

Gainful employment

In this section, a number of terms appear which are explained below:

In the labour force: individuals who are either employed or unemployed.

Not in the labour force: individuals who are not employed and not looking for work.

Employed: individuals who have gainful employment for at least one hour in the reference week or who have been temporarily absent from work.

Unemployed: individuals who have no gainful employment and actively seek work.

Temporarily absent: individuals who have a job, but have not performed that job for at least a week because of vacation, illness, parental leave, studies, military service, etc.

Economic activity rate: the per cent (%) of the population in the labour force.

Unemployment rate: the per cent (%) unemployed in the labour force.

Employment rate: the per cent (%) of the population who are employed.

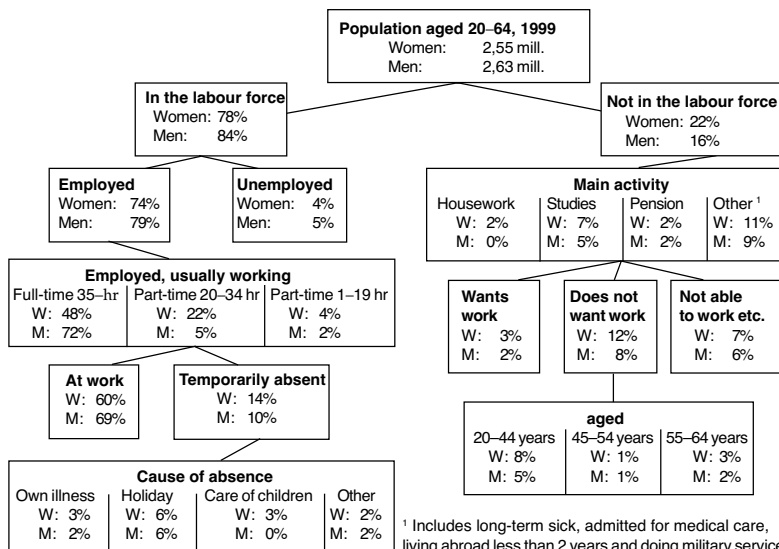
Absenteeism rate: the per cent (%) gainfully employed, but temporarily not performing their jobs. Absences of both whole weeks and part of week are included.

Hidden unemployed: individuals who want and can work but who have not been seeking work during the current month, and full-time students seeking work.

Underemployed: individuals who work 40 hours/week at the most and who work less than they would like for reasons related to the labour market.

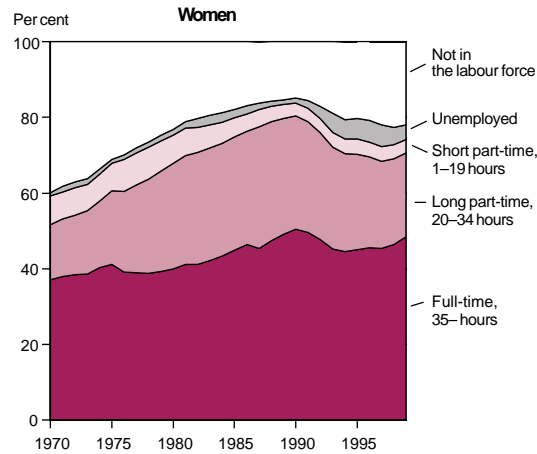
Population aged 20–64 in and not in the labour force 1999

Proportion (%) of the population in different groups



¹ Includes long-term sick, admitted for medical care, living abroad less than 2 years and doing military service

Women aged 20–64 by activity status and hours normally worked 1970–1999

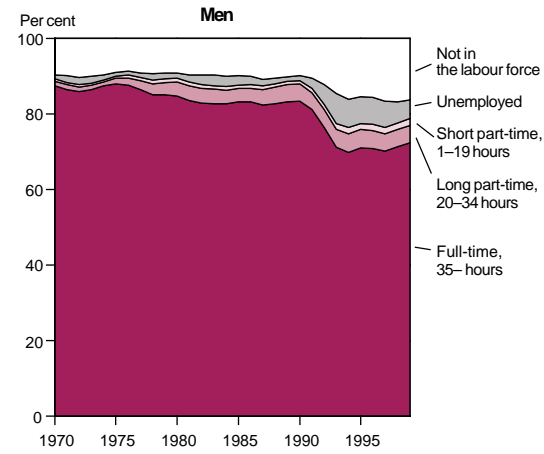


Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

The rate of gainful employment rose among women between 1970 and 1990, subsequently decreasing. Until the mid-1980s the proportion working long part-time increased. During the 1980s there was an increase in the proportion working full-time. In the 1990s unemployment has risen while both full-time and long part-time workers have decreased. In the last two years unemployment has fallen and employment has increased slightly.

