Labour market statistics at Statistics Sweden

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Labour market statistics

• Several different statistical products aimed at describing the Swedish labour market
• Some are regulated by Eurostat, some are not
• Sweden have a long history of keeping a lot of records and registers with regards to the population, work, educational attainment and so forth
Regulated by Eurostat
Labour force surveys

• The concepts in the labour force survey are defined by ILO (International labour organisation)
  • Who is employed
  • Who is unemployed
  • Who is inactive
• The concepts are the same in all countries
• We survey the economic activities performed by an individual during a fixed reference week
The definitions

Population

Labour force
- Employed
  - At work
  - Absent the reference week
- Unemployed

Inactive
- Students
- Retired
- Sick
- Others
Swedish LFS in short

• Started off at the Swedish public employment service in 1959
• Has been done by Statistics Sweden since 1961
• Has undergone several changes over the years
• From 2007 in full compliance with ILO for our national reporting: International Labour Organisation (ILO) → Eurostat → Statistics Sweden
• Latest revision was in 2021 with regulation 2019/700
  • Regulates more exactly how the survey is to be done
Swedish LFS in short cont.

- Started of as a quarterly survey 1961-1970
  - Still a quarterly survey but with monthly publications
- Every month was sampled but just two adjacent ”ox weeks”
  - no national holidays
- From 1993 the Swedish LFS has had ”rolling” reference weeks where all weeks in the year are sampled
- From 2005 the LFS questionnaire was revised to fully harmonize with Commission Regulations
Outlay of the survey

• Sample survey with the target population of persons residing in the country in private households aged 15-89 years old
  • 15-74 year before 2021
• Sample size has varied over the years but is today roughly 17 500 individuals per month sampled from the Swedish population register
Outlay of the survey cont.

- Panel design – each person is interviewed once each quarter during 2 years
- Built around reference weeks
  One LFS-month = 4–5 reference weeks
- Data is collected through CATI and from April 2024 also through CAWI
Panel design

- Data collected for the LFS is supposed to be done through a panel design
  - Many countries employ a 2-2-2 scheme
- In Sweden each respondent is interviewed each quarter for eight consecutive quarters
- Bigger sample with lower respondent burden
- By interviewing the same persons as in the previous quarter better information is achieved on changes in the labour market
Panel design cont.

- Correlation between quarters
- Also make it possible to do flow statistics
  - How many of the unemployed got employed the following quarter for example
- A quarterly sample consists of three separate samples (independence between months)
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Use of other registers

- Although being an individually based sample survey we rely heavily on registers from other parts of Statistics Sweden and other government authorities
  - We draw our sample from the Swedish population register
  - During the interview we use place of work from the tax registers
  - We use tax registers and data from the Swedish Public Employment Service in our weighting
    > GREG-estimator
- We rely heavily on others to do each monthly publication
European business statistics

- Previously Short term employment statistics
- Statistics on the number of employees by detailed industry level and county
- Also data on personnel turnover and sick leave.
- Also regulated by Eurostat
  - But unlike the LFS Eurostat has defined the concepts and it is up to the member country on how to produce data
European business statistics cont.

- Was previously a survey
  - Sampling frame was active places of work and economic entities that had one or more employees
- Statistics Sweden as well as Eurostat want to reduce the respondent burden
  - For small businesses it was often a challenge to report all data that Statics Sweden require
  - Many of the surveys directed to businesses and employers are mandatory
  - No individual surveys are mandatory
European business statistics cont.

- Since 2020 Statistics Sweden has access to tax registers on a monthly basis on employees
  - Employed also by the LFS
- In order to reduce the respondent burden, the EBS has instead started (or will very soon) publish data on employees solely based on tax registers
- To be able to publish data on personnel turnover and sick leave a much smaller sample then previously is drawn
Unregulated by Eurostat
Population by Labour market status

- The Swedish tax agency has introduced monthly “pay as you earn (PAYE) tax returns”
- Statistics Sweden get sent these continuously
- Statistics Sweden wanted to modernise its labour market statistics
- Complements the LFS
  - Regional data
  - Smaller age groups
Population by Labour market status

- The purpose is to describe the Swedish labour market and its development over time
- Describes the population from six different labour market statuses
- Based solely on administrative records/registers
- Data is published monthly, quarterly and yearly
- Is official statistics (is deemed of enough quality) as of September 2023
Arbetsmarknadsstatus

Population

Labour force
- Employed
  - Employees
  - Self-employed
- Unemployed

Inactive
- Students
- Retired
- Sick
- Others
1. Employed
   - PAYE
   - Self-employed tax
   - Sick leave Swedish Social insurance fund

2. Unemployed
   - Registered at Swedish Public Employment Service

3. Students
   - Receiving student grants

4. Retired
   - Payment from Swedish pension agency

5. Sick
   - Non-work related payment from Swedish Social insurance fund

6. Others
   - Residual
Challenges and prerequisites?

• For individual based surveys
  • Dwindling response rates
  • To keep up the quality we are heavily reliant on registers and data from other government agencies/authorities for weighting, contacting respondents, use during the interview and so on

• For register based surveys
  • Even with very good registers no data set is not complete
  • Requires a very high degree of cooperation between the different government agencies/authorities
  • Cooperation and dialogue are key words both for the survey produced statistics as well as that produced solely through registers
Thank you for listening!

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