

PRODUCTION OF THE STATISTICS

Population by Labour market status (BAS)

Preliminary statistics based on monthly data

Subject area

Labour market

Statistical area

Labour force supply

Product code

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1 Context of the statistics

The purpose of Population by Labour market status (BAS) is to provide information on the supply of labour in Sweden on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. BAS disseminates statistics on, among other things, the number of employed, unemployed and persons outside the labour force for the registered population aged 15 to 74. The statistics can be used to describe the current status as well as developments over time. It highlights the whole population as well as smaller groups, such as detailed age groups at municipal level.

BAS is based solely on administrative data from various authorities. The statistics has been made possible primarily thanks to the fact that the administrative source data – monthly pay as you earn income tax return at the individual level (PAYE return) – have been collected by the Swedish Tax Agency since 2019.

Both preliminary and final statistics are disseminated. The preliminary statistics are disseminated monthly, with a production time of about two months from the end of the reference month. The quarterly and annual statistics are based on the constituent months and are also disseminated around two months after the end of the reference period. This documentation, Production of the statistics, refers only to the preliminary statistics and describes BAS design and implementation in general terms. This document complements the quality report available on the Statistics Sweden website www.scb.se/BAS under the heading *Documentation*. The quality report is also described separately for preliminary and final statistics, and for the annual register.

2 Survey design

2.1 Target characteristics

For monthly reference times, statistics are disseminated on the number of persons by labour market status, with the statuses 'employed', 'unemployed', 'students', 'retirees', 'sick' and 'others'. 'Employed' and 'unemployed' together constitute the labour force, and the remaining statuses are outside the labour force. There are also target characteristics expressed as proportions:

- *employment rate*, which is the number of people employed as a proportion of the population,
- *percentage of population in the labour force*, which is the number of people in the labour force as a proportion of the population,
- *unemployment*, which is the number of unemployed as a proportion of the labour force.

For the quarterly and annual reference times, the number-type target characteristics are defined as averages of the corresponding target characteristics per month.

The statistics are disseminated according to different breakdowns in study domains. The variables used to create these groups are: sex, age, country of birth, industry, status in employment, sector, region of work and residence¹, main source of income and work-related income level. These variables are used individually and in combination.

2.2 Frame procedure

The Total Population Register (TPR), which is produced by Statistics Sweden based mainly on data from the Swedish Tax Agency, provides the frame population for BAS. The observation units consist of, or are derived from, records in TPR, each record corresponding to a person.

The frame population in the preliminary BAS consists of all persons registered in the population records of Sweden, according to the Total Population Register (TPR), on the last day of the month preceding the reference month.

2.3 Procedures for sampling and exclusion

There is no sampling or exclusion in BAS.

2.4 Data collection procedure

2.4.1 Data collection

BAS is based on register data from several authorities. Data is collected by electronic transfer from the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Board of Student Finance, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Pensions Agency, the Swedish Tax Agency and the National Board of Health and Welfare.

The administrative data from the authorities is transferred monthly, in the middle or end of the month following the reference month. Corrections of data submitted previously are also received in each monthly delivery of PAYE return data from the Swedish Tax Agency.

¹ These statistics aim to describe the location of the places of work to which the employed persons are bound. As this is not the same as accounting for the employed part of the population according to where they are physically located during the day while work is carried out, the term daytime population is not used. As a consequence, the term night-time population is not used when disseminating by region of residence.

Background variables are retrieved monthly from TPR and Statistics Sweden's Business Register. More information on TPR and the Statistical Business Register can be found on the Statistics Sweden website: [Data från Befolkningsregistret \(RTB\)](#) and [Mikrodata för Företagsdatabasen \(FDB\)](#).

2.4.2 Measurement

Basic data for the statistics are obtained from the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Companies Registration Office, the Swedish Board of Student Finance, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Pensions Agency, the Swedish Tax Agency and the National Board of Health and Welfare. The primary responsibility for collecting and recording the data lies with the respective authorities. The quality of statistics is mainly determined by the quality of the registers and administrative systems of these authorities. The data are processed and compiled in the BAS register.

2.4.3 Follow-up of non-response

BAS is based on administrative data sourced from administrative systems, all of which are primarily created for administrative purposes. There is no non-response follow-up in the context of BAS. The same is also true for the authorities from which the administrative data are taken, since the data have mainly been collected for purposes other than the production of statistics.