In 1999 the economic activity rate among women aged 20–64 was 78 per cent and the unemployment rate was 4 per cent.

Men aged 20–64 by activity status and hours normally worked 1970–1999



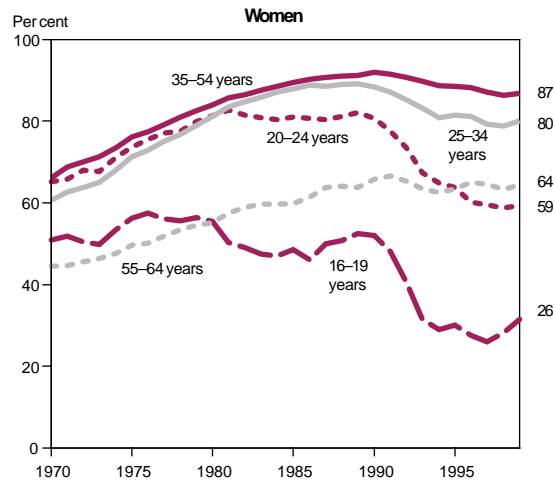
Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

The rate of men's gainful employment remained at the same level between 1970 and 1990, subsequently decreasing. Around 1980 the proportion with full-time work decreased somewhat while the proportion with long part-time increased. At the beginning of the 1990s, the proportion of full-time workers fell sharply while both the unemployed and those not in the labour force increased. Unemployment peaked in 1993. In the last two years unemployment has fallen and employment has gone up.

In 1999 men aged 20–64 had an economic activity rate of 84 per cent and an unemployment rate of 5 per cent.

**Economic activity rate among women by age
1970–1999**

Proportion (%) of women in the labour force



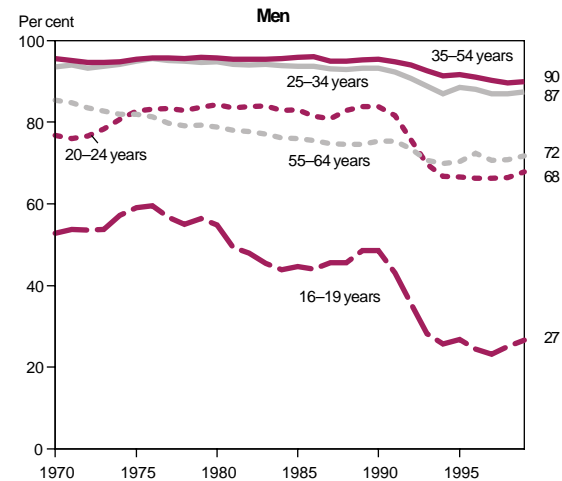
Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Women's labour force participation increased during the '70s, and also, though somewhat more slowly, in the '80s. During the '90s women's labour force participation decreased in most age groups, especially among younger women but also among the mid-aged. Among those aged 55–64 the economic activity rate has been around 65 per cent.

In 1999, the economic activity rate increased for all ages, most for those 16–19 but less for those 35–54.

**Economic activity rate among men by age
1970–1999**

Proportion (%) of men in the labour force



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Men's labour force participation at age 25–54 was constant during the '70s and '80s and then dropped. At the beginning of the '90s, the rate for younger men fell sharply. Among men aged 55–64, it has decreased slowly since the beginning of the '70s, but in recent years has been around 70 per cent.

In 1999, the economic activity rate increased for all ages, mostly for those 16–19 and less for those 35–54.

