Labourmarket in the Öresund region

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

Name of the time series of domain of the statistics

Labourmarket in the Öresund region

Contents of the time series

The time series contains statistics on the population's attachment to the labour market for the years 1994-2012. Unlike the national statistical databases of Sweden and Denmark, the Öresund database contains labour market information on cross border commuters. This allows for a correct representation of the regional labour market, as those commuting across Öresund are correctly listed as employed. Primary data/sources

Danish sources

Register-based labour force statistics (RAS)

Swedish sources

Register-based labour market statistics (RAMS)

Comparability

RAS and RAMS are statistics on the population's attachment to the labour market in November. The RAMS statistics show the population's attachment in November, while the RAS statistics show the population's attachment at the end of November. The Danish as well as the Swedish statistics comply as far as possible with the guidelines laid down by the International Labour Organisation with respect to classifying the population's attachment to the labour market (ICSE). In accordance with the guidelines a person is to be stated as a person in employment, if the person in question performed at least 1 hour of paid work during the reference week.

For the period 1994-2007 the number of employees in employment according to the RAS and RAMS statistics is compiled on the basis of annual pay declaration slips from the tax authorities. One weakness of these annual pay declaration slips is that the information on whether the job is active in November is not always of adequate quality. Furthermore, the pay declaration slips do not contain any information on the number of hours worked. Against this background, it has been necessary in the RAS statistics as well as the RAMS statistics to use total earnings as an indicator to determine whether the person in question has performed at least one hour of paid work during the reference week.

The inadequate reference periods as well as the lack of hourly information contribute to the uncertainty as to whether a person is in actual fact employed in November/at the end of November. The greatest uncertainty is seen for person groups which are not part of the core labour force, i.e. the elderly and younger persons. In connection with the compilation of RAS and RAMS statistics, various methods have been developed with regard to adjusting these uncertainties.

As from the year 2008 the number of employees in employment in the RAS statistics is compiled on the basis of monthly information from the e-Income register. The change to the e-Income register as data source for employees in employment has implied that the data on reference periods of jobs have been considerably improved in the Danish statistics. The e-Income register also contains information on the number of hours worked.

The change to the e-Income register as data source for employees in employment resulted in a major break in the data series in the RAS statistics, where the number persons in employment declined by about 70,000 as a result of this change

The above-mentioned implies that some caution should be made when comparing the employment levels in the RAS and RAMS statistics. On the other hand, a good indication that the RAS and RAMS statistics are roughly speaking comparable for the most recent year is that employment in the RAS statistics as well as in the RAMS statistics has during recent years ranged around 1 pct. lower than employment in the labour force surveys conducted in Denmark and in Sweden.

2. Population (statistical concepts)

Population in general – detailed explanation of contents

The population consists of persons resident in Denmark or Sweden. For each person in the population, the primary attachment to the labour market is determined.

The population is roughly speaking classified by employed persons or unemployed persons. The persons in employment are all attached to a workplace. This implies that it is also possible to compile the number of workplaces. The persons in employment can also be sub-classified as to whether they are self-employed, assisting spouses or employees at various levels of skill.

For persons who have more than one attachment to the labour market, i.e. persons who have more than one job, the primary attachment is determined as the job in which the person in question has performed work for the greatest number of hours.

The statistics contain a wide range of background information relating to each individual person or each individual workplace. This information can relate to, e.g. highest level of education completed or industry of the workplace.

Danish population

The population covers persons who are resident in Denmark at the end of the year according to the Danish population statistics.

Swedish population

The population covers persons who are resident in Sweden at the end of the year according to the Swedish population statistics.

Comparability

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3. Variables and construction

Common list of variables

Personal data:
sex
age
municipality of residence
citizenship
country of birth
level of education
number of years in Denmark/Sweden
status in relation to the labour market (employed/unemployed)

Data concerning the workplace:
industry code
sector code
municipality of the workplace
size of the workplace

Construcion of variables

Compilation of statistics The RAS and RAMS statistics are compiled by linking data from a number of registers and undertaking a classification of the population in relation to the population's labour market attachment. In most cases, the quality of the input registers and variables is very high.

