



Description of the Swedish Statistical System

1. General Information about Statistics Sweden

Mission of the NSI

In order to supply customers with good quality statistics to be used as the basis for decision-making, debate and research, Statistics Sweden will:

- develop, produce and communicate statistics,
- actively contribute to statistical cooperation on an international level and
- coordinate and support the Swedish system for official statistics.

In our appropriations role, we are responsible for producing official statistics within several areas and are also responsible for carrying out certain other tasks, such as the coordination of official statistics. Swedish official statistics are a part of the European statistical system. In our commissioned services role, we shall produce official statistics for other statistical authorities (SAM), increase the possibilities of utilising statistical material and our expertise to meet the needs of our customers and carry out consultancy on a national and international level.

Status of the NSI in the public administration system of the country

Statistics Sweden is an independent authority within the public administration. The ministry responsible for official statistics and for Statistics Sweden is the Ministry of Finance. The government supervises the public authorities using management by objectives and results. According to the Government Agencies' Ordinance the director general of the authority is responsible for the operation of the authority.

Appointment of the Director-General of the NSI

The Director-General is appointed by the government on a fixed term contract. The appointment is time limited and, after the first period (six years), the government can prolong the appointment for three more years.

Organisational structure of the NSI

Organisational chart, see the following link:

http://www.scb.se/Grupp/Omscb/_Dokument/Our%20organisation%2020070101.pdf

Main legal acts

Official Statistics Act (2001:99) and Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100)
Ordinance (1988:137) containing Directives for Statistics Sweden
Government Agencies Ordinance (1995:1322)
Secrecy Act (1980:100)
Personal Data Act (1998:204)

Statistical programmes

In the role as coordinator of the statistical system, Statistics Sweden maintains a list of all the products within the system of official statistics. Statistics

Sweden also makes an annual plan for changes in the production of official statistics for which Statistics Sweden is responsible.

2. The System of Official Statistics in Sweden

When the reform of Sweden's official statistics was implemented in the middle of the 1990s, 25 government authorities were given responsibility for official statistics. On 1 July 1994, much of the responsibility for official statistics in defined sectoral areas was transferred from Statistics Sweden to 24 other government authorities. Statistics Sweden continued to be responsible for multi-sectoral statistics. One of the main purposes of the 1994 statistical reform was to give the users more influence over the statistics. It was expected that the reform would result in the statistics having greater relevance to their users, that the statistical system would be more flexible and that the efficiency of statistics production would improve. Statistics Sweden had already, in accordance with its Directives, been responsible for coordinating and monitoring the official statistics. This role was strengthened somewhat. The Swedish Parliament has decided that Sweden shall provide official statistics for general information, analytical activities and research. According to a decision by Parliament, the government determines the subject areas and statistical areas for which official statistics are to be produced, and which authorities are to be given responsibility for statistics. The statistical authorities decide on the content and scope of the statistics within the statistics area(s) for which they are responsible, unless otherwise specified by the government.

The Council for Official Statistics

A Council for Official Statistics was established at Statistics Sweden in February 2002. The duties of the Council are set out in Statistics Sweden's Directives. The Council, which is an advisory body, shall deal with matters of principle regarding the availability, quality and usefulness of the official statistics, as well as issues on facilitating the response process for data providers. The Council shall prepare an annual report on the official statistics, compile an annual publishing plan and maintain a register of the statistical authorities and their products. The Council shall work to improve cooperation between the statistical authorities, and to develop and manage a statistics network. The Council consists of one chair and six other representatives who are managers at the statistical authorities. There is a Secretariat for the Council at Statistics Sweden. The authorities to be represented in the Council are appointed by Statistics Sweden after consultations with all the statistical authorities. Members shall serve on the Council for a period of not more than three years. Statistics Sweden's Director General is Chair of the Council.

3. Publications

New data are published at 09.30 on the website of Statistics Sweden. There is no pre-release to any user. Planned publishing dates are available for the whole year on the website. All data are published simultaneously on the front page and in the databases.

Webpage: www.scb.se