Economic activity rate by country of birth and age 1999

Country of birth	Age 25-44		45-64	
	W	M	W	M
	Nordic countries except Sweden	80	85	67
Europe except Nordic countries	66	78	57	69
Others except Sweden	56	77	50	66
Sweden	86	90	79	84
Total	83	89	77	82

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

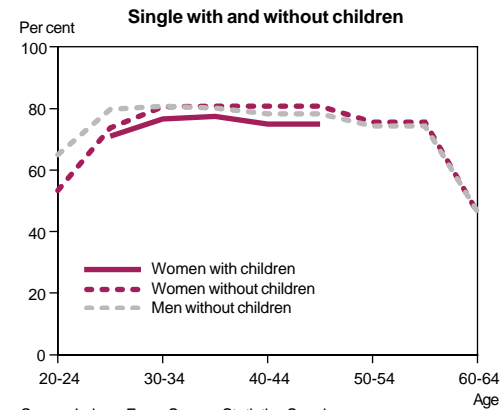
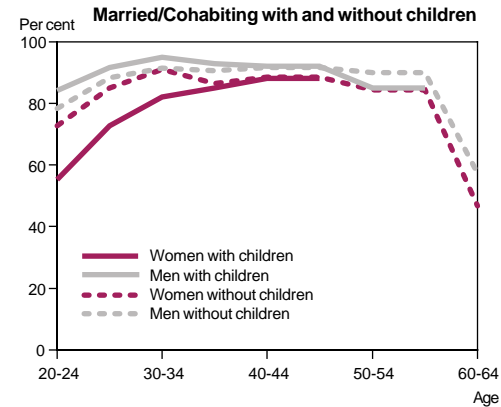
Population by country of birth and age 1999

Numbers in 1 000's

Country of birth	Age 25-44		45-64	
	W	M	W	M
	Nordic countries except Sweden	38	32	70
Europe except Nordic countries	54	46	49	47
Others except Sweden	68	76	24	33
Sweden	1 030	1 087	958	988
Total	1 190	1 241	1 106	1 119

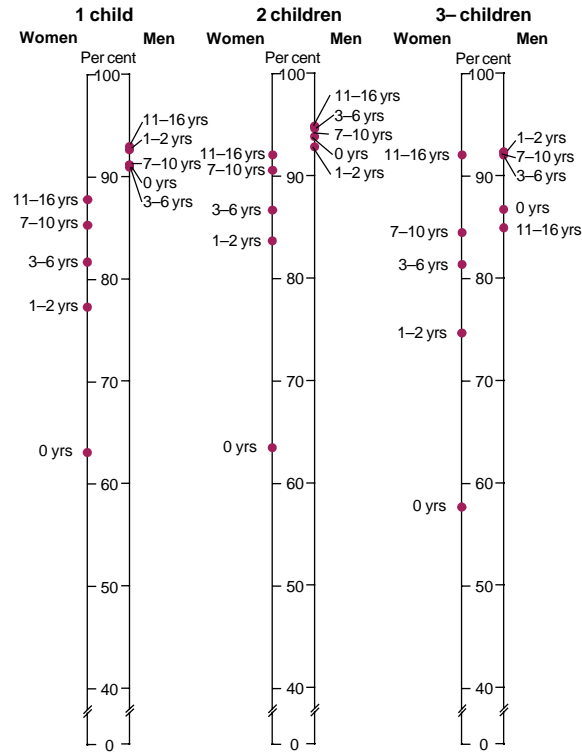
Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Economic activity rate for persons with and without children 0-6 years by age 1999



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Economic activity rate for persons with children 0–16 years by number of children and age of youngest child 1999



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Employed¹ parents with children less than 17 years by length of workinghours, number of children and age of the youngest child 1999

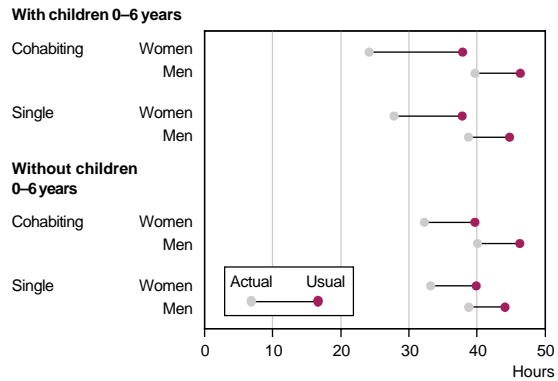
Proportion of all employed

Number of children	Women		Men	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
1 child				
0 years	82	18	93	7
1-2 years	58	42	94	6
3-6 years	60	40	93	7
7-10 years	63	37	95	5
11-16 years	70	30	95	5
2 children				
0 years	67	33	96	4
1-2 years	46	54	94	6
3-6 years	54	46	95	5
7-10 years	59	41	96	4
11-16 years	66	34	97	3
3- children				
0 years	67	33	93	7
1-2 years	42	58	93	7
3-6 years	47	53	93	7
7-10 years	56	44	97	3
11-16 years	67	33	100	0