2.5 Processing

The main variable of BAS is labour market status, which shows whether a person is employed, unemployed, studying, retired, sick or other. These statuses can be aggregated into the categories labour force or non-labour force. A person belonging to the labour force has one of the statuses 'employed' or 'unemployed', while anyone in the 'non-labour force' belongs to one of the categories 'student', 'retiree', 'sick' or 'other'.

Labour market status is defined on the basis of the period month, which means, for example, that a person who has been employed at some point during the month is described as employed. The definition of labour market status is hierarchical, which means that a person can only have one labour market status. For example, the labour market status 'unemployed' is obtained if the person has been unemployed at some point during the month without being employed. Similarly, subsequent labour market statuses are defined hierarchically, which means, for example, that a person has the labour market status 'student' when he or she has been a student but not employed or unemployed.

Processing includes the co-processing of the administrative data on which the statistics are based. The classification of labour market status is done in two stages, which together constitute the definition of the observation variable 'labour market status'. The second stage of this classification only concerns those persons classified as 'other' under the first stage.

The first stage in the classification consists of:

employed

A person classified as 'employed' fulfils at least one of the following criteria:

- has during the month received earned income that is the basis for employer contributions according to the Swedish Tax Agency's monthly pay as you earn income tax return at the individual level (the PAYE return).
- has received, during at least one of the eleven months preceding the reference month, earned income that is the basis for employer contributions according to the PAYE return. In addition, they have received benefits from the Social Insurance Agency in all subsequent months up to and including the reference month. The benefit from the Social Insurance Agency must be of the type parental allowance, temporary parental allowance, prenatal allowance, sickness benefit, rehabilitation allowance, work or occupational injury benefit, benefit for care of closely related persons, disease carrier allowance or compensation for a risk group.
- is deemed to be operating an active business during the month as a sole proprietor or as a partner in a general or limited partnership. The assessment is based on information from the Swedish Tax Agency on preliminary income tax returns and monthly F-tax payments, as well as turnover and administrative status information from Statistics Sweden's Business Register.² Self-employed persons who do not meet the criteria for being classified as active, but whose business has, according to the PAYE return, made at least one payment of remuneration subject to employer social security contributions to a person other than the self-employed person, are also classified as active and consequently considered employed.
- is deemed to be operating an active joint-stock company during the month. During the month, the person must be registered as a beneficial owner in the Swedish Companies Registration Office's Register of Beneficial Owners and be recorded as a board

² A business has active administrative status if it is registered for VAT, approved for F-tax, or registered as an employer.

member, managing director (CEO), chair of the board or board deputy according to the Swedish Companies Registration Office's business information. In addition, the company with which the person has these affiliations must have reported turnover and have the administrative status active according to Statistics Sweden's Business Register.³

unemployed

A person classified as 'unemployed' has, at some point during the month, been registered as unemployed with the Swedish Public Employment Service as openly unemployed, or as an applicant in a programme with an activity grant. 'Openly unemployed' and 'applicant in a programme with an activity grant' are defined according to the Swedish Public Employment Service's definitions for the current reference month.

In addition, the labour market status 'unemployed' is only obtained if the person is aged 16-64 on the last day of the month and has not been classified as employed.

student

A person classified as a student fulfils one of the following:

- has received payment from the Swedish Board of Student Finance of study grants, study allowance, student finance for transition and retraining or education entry grants during the month.
- has received activity benefit from the Social Insurance Agency for extended schooling during the month.
- is 15 years old or, in most cases, 16 years old on the last day of the month.⁴

In addition, the labour market status 'student' is only obtained when the person has not been classified as employed or unemployed.

retiree

A person classified as 'retiree' has, according to information from the Swedish Pensions Agency, received payment of an income pension, supplementary pension, guarantee pension, premium pension, or housing supplement or maintenance support for the elderly if the person is at least 65 years old, during the month.

³ A business has active administrative status if it is registered for VAT, approved for F-tax, or registered as an employer.

⁴ This does not apply to the reference months of July and August. Whether a 16-year-old is affected is determined based on the regulations for when payment of the Social Insurance Agency's child allowance is replaced by payment of student finance by the Board of Student Finance.