The greatest uncertainty is attached to the classification of employees to each individual workplace, which applies to the RAS statistics as well as the RAMS statistics. In connection with reporting data to the tax authorities, the employers must state to which workplace the employee in question is physically attached, when a business enterprise has several workplaces. These data reports are always of the best quality and this is the reason why Statistics Denmark and Statistics Sweden use a great deal of resources with regard to validating the data and to rectify, as far as possible, any imperfect data reports.

Comparability The RAS and RAMS statistics are widely comparable in relation to background variables. Both statistics are compiled in such a way that they comply to the greatest possible extent with the guidelines laid down by the International Labour Organisation. Furthermore, the statistics also comply with the international nomenclatures for the various background variables, e.g. ISCED for the highest level of education completed and NACE for industry of the business enterprise.

4. Break in the series

Break in the series in general

Break in the Danish data There is a break in the data series between 2007 and 2008 in the RAS statistics. In 2008 the data source for the RAS statistics was changed to the e-Income register as source for employees in employment. This implied that national employment declined by about 70,000 persons entirely due to the use of new primary data.

Break in the Swedish data In 2004 a number of adjustments were made to the RAS statistics with regard to the processing of data. The primary purpose was to reduce the production time of the statistics. This was made possible by using a new data source for self-employed persons. Simultaneously, various adjustments of the classification method for employees were made. Taken as a whole, this implied that the number of employees in employment was increased by approximately 75,000 persons, which corresponds to 1.8 pct.

As from the year 20111 a great number of changes were made to the RAMS statistics. These changes had, in particular, an effect on persons aged 65 or over. The reason for conducting these changes was to achieve a higher data quality for self-employed persons and to achieve a greater consistency with the labour force survey with regard to labour market attachment of the elderly. The changes resulted in a break in the data series in relation to previously. The changes also implied that another 50,000 persons were compiled as employed persons, which corresponds to an increase of 1.2 pct.

5. Non-disclosure practice

Non-disclosure practice In order not to be able to recognize individual persons, data in the following tables: RAS12, RAS13, RAS16, RAS20, RAS21, RAS22 and RAS23 have been subjected to non-disclosure practice.

6. Differences with regard to other published statistics and quality assurance

Differences from other published statistics

Information from the RAS and RAMS statistics are published in the Danish as well as the Swedish databank. Unlike the national statistical databases of Sweden and Denmark, the Öresund database contains labour market information on cross border commuters. This allows for a correct representation of the regional labour market, as those commuting across Öresund are correctly listed as employed. Unlike the national statistical databases of Sweden and Denmark, the Öresund database contains labour market information on cross border commuters. This allows for a correct representation of the regional labour market, as those commuting across Öresund are correctly listed as employed.

Quality assurance

When the RAS and RAMS statistics are made available in the Oresund database, both statistics have already been published in Sweden and Denmark and in this connection the necessary quality assurance has been performed.

7. Reference time

Reference time in general

The reference time of the statistics is the time of compilation in November/at the end of November.

Reference time for Danish variables

Information about the workplace can be related to the time of compilation at the end of November in the RAS statistics. Information about persons relates to the situation at the end of the year. However, information about highest level of education completed relates to the beginning of October.

Reference time for Swedish variables

Information about the workplace can be related to November in the RAMS statistics. Information about persons relates to the situation at the end of the year. Information about municipality of residence and highest level of education completed relates to 1 January of the subsequent year.

Comparability

8. Intervals of updating

Interval of updating

The time series is updated annually.

Publication time

The Oresund Database will in future be updated approximately 2 months after the publication of RAS and RAMS statistics.

Further information

The calendar showing the scheduled publication of statistics is available from http://www.orestat.se/sv/oresundsdatabasen-dansk

9. Contact information

Inquiries

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