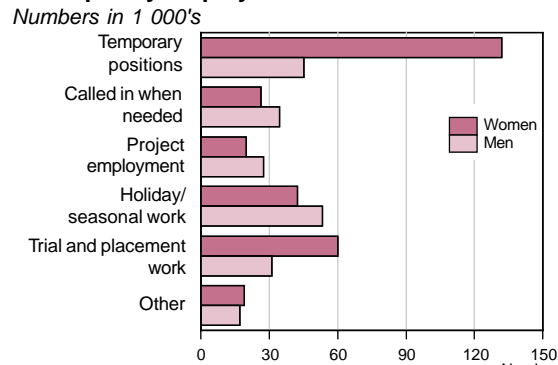
¹ Employed includes those temporarily absent, e.g. on parental leave.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Hours worked per week by employed persons aged 20–64 in different types of households 1999



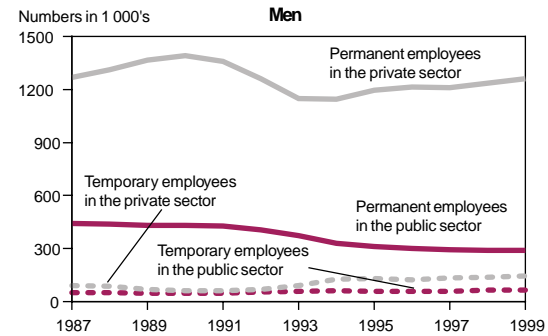
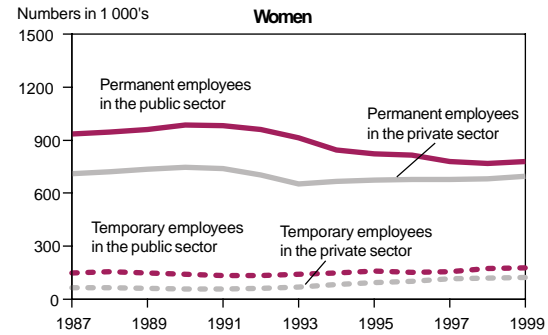
Temporary employees¹ aged 20–64 by type of temporary employment 1999



¹ Have worked for a specific limited period without a permanent position.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

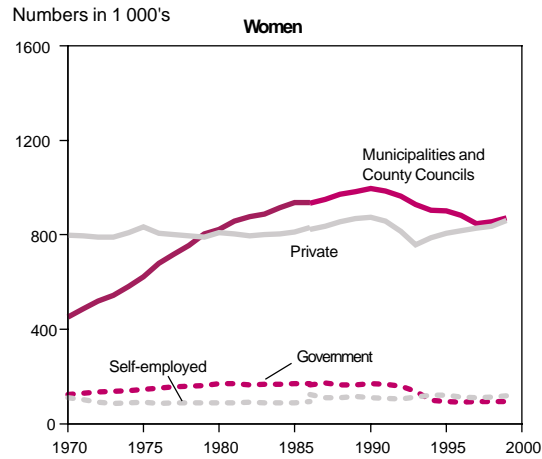
Employees aged 20–64 by sector and link to labour market 1987¹–1999



¹ Comparable data before 1987 not available.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Employed women aged 16–64 by sector 1970–1999