In addition, the labour market status 'retiree' is only obtained if the person is not classified as being employed, unemployed or a student.

sick

A person classified as 'sick' has received payments from the Social Insurance Agency of sickness allowance, activity compensation (not for extended schooling), sickness benefit, rehabilitation allowance, work or occupational injury sickness benefit, disease carrier allowance or compensation for a risk group, during the month.

In addition, the labour market status 'sick' is only obtained if the person is not classified as being employed, unemployed, a student or a retiree.

other

A person classified as 'other' has not been classified into any of the labour market statuses of employed, unemployed, student, retiree or sick.

The second stage of the classification only concerns those persons classified 'other' under the first stage of the classification. The second stage of classification consists of:

employed

A person classified as 'employed' has, at some point during the year which precedes the reference year by two years, received payments from employers in Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway constituting earned income for work that is the basis for employer contributions according to the PAYE return. This is according to information that the Swedish Tax Agency has received from the tax authorities in those countries.

Employed persons include persons who are employed and persons who are self-employed. The statistics disseminate data on employed persons by status in employment, with the categories 'employees', 'self-employed persons' and 'self-employed persons in a joint-stock company'. It is common for a person to have several jobs, to work on a self-employed basis for different companies or to combine work as both an employee and a self-employed person. In such cases, a main occupation, in terms of both status in employment and workplace, is selected for that person.

The choice of main occupation is based on where the person received their highest remuneration. Status in employment is selected first. If a person had their highest earned income from one or more jobs, they are classified as an employee. If the earned income is highest among the jobs that can be linked to self-employed persons in a joint-stock company, that person is classified as a self-employed person in a

joint-stock company, and if the business profits from self-employment is the highest, the person is classified as self-employed. The comparison of earned income from employment, earned income from self-employment and business profits from self-employment is made after adjusting the amounts for comparability⁵.

The main workplace is selected after a person has been classified as an employee, self-employed or self-employed person in a joint-stock company. Among the employees and self-employed persons in a joint-stock company, the workplace is selected according to the job that has generated the highest earned income. If, instead, the person has 'self-employed' as their status in employment and runs several enterprises, the choice of workplace is essentially based on a hierarchical decision-making arrangement. The decisive factors in the decision-making arrangement are the number of employees and the registers in which each enterprise has appeared.

Data referring to an employed person's main workplace are generated using the corporate identity number and local unit number in the PAYE return, together with data from the Statistical Business Register. The local unit number is a variable in the PAYE system which employers with business activity at more than one address are expected to provide.

For persons employed in enterprises which, according to the Statistical Business Register, have several workplaces, the local unit number from the PAYE return is combined with data from the Statistical Business Register to determine the industry and location of the persons main workplace. For employees who do not typically commence work at any of the employer's permanent workplaces, and for whom the employer has reported this in the PAYE return, the municipality of residence is used as the workplace municipality. This could involve, e.g., travelling salesmen or construction workers.

Local unit numbers may be missing or invalid based on the information available in Statistics Sweden's Business Register. In such cases, local unit information is imputed. The imputation is carried out primarily using information from the previous month's PAYE return and, secondarily, using information from the local unit within the enterprise that is geographically closest to the employee's place of residence. If no local unit is located in close geographical proximity to the person's place of residence, the person's municipality of residence

⁵ Earned income is adjusted by reducing it by an expected income tax. The expected business profit is derived using the preliminary tax. The amount is adjusted partly to reflect expected earned income, and partly to reflect expected underreporting.

and the enterprise's industry classification are used as the basis for imputation.

Also, for employees of an enterprise which, according to the Statistical Business Register, has only one workplace, data from the statistical Business Register are used to determine the industry and location. For enterprises where a large proportion of the staff live far from the place of work, it is assumed that they are based at home, and thus the municipality of residence is used as the municipality of the workplace. This applies only to industries for which it is considered common for employees to start their work from home rather than at a physical workplace.

In total, workplace information is updated for around 210,000–230,000 people each month.

To add further nuance to the description of labour supply, labour market status is presented in combination with two classification criteria: 'Main source of income' and 'Work-related income level'.

Main source of income aims to show which earned income and transfers are the largest, using the following categories: earned income, unemployment benefit, student finance, pension, benefit for long-term reduced work capacity, sickness benefit, parental benefit/care of close relative, financial aid and without income.⁶ For a given month, the breakdown is made on the basis of earned income and transfers relating to the month in question.

