

Monthly Gross Unemployment Figures

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1. Contents of the time series – or domain of the statistics

*Name of the time series
or domain of the
statistics*

Monthly Oresund-harmonized gross unemployment figures.

*Contents of the time
series*

The time series contains harmonized statistics on the number of registered "full-time unemployed persons" during a well-defined "reference week" for each month.

The national statistics are harmonized, thereby ensuring that the highest possible data comparability is achieved for the Öresund Region. This also implies that data differ from the national statistics of unemployment.

2. Primary data/sources

Danish sources

From the year 2007 the Danish sources are for the whole period made up by the register-based statistics on gross unemployment figures, which are in turn based on recipients of unemployment benefit from the Register for Labour Market (RAM) and the statistics on the total number of unemployed recipients of social assistance compiled by the National Labour Market Authority.

Swedish sources

The Swedish sources for the statistics are made up by a database of the Arbetsförmedlingen (job centre), which is part of the data storage maintained by the Arbetsförmedlingen.

Comparability

See chapter 3.

3. Population (statistical concepts)

*Population in general
– detailed explanation
of contents*

In this context, "full-time unemployed" is defined as persons who were unemployed during all weekdays of the week, i.e. with a weekly degree above 80 pct.. Similarly, the reference weeks (as from January 2007) are defined as the last week in which unemployment benefit was claimed during each of the Danish periods in which unemployment benefit was claimed, see the annex listing the exact reference weeks and the exact time of publication for the monthly statistics, see 'Annex 1_select_reference week_oresund unemployment'

Danish population

The Danish population of gross unemployed persons covers (unlike the Swedish population) 10-15,000 persons for all Denmark, who are in

subsidized employment, but who must permanently be available for the ordinary labour market, and consequently they are also considered to be gross unemployed in the official Danish statistics on gross unemployment.

Swedish population The Swedish population of gross unemployed persons covers about 15,000 registered unemployed persons and participants in different labour market policy measures/program, who neither receive unemployment compensation or activation benefits – all unemployed persons are available for work.

Comparability Despite the challenges and differences involved in the production of the Oresund-harmonized unemployment statistics, the data comparability and quality are considered to be high.

4-Variables and construction

Common list of variables The first tables showing the monthly Oresund-harmonized gross unemployment figures must be distributed by sex, age and municipality of residence. The population aged 16-64 and the labour force from 16-64 years are applied as reference data for estimating percentages/shares.

For estimating the percentages, the population in December is applied and Oresund commuters for November have been added on the basis of RAS/RAMS registers.

Construction of variables Statistics Denmark is responsible for the seasonal adjustment of the Danish as well as the Swedish gross unemployed data series.

Compilation of statistics Statistics Denmark is responsible for the seasonal adjustment of the Danish as well as the Swedish gross unemployed data series.

Comparability There is no problem attached to comparing the Danish and the Swedish data series on gross unemployment.

5 Break in the series

Break in the series in general There is no break in the data series.

Break in the Danish data As from January 2007 there is no break in the Danish data series on gross unemployment.

Break in the Swedish data Since 1992 there is no break in the Swedish data series on gross unemployment.

6 Non-disclosure practice

Non-disclosure practice There is not yet any specific problem with regard to non-disclosure practice and/or non-disclosure method for this time series.

7 Differences with regard to other published statistics and quality assurance

Differences from other published statistics

In Denmark the concept of gross unemployment is as such identical with the concept applied in the official Danish monthly statistics on gross unemployment figures. However, the official Danish data series on gross unemployment cover all part-time gross unemployed persons of the month, converted into full-time volume for the reference month, whereas the Oresund-harmonized concept of gross unemployment always refers to all persons who were gross unemployed for more than 80 pct. of the length of the reference week each month.

The unemployment statistics presented by the Swedish job centre "Arbetsförmedling" are not the official statistics for Sweden. These statistics are published by the statistical institute of Sweden Statistiska Centralbyrån (Statistics Sweden) in connection with the Swedish Labour Force Survey.

The statistics on unemployed persons of the "Arbetsförmedlingens" are compiled on the basis of the different groups of persons in search of work, who are registered with the Swedish job centre. One of these groups is "Öppet arbetslösa" – i.e. persons looking for a job, actively in search of a job and who can immediately start a new job. Another group is persons in "Program med aktivitetsstöd" (subsidized employment). These two groups make up together the registered unemployed persons. The share of "Öppet arbetslösa" and/or persons in "Program med aktivitetsstöd" is usually stated in relation to the register-based labour.

The last weekday of the month is applied as reference time in the statistics of unemployed persons compiled by the "Arbetsförmedlingen", whereas unemployment during a week, defined in advance, in the middle of the month is measured by the Oresund-harmonized statistics. Consequently, there is each month a difference in the number of unemployed persons between the Oresund statistics and the statistics compiled by the "Arbetsförmedlingen".

Furthermore, the statistics published by the "Arbetsförmedlingen" are extracted from the system by the end of the month under survey. By contrast, the figures used for the Oresund-harmonized statistics are not extracted from the system until approximately one month later than the month under survey, which implies that the figures have subsequently been subjected to a number of corrections and transactions.

Finally, the Oresund-harmonized statistics also include persons, who at the "Arbetsförmedlingen" were unemployed during a part of the week. However, in the statistics compiled by the "Arbetsförmedlingen" only persons who were unemployed during the whole week are included.

Quality assurance

The quality of the data has been thoroughly subjected to checks in connection with the preliminary work that has been carried out with regard to the compilation of the new Oresund-harmonized statistics on

unemployment. It is a major challenge to create harmonized statistics between two countries, but the quality is considered to be very high in this context.

8 Reference time

Reference time in general The reference time of the statistics is a reference week per month, which is defined in advance.

Reference time for Danish variables Unemployment data can always be referred to the whole reference week, whereas background information, e.g. sex, age and municipality of residence is compiled on the last day of the week. However, the register-based labour statistics are only published annually and always relate to the last week of November, with the exception of cross-border commuters who are included in the spring.

Reference time for Swedish variables In the statistics on unemployed persons compiled by the “Arbetsförmedlingen” the last weekday of the month is used as reference time, whereas unemployment during a week, defined in advance, in the middle of the month is measured by the Oresund-harmonized statistics.

Comparability There will always be a range of challenges involved in comparing the concept of gross unemployment across the Öresund Region, but the reference week, defined in advance, and which is used in measuring unemployment, implies that it is not the reference time that is of importance in connection with comparing data, but only the previously described differences in the statistics.

9 Intervals of updating

Interval of updating The time series is updated monthly. Timetables are continuously prepared for the coming calendar year, see ‘Annex 1_Select_ reference week Oresund unemployment’.

Publication time Data are updated in the Oresund Database 3 months after the end of the reference month.

Further information The calendar showing the scheduled publication of statistics is available from <http://www.orestat.se/sv/offentliggoreliseskalender-0>

10 Contact information

Inquiries A contact person from, respectively, Statistics Denmark and Statistics Sweden is attached to all time series in the Oresund Database.