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National Research Report for Sweden

OECD Factsheet on migration patterns for Sweden

The increase in migration inflows to Sweden broke the record in 2008 by reaching 101 200. Total net immigration, with 45 300 emigrants from Sweden, amounted to 55 900.

The largest components of inflow were Swedish return migrants (17.6%), followed by Iraqis (12%) and Poles (7%). In 2008, 13.8% of the Swedish population was foreign-born, an increase by 4.2% from 2007, and 562 100 (6.1%) were foreign citizens.

According to national statistics, of the 90, 000 granted residence permits in 2008, family migration continued to be the most prevalent migration type (37% or 33 200 permits) and further increased to 34 100 in 2009. 22% of permits were granted to EU/EEA free movement migrants, 16% to labour migrants, and about 12% each for student and humanitarian migrants. Since 1997, entries by international students (from non-EEA countries) have increased at an annual rate of 14%. Compared to the increase by 22% in 2007 to 8 900 students, the numbers reached 13 500 in 2009.

The number of applicants for asylum decreased in 2008, by 33% from the previous year to 24 400. The number of asylum seekers fell between 2002 and 2005 and rose between 2006 and 2007. Although Iraq remained the main origin country, with Somalia, the number of Iraqi applicants sharply decreased.

Compared to 2007, asylum seekers from Russia, Iran and Afghanistan increased. More unaccompanied minors also sought asylum. In 2008, 24% of the 6 200 asylum seekers under 18 were unaccompanied minors, and this proportion was even higher in the first half of 2009 (33% out of 2 700). The Alien Act was amended and came into force in January 2010 to transpose the EU Qualification Directive and the Asylum Procedure. "Persons in need of protection" are now divided into those granted international status based on EU directives and those on Swedish provisions with status valid only in Sweden. Those granted residence permits as refugees are now automatically granted refugee status without a separate decision.

At the end of 2008, the Swedish migration policy was changed to a demand-driven system. The new regulation generally does not exclude any occupations from the scheme and greatly facilitates recruitment from abroad. The only requirement is that the position be listed with the EURES system for 10 days, and provide the same working conditions and salary as for Swedes. Without any conditions on education and skills, migrants are allowed to be accompanied by family immediately, and have full access to the labour market. The initial permit is valid for up to 2 years, but can be converted into a permanent permit after 4 years. The authorisation of the overall process has shifted from the Public Employment Service to the Swedish Migration Board.

Under the new regulations – and despite the economic recession – applications for work permits increased by 30% in 2009 compared to 2008, with 16 500 applicants, of whom 85% were granted permits. The largest population groups were Asians, especially from India, China and Thailand. The largest share of permits is due to seasonal summer employment in the agricultural sector. Most of the permanent migrants are employed in computer, telecommunications and electronics jobs.

A cohesive integration strategy for 2008-2010, presented by the government in September 2008, encompasses interventions in seven areas:

- Reception and introduction of new arrivals,
- employment and entrepreneurship,
- educational performance and equality in schools,
- language and education for adults,
- discrimination,
- local development in urban districts with wide-spread exclusion and
- shared values.

Sweden is investing SEK 92.4million annually from 2009 to 2011 in measures enhancing qualified skills. Also, a pilot project with a performance-based bonus system for newly arrived immigrants was introduced in October 2009 to support language acquisition. A new comprehensive and single Anti-Discrimination Act entered into force in January 2009, introducing penalties to both compensate for violation and to function as deterrence against discrimination.

For further information:

www.migrationsverket.se/info/start_en.html

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Statistics on Countries with the Most Refugees in Europe

According to statistics provided by the UNHCR, Sweden had the fifth highest number of refugees at the beginning of 2010.

Countries With The Most Refugees In Europe (by country of asylum) - At The Beginning Of 2010

	Country Of Asylum	Refugees [1]	People In Refugee-Like Situation [1]	Total [1]	Assisted By UNHCR [1]
1	Germany	593,799	-	593,799	-
2	United Kingdom	269,363	-	269,363	-
3	France	196,364	-	196,364	-

4	Serbia	86,351	-	86,351	86,351
5	Sweden	81,356	-	81,356	-
6	Netherlands	76,008	-	76,008	-
7	Italy	54,965	-	54,965	-
8	Switzerland	46,203	-	46,203	-
9	Austria	38,906	-	38,906	-
10	Norway	37,826	-	37,826	-
11	Montenegro	24,019	-	24,019	24,019
12	Denmark	20,355	-	20,355	-
13	Belgium	15,545	-	15,545	-
14	Poland	15,320	-	15,320	-
15	Turkey	10,350	-	10,350	10,350
16	Ireland, Republic of	9,571	-	9,571	-
17	Finland	7,447	-	7,447	-
18	Ukraine	2,334	5,000	7,334	421
19	Bosnia & Herzegovina	7,132	-	7,132	1,485
20	Hungary	6,044	-	6,044	6,044
21	Malta	5,955	-	5,955	-
22	Bulgaria	5,393	-	5,393	-
23	Russia	4,880	-	4,880	4,880
24	Kazakhstan	4,340	-	4,340	720
25	Spain	3,970	-	3,970	-
26	Armenia	3,607	-	3,607	3,280
27	Luxembourg	3,230	-	3,230	-

