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Statistics Sweden

General questions

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Help to describe our basic knowledge and skills

An interviewer from Statistics Sweden will be contacting you by telephone soon to book a time and place for an interview. When you meet, he or she will ask you a few questions about your background, education and employment. You will also be asked to perform a number of tasks involving examples taken from everyday life, e.g. reading, counting and using information. This interview will form part of a survey on the knowledge and skills of adults which is taking place in 25 countries simultaneously.

On behalf of the Government

In Sweden, Statistics Sweden is carrying out the survey. This is a State authority which is responsible for describing Sweden in figures and statistics. The survey is being carried out on behalf of the Government of Sweden.

Your answers have a part to play

Your participation is important no matter what your level of education, or whether you have a job or not. Responses from students, pensioners, people in work and people who are looking for work will help us to form a fair picture of today's society. All answers will be compiled into statistics which will describe how the knowledge and skills of the people of Sweden are used in their day-to-day lives and in the workplace. These statistics will be used when the Swedish Parliament and Government make decisions on issues relating to education and the labour market, among other things. They will also be used in international comparisons between the participating countries.

You cannot be replaced

You are one of 10 000 people in Sweden selected to take part in this survey. You have been selected at random. You will represent other people with backgrounds similar to yours, and so you cannot be replaced by another person.

Your answers will be protected

Those of us working with the survey at Statistics Sweden are all bound by professional secrecy and your answers will be protected by confidentiality. This means that no other people or authorities will be able to find out what answers you gave.

Your answers are important, so we hope that you will join us!

Carina Lindén
Deputy Assistant
Ministry of Education and Research

Ann-Charlott Larsson
Survey Manager
Statistics Sweden

More information on the interview

The interview will take between one and two hours and will take place at your home or in another location, e.g. at a library. All interviewers will be carrying ID cards from Statistics Sweden.

The interview will begin with you being asked to answer questions about yourself, your education and your work experience. After this, you will be asked to perform a number of tasks on computer or on paper. You may be asked to read instructions, interpret a timetable or use a map, for example.

Do I have to answer all the questions?

If you would prefer not to answer a question during the interview, of course you are entitled to refuse to do so.

Will you retrieve any information about me?

Your answers may be supplemented with information from various registers at Statistics Sweden. This information may include details on your education, occupation, work, income, social insurance and national registration details.

Consent to use of the information

By taking part in the interview, you grant your consent to take part in the survey. You also grant your consent to anonymised details being passed on to the OECD and to Statistics Denmark, where the data from the Nordic countries will be compiled.

Who is responsible for the survey?

Statistics Sweden is carrying out the survey on behalf of the Government of Sweden. It will form part of a major international survey on the knowledge and skills of adults which is being led by the OECD.

Why should I take part?

By taking part, you will be helping to describe how you and other adults in Sweden use your knowledge and skills in your everyday lives. You have been selected at random from the population of Sweden aged between 16 and 64 in order to represent other people with similar backgrounds. Hence your answers are valuable and you cannot be replaced by anyone else.

What will happen if I do not want to take part?

Your participation is voluntary. But that said, the description of adults' knowledge and skills will be more accurate if more people are interviewed. It is important for the results to be true and correct as they will be used when the Swedish Parliament and Government make decisions about the future, for example.

Who will be using the results?

The Swedish Parliament and Government, the political parties, newspapers, TV and radio, companies, trade union organisations, researchers and students, the general public – these are all examples of users of the statistics.

How will the results be used?

The data collected will be analysed, compiled and reported in tables, diagrams and texts so that the answers of individuals cannot be worked out.

As the same questions will be asked in many other countries, the results may be used to compare knowledge and skills in different countries.

I am not a Swedish citizen – should I still take part?

Yes. The statistics must reflect the situation for everyone, regardless of their citizenship status.

Will my answers really be protected?

The data will be processed in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act (personuppgiftslagen, 1998:204). Statistics Sweden will be responsible for processing it. You will be entitled to receive free information once a year on the information about you which is being processed by the authority.

The answers you give during the interview and the data taken from the Statistics Sweden register will be protected by the provisions of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (*Offentlighets- och sekretesslagen*, 2009:400). The confidentiality of statistics as laid down in Section 24, para. 8 means that the Statistics Sweden staff working with the survey are subject to the provisions concerning professional secrecy and confidentiality.

Besides being used for this survey, the data will also be used for other statistics, research and investigations. The data will be retained for as long as it is required to fulfil the purpose of the survey.

To thank you for your participation, we will give you a voucher for SEK 100 which you can spend in most stores