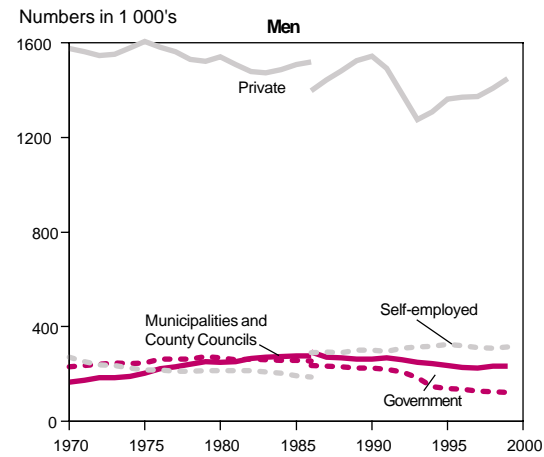


Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Women work as much in the public as in the private sector, while men work mainly in the private sector. In the government sector employment has decreased since 1990 for women and since 1980 for men. Reductions are partly due to cutbacks in staff, as well as to the transformation of public utilities into commercial enterprises (examples include the Post Office, the National Telecommunications Administration and the State Power Corporation) during the 1990s. Their employees are now included in the private sector, which has grown for both women and men after the severe cutbacks during the previous few years.

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Employed men aged 16–64 by sector 1970–1999



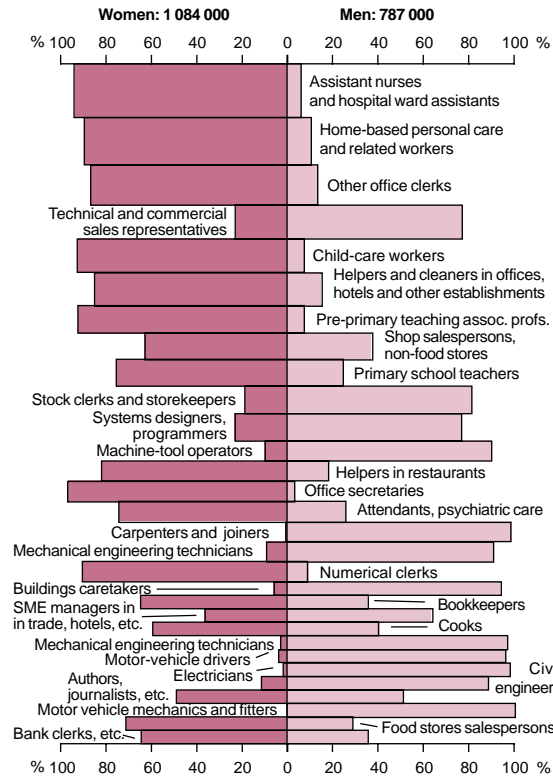
Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

The municipal sector has experienced sharp declines for women as well as men since 1990. The number of self-employed has decreased in recent years amongst both women and men.

The gap in the curves is partly due to a new measuring method introduced in 1987. All who worked in limited companies were classified as employees before 1987. Thereafter they were classified as self-employed. Since there are more self-employed men than women, the gap in the curves is more visible for men than women.

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The 30 largest occupations 1999
 Number and sex distribution (%). Ranked by numbers in occupation



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Sex distribution within the 30 largest occupations 1999

Of all those employed aged 16–64, 56 per cent of the women and 37 per cent of the men work in the 30 largest occupations.

Only two occupations have an equal sex distribution, i.e. 40–60 per cent of each sex. These are *Authors, journalists, etc.* with 49 per cent women and 51 per cent men and *Cooks* with 60 per cent women and 40 per cent men.

The most women-dominated occupation is *Office secretaries* with 97 per cent women and 3 per cent men. The most men-dominated occupation, with 100 per cent men is *Motor vehicle mechanics and fitters*.

Occupational segregation 1999

Percentage distribution and numbers in 1 000's

Occupations with	Women	Men
90–100% women, 0–10% men	29	2
60–90% women, 10–40% men	44	11
40–60% women, 40–60% men	13	11
10–40% women, 60–90% men	14	39
0–10% women, 90–100% men	2	37
Total, per cent	100	100
number	1 947	2 121

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Employees aged 16–64 by industry and sector 1999

Percentage distribution, numbers in 1 000's and sex distribution (%)

