspapers etc.), comes from this survey.

Who uses the results?

Parliament, the political parties, newspapers, television and radio, companies, trade unions, researchers, students and the general public – these are all examples of users of the statistics.

Where are the results published?

The statistics are published every month on Statistics Sweden's website at www.scb.se/aku. The results are also usually presented on television and radio, in newspapers, in reports and in various international comparisons.

Why should I take part?

If you choose to do so, you will help to describe the true situation of the Swedish labour market, even if you do not have a job.

Each person interviewed represents about 300 people in the population, so your answers are important!

What happens if I do not take part in the survey?

You do not have to take part. However, the description of the labour market will be more correct and reliable if more people are interviewed. In turn, this is important because the statistics are used as factual information, when for instance the Government makes decisions for the future.

Why have you chosen me?

Before the beginning of each month, about 29 500 people are drawn at random from the population register. It is pure chance that decides who is picked. However, we do make sure that all ages and parts of Sweden are included.

Can you not choose someone else instead?

We will not replace you with anybody else if you choose not to take part. If we did, we would control the random nature of the survey and this could influence the results.

I do not work. Should I take part anyway?

Everybody's situation – whether one work or not – is important in describing the labour market as correctly as possible. If we only interviewed people who have work, this would give a very unbalanced picture.

I am under 18/over 65. Why should I take part?

Everyone between the ages of 15 to 74 is included in the statistics. This allows Sweden to be compared with other countries, where it is more common to start working and retire at other ages than we do here.

I am not a Swedish citizen. Should I be included anyway?

Yes, the statistics should reflect the situation of everyone living in Sweden, regardless of one's citizenship.

Do you collect any of my details in advance?

Yes. So that you do not have to answer questions that Statistics Sweden already has information about, we collect details of your address, country of birth, year of immigration (where applicable), education, name of your workplace, its address and line of business, and your income. The details are collected from Statistics Sweden's own register (if details are available).





Do I have to answer all of the questions?

No, it is OK to skip questions that you do not want to answer. Some of the questions – like the one about whether you have worked or not – must be answered for the interview to be counted. But this is something that the interviewer will keep track of.

Are my answers really protected?

Yes. All those working with the survey are bound by secrecy and all your details are protected by law. This is in accordance with Chapter 24, Section 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400).

Your answers are put together with other people's answers to make tables and graphs, where it is not possible to see your personal answers.

If Statistics Sweden releases your answers for use in other types of statistics or research, we will remove any details that can be linked to you.

All details are handled according to the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) and to the Personal Data Act (1998:204). Statistics Sweden is responsible for this. Once a year, you are entitled to receive, at no cost, information about your personal details that the agency handles.

How can I be sure that my answers are not checked by other government agencies?

Other people or agencies cannot find out how you have responded. This is written in the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act.

This survey is not designed to check up on anyone, but is only intended to describe the labour market as correctly as possible.

How long will the interview take?

The interview takes about five to ten minutes.

When will you call me?

We usually call one to two weeks after you receive this letter.

An important part of the statistics is to see changes in the labour market, such as how often people change jobs and how long they are unemployed. We therefore interview everyone more than once. You will normally be interviewed eight times in total, once every three months.

In some of the interviews, additional questions related to the labour market may be asked, such as questions about safety and health at work.

Can I do the interview in a different language?

If you want to be interviewed in a different language from Swedish, please call 019-17 65 30 or write to aku-tolk@scb.se. You can also book a sign language interpreter at the same phone number or e-mail address.

Can someone I know answer for me?

It is best if you can personally be interviewed, so that the answers will truly be your own. If you want to take part but are not able to, your husband, wife, partner, parent or adult child can answer for you, as long as you live together. Others can also answer for you if you give them permission.

Do I get paid for taking part?

No, it is not possible to pay those who take part in the survey.

Is there any more information available?

More information about the survey, such as the results and methods used, can be found at www.scb.se/aku.

If you have any questions or comments...

...feel free to call or write to us who are working with the Swedish Labour Force Survey.

Phone: 08-506 942 60

E-mail: aku@scb.se