Work-related income level is a categorical variable, where each person is assigned to a category by relating their income from employment and business and work-related benefits to the income base amount⁷ for the reference period. The categories disseminated are: SEK 0, SEK 1 - < 1 income base amount, 1 - <2 income base amounts, 2 - <3 income base amounts, 3+ income base amounts. The types of earned income used in the definition of the labour market status 'employed' together with the work-related transfers that a person receives as compensation for being temporarily absent from work provide the starting point.

The work-related income level is disseminated on the basis of the income from employment and business and work-related benefits

⁶ Certain income is exempt from tax. To make all income comparable, an adjustment is made by reducing the income that is not tax-exempt by an expected income tax. An adjustment is also made for an expected underreporting of business profit.

⁷ For more information on income base amount, see [Inkomstbasbelopp och inkomstindex för år 2020 fastställt - Regeringen.se](https://www.scb.se/Inkomstbasbelopp-och-inkomstindex-for-ar-2020-faststallt), retrieved 23/08/2023. The income base amount for 2020 is set at SEK 66,800.

that the person has had in the last twelve months. The variable is derived for those persons who have had the labour market status 'employed' at some point in the last twelve months. For other persons, the variable is set to SEK 0.

For more information on the variables 'Main source of income' and 'Work-related income level', see the document ['Main source of income' and 'Work-related income level'](#). This includes a description of the data underlying the two variables.

2.6 Review

The supplying authorities do not perform a content review, but they do check that the delivery formats correspond to Statistics Sweden's order. Regular checks are carried out during production of the final register. The statistical values published are reconciled with other sources, the previous period and the same period of the previous year.

2.6.1 Review during direct collection

No direct collection takes place.

2.6.2 Review of microdata and collected statistical values

Various delivery checks are performed when data is delivered to Statistics Sweden. Checks are performed against the previous month's input data and the corresponding month of the previous year. Checks are also performed against the supplier's own published statistics, where available. If any shortcomings are detected, the supplier is notified to prevent a recurrence of the situation.

Data relating to amounts and numbers are checked regularly during register production.

2.6.3 Review of macrodata

Statistics on the number of people employed and unemployed are compared with statistics from the Labour Force Surveys (LFS) and the Swedish Public Employment Service. The statistics disseminated are also compared with the previous period and the corresponding period of the previous year.

2.6.4 Review of dissemination

The statistical values loaded in Statistics Sweden's web publishing tool and statistical database are reviewed prior to dissemination. This includes checks for consistency where the same statistical value or text appears in several places.

2.7 Estimation procedure

2.7.1 Principles and assumptions

BAS is based on administrative data which have been retrieved from the administrative systems of authorities and therefore have been collected for purposes other than the presentation of statistics. This is a model-dependent approach, as models are used to translate administrative variables into statistical target variables. Frame coverage and model assumptions are the sources of uncertainty deemed to have the greatest impact on accuracy.

Persons incorrectly excluded from the register cause undercoverage, while those incorrectly included in the register cause overcoverage. Coverage gaps mainly arise from shortcomings in the reporting of deaths, immigration and emigration. The source of uncertainty in the model assumption arises because data on the timing of payments are what mainly form the basis for the derivation of the main variable 'labour market status'; in contrast to the target variable, which is instead defined in terms of when the activity described by the labour market status has occurred.

2.7.2 Estimation procedure for statistical target characteristics

There are two target characteristic types for a given reference period: number and proportion. The number of persons employed and the proportion of the population employed are examples of these two types. The summary measure 'number' is a special case of sum (total), while 'proportion' is a special case of ratio.

The estimate of a total for a characteristic y for month m is denoted $\hat{t}_{y,m}$ and is the summed number of persons in the frame population who have the characteristic in question according to the observation variable. The corresponding estimate of a ratio between two totals, where the total in the numerator is a total for a characteristic y and the total in the denominator is a total for a characteristic y' is denoted $\hat{r}_{yy',m}$.