Industry/ sector	Percentage distribution				Sex distribution	
	Women		Men		W	M
	Number	%	Number	%		
Social work	410	22	43	2	90	10
Health care	256	14	53	3	83	17
Retail trade	131	7	55	3	70	30
Personal service	11	1	5	0	67	33
Education	224	12	116	6	66	34
Recreational services, restaurants and hotels	101	6	75	4	57	43
Financial institutions and insurance	190	10	230	13	45	55
Wholesale trade and communication	142	8	343	19	29	71
Agriculture, forestry, fishing etc.	10	1	26	1	27	73
Industry excl. construction	199	11	560	31	26	74
Construction	17	1	162	9	9	91
Other	139	8	138	8	50	50
Total	1 828	100	1 807	100	50	50
Of which						
Municipalities and County councils	873	48	233	13	79	21
Government	93	5	123	7	43	57
Private	862	47	1449	80	37	63
Total, per cent		100		100	50	50

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Self-employed aged 16–64 by industry 1999

Percentage distribution, numbers in 1 000's and sex distribution (%)

Industry	Percentage distribution				Sex distribution	
	Women		Men		W	M
	Number	%	Number	%		
Personal service	20	18	7	2	74	26
Retail trade	17	16	23	7	43	57
Recreational services, restaurants and hotels	14	13	28	9	34	66
Financial institutions and insurance	20	18	63	20	24	76
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc.	12	11	49	16	20	80
Wholesale trade and communication	8	7	58	19	12	88
Industry incl. construction	9	8	72	23	11	89
Other	9	8	10	3	47	53
Total	110	100	309	100	26	74
Of which						
With employees	33	31	125	40	21	79
Without employees	76	69	184	59	29	71

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Self-employed by number of employees in company and legal form 1998

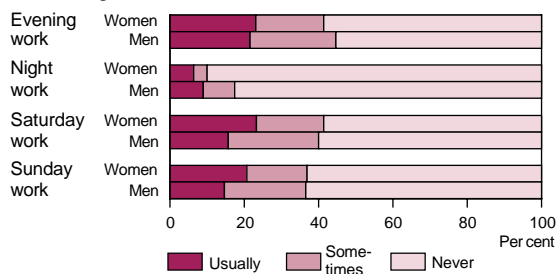
Percentage distribution and number

Number of employees	Women		Men	
	Self-empl. limited. co.	Self-employed	Self-empl. limited. co.	Self-employed
1	11	74	19	81
2-4	25	20	26	15
5-9	20	4	18	3
10-19	20	1	16	1
20-49	16	0	13	0
50-	9	0	7	0
Total, per cent	100	100	100	100
number	25 600	63 400	71 300	147 800

Source: Employment register, Statistics Sweden

Inconvenient working hours among employed persons aged 20-64 in 1999

Percentage distribution



Fully 40 per cent of all women and men respectively work only day-time on weekdays.

Source: Labour Force EU survey, Statistics Sweden

High strain occupations 1999

Proportion (%) of group and sex distribution (%)

Occupational group	High strain		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	W	M
Examples of groups with high strain among women				
Nursing associate professionals	61	..	91	9
Primary school teachers	60	..	75	25
Secondary school teachers	51	..	52	48
Pre-primary teachers	44	..	92	8
Assistant nurses and hospital ward assistants	44	..	94	6
Home-based personal care and related workers	37	..	88	12
Finance and sales assoc. profs.	35	21	33	67
Examples of groups with high strain among men				
Heavy truck and lorry drivers	..	38	3	97
Agricultural and other mobile-plant operators	..	35	3	97
Stores and transport clerks	..	30	23	77
Machine-tools operators	..	27	10	90
Finance and sales assoc. profs.	35	21	33	67
Physical and engineering science technicians	..	17	14	86
Building frame workers, etc.	..	16	2	98

Source: Statistics on Work Environment, Statistics Sweden

High strain: High performance demands at work together with lack of opportunity to control and influence the work.