Three target characteristics are expressed as ratios. For month m , estimates of these as a percentage are denoted and expressed as

- employment rate: $\hat{r}_{yy',m} = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,m}}{\hat{t}_{y',m}} \cdot 100$, where $\hat{t}_{y,m}$ denotes the estimated number of persons employed in month m among the persons entered in the population register on the last day of month $m-1$, and $\hat{t}_{y',m}$ denotes the number of persons entered in the population register on the last day of month $m-1$.
- percentage of population in the labour force: $\hat{r}_{yy',m} = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,m}}{\hat{t}_{y',m}} \cdot 100$, where $\hat{t}_{y,m}$ denotes the estimated number of persons in the labour force (employed or unemployed) in month m among the persons

entered in the population register on the last day of month $m-1$, and $\hat{t}_{y',m}$ denotes the number of persons entered in the population register on the last day of month $m-1$.

- relative unemployment rate: $\hat{r}_{yy',m} = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,m}}{\hat{t}_{y',m}} \cdot 100$, where $\hat{t}_{y,m}$ denotes the estimated number of unemployed persons in month m among the persons entered in the population register on the last day of month $m-1$, and $\hat{t}_{y',m}$ denotes the estimated number of persons in the labour force (employed or unemployed) in month m among the persons entered in the population register on the last day of month $m-1$.

The target characteristics for the reference periods 'quarter' and 'year' are expressed as a function of the target characteristics for the constituent months. Totals for the reference period 'quarter' are the average of the totals for the constituent months of the quarter, and a similar approach is applied for the reference period 'year'. Ratios are defined in terms of the average of the totals of the months included in the reference period in the numerator and denominator. The estimates are constructed in a similar manner.

The number estimate for a characteristic y for quarter k is defined as

$$\hat{t}_{y,k} = \frac{1}{3} (\hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+1} + \hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+2} + \hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+3})$$

where $\hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+i}$ denotes an estimate of the number of persons with a characteristic y for the i th month of quarter k , where $i=1, 2, 3$.

Similarly, a number estimate for a characteristic y for year $\hat{a}$ is defined as

$$\hat{t}_{y,\hat{a}} = \frac{1}{12} (\hat{t}_{y,1} + \hat{t}_{y,2} + \hat{t}_{y,3} + \dots + \hat{t}_{y,12})$$

A ratio estimate for quarter k , $\hat{r}_{yy',k}$, expressed as a percentage, is defined as

$$\hat{r}_{yy',k} = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,k}}{\hat{t}_{y',k}} \cdot 100 = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+1} + \hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+2} + \hat{t}_{y,3(k-1)+3}}{\hat{t}_{y',3(k-1)+1} + \hat{t}_{y',3(k-1)+2} + \hat{t}_{y',3(k-1)+3}} \cdot 100$$

The corresponding estimate of ratio for year $\hat{a}$, $\hat{r}_{yy',\hat{a}}$, expressed as a percentage, is defined as

$$\hat{r}_{yy',\hat{a}} = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,\hat{a}}}{\hat{t}_{y',\hat{a}}} \cdot 100 = \frac{\hat{t}_{y,1} + \hat{t}_{y,2} + \hat{t}_{y,3} + \dots + \hat{t}_{y,12}}{\hat{t}_{y',1} + \hat{t}_{y',2} + \hat{t}_{y',3} + \dots + \hat{t}_{y',12}} \cdot 100$$

2.7.3 Estimation procedure for accuracy

No reliability estimates are performed.

2.7.4 Disclosure control

Statistics Sweden is obliged to prevent individuals' data from being disclosed in the disseminated statistics. BAS uses a methodology that allows detailed statistics to be disseminated without the need to hide statistical values, or to make parts of the report less detailed. This method involves introducing random uncertainty into the statistics in a controlled manner, without introducing systematic bias into the statistics.

All statistical values, including totals, greater than zero, are adjusted by a small negative or positive integer. Some statistical values are left unchanged. A consequence of this method is that the totals disseminated do not always equal the sum of their disseminated components. For example, the disseminated total for women and men does not necessarily equal the sum of the disseminated statistical values for women and men.

The added uncertainty is small, but its impact is greater for low frequencies than for high ones. This also has implications for proportions, which should always be interpreted with caution when based on low frequencies.

If the disseminated statistical values are added to create a new total, the uncertainty is also added. There is therefore a risk that the new total contains more uncertainty than would have been assigned to an individual statistical value under the method.

3 Implementation

3.1 Quantitative information

The population in the 15 to 74 age bracket 7,530,000 in January 2020.

3.2 Deviations from the survey design

There have been no deviations.