Employed persons experiencing discomfort in last 12 months by age in 1999

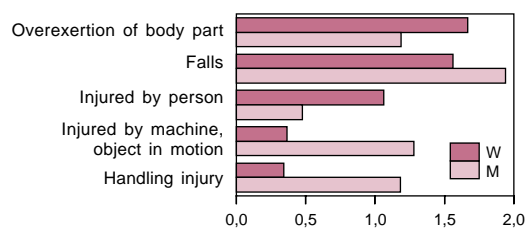
Proportion (%) of all employed in group

Discomfort	Age					
	16-29		30-49		50-64	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
Strenuous work posture	8	4	10	7	12	8
Stress, mental strain	6	4	10	6	10	5
Heavy work	6	4	7	6	8	5
Occupational accident	2	3	2	4	2	4
Monotonous repetitive work	2	1	4	3	4	2
Work at VDT/PC	2	1	3	1	4	1
Chemical products	2	1	1	1	1	1
Harassment	1	0	0	0	1	0
Menaces or violence	0	1	1	0	1	0
Other conditions at work	18	12	25	18	28	18

Source: National Board of Occupational Safety and Health

Reported occupational accidents by type 1998

Number per 1 000 of employed



Source: National Board of Occupational Safety and Health

Absenteeism rate by reason 1999

Proportion (%) absent in group

Reason for absence	Total 20-64 years		Total with children 0-6 years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
The whole week				
Illness	5	3	5	2
Vacation	10	8	9	8
Care of children	4	0	22	2
Studies, military serv. etc. ¹	3	2	5	2
Total	22	14	40	14
Part of the week				
Illness	3	2	3	2
Vacation	4	3	3	4
Care of children	2	1	7	3
Studies, military serv. etc. ¹	21	19	20	19
Total	29	25	33	27

¹ Incl. compensatory leave etc. and absence part of the week from second job.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

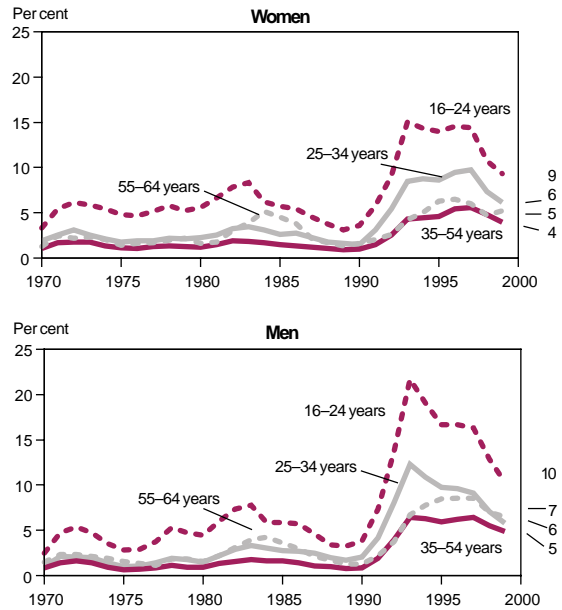
Unemployment rate by country of birth and age 1999

Proportion (%) unemployed in the labour force

Country of birth	Age			
	25-44		45-64	
	W	M	W	M
Nordic countries except Sweden	6	7	5	5
Europe except Nordic countries	14	17	10	12
Others except Sweden	17	19	13	18
Sweden	5	4	4	5
No information	0	14	0	0
Total	5	6	4	5

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

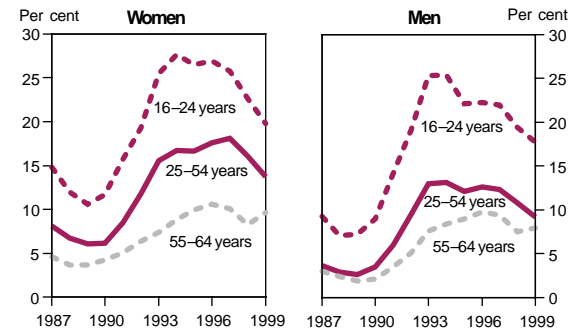
Unemployment rate by age 1970–1999
Proportion (%) unemployed in the labour force



Uncertain values for 55–64 years: women 1970–1981 and 1987–1991, men 1970–1977.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Underemployed, unemployed or hidden unemployed by age 1987–1999
Proportion (%) of the population in age group



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden

Unemployed, underemployed and hidden unemployed by age 1999
Numbers in 1 000's

Age	Unemployed		Under-employed		Hidden unemployed	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
20–24	15	19	29	18	8	11
25–34	30	32	52	25	15	12
35–44	24	29	48	19	10	12
45–54	18	25	46	13	7	9
55–64	16	23	21	6	6	6
Total	102	128	196	80	46	49

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Sweden