28	Cyprus, Republic of	2,888	-	2,888	-
29	Czech Republic	2,323	-	2,323	-
30	Greece	1,695	-	1,695	-
31	Azerbaijan	1,642	-	1,642	1,642
32	Macedonia	1,065	477	1,542	1,542
33	Croatia	1,149	89	1,238	1,238
34	Romania	1,069	-	1,069	281
35	Georgia	870	-	870	870
36	Lithuania	793	-	793	-
37	Belarus	580	-	580	232
38	Slovakia	401	-	401	-
39	Portugal	389	-	389	-
40	Slovenia	289	-	289	289
41	Moldova	141	-	141	141
42	Liechtenstein	91	-	91	-
43	Albania	70	-	70	70
44	Iceland	62	-	62	-
45	Latvia	43	-	43	-
46	Estonia	24	-	24	-
	Confirmed Total	1,646,217	5,566	1,651,783	143,855

On 5th July 2010 UNHCR called for a significant increase in resettlement opportunities, estimating that over the next three to five years more than 805,000 refugees will need resettling in third countries.

"We need to act. There is a growing gap between resettlement needs and available places. I hope more countries will establish resettlement programmes or increase resettlement opportunities," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres. "This is all the more important since new crises continue

to displace more people while old conflicts are failing to resolve. Voluntary returns are at their lowest level in two decades."

More than 80 per cent of the world's refugees live in developing countries where many cannot remain safely and have no possibility of integration. For many refugees, resettlement in a third country is the only way to find lasting safety and a new and permanent home. While voluntary repatriation remains the preferred solution among most of the world's refugees, persistent conflict or fear of persecution often prevent people from returning to their countries of origin.

Only a small number of nations take part in UNHCR resettlement programmes, accepting refugees in quotas on an annual basis. As a result the number of resettlement places available has neither kept pace with increased submissions by UNHCR nor with resettlement needs. For 2010, UNHCR's multi-year projections were that 747,000 persons would need resettlement. For 2011, the same projections now pass the 805,000 mark, a record high. Meanwhile, the annual quotas offered by states have remained unchanged at 80,000 slots.

The widening gap between global resettlement needs and the quotas offered by states will be at the core of annual tripartite consultations between governments, the non-governmental sector, and UNHCR. This year's consultations, which took place in Geneva from July 6th to 8th, were co-chaired by Sweden and UNHCR. Dan Eliasson, Director-General of the Swedish Migration Board, and High Commissioner Guterres opened the meeting.

"I am truly disappointed with the states in Europe not taking a higher humanitarian responsibility for resettlement, and I am seriously concerned considering the situation for refugees suffering in camps and cities all over the world," said Eliasson.

With an annual resettlement quota of 1,900 places, **Sweden tops the list** of 13 European countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK). Last year Belgium, Germany, Italy and Luxembourg also implemented ad hoc resettlement programmes.

Statistics Sweden - Labour Force and Work Environment Surveys

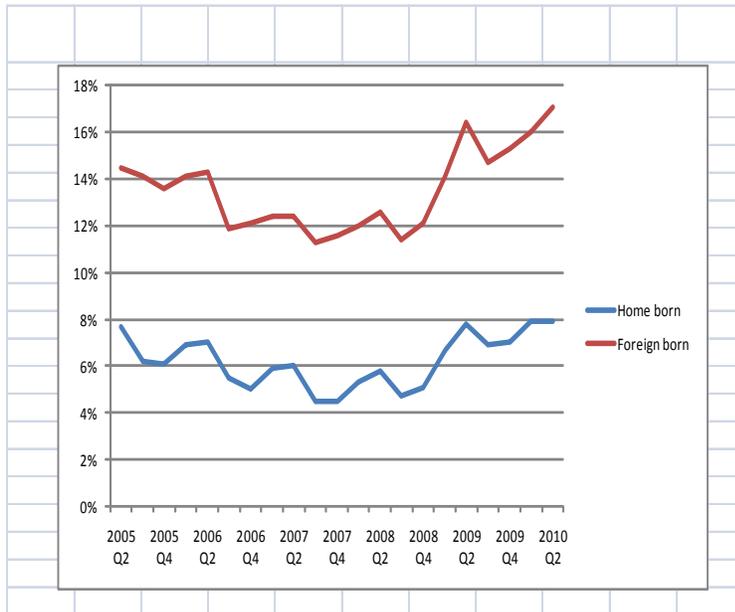
The following statistics show the unemployment rates amongst migrants in Sweden from 2005 - 2009.

Unemployed foreign born persons aged 15-74		
Age	Year/ Quarter	The number of Unemployed
15-74	2005 Q2	91.6
	2005 Q3	89.1
	2005 Q4	85.8
	2006 Q1	88.9
	2006 Q2	93.6
	2006 Q3	78.1
	2006 Q4	79.6
	2007 Q1	81
	2007 Q2	84.4
	2007 Q3	78.1
	2007 Q4	80.2
	2008 Q1	83.6
	2008 Q2	91.7
	2008 Q3	82.8
	2008 Q4	88.4
	2009 Q1	103.6
	2009 Q2	123.5
	2009 Q3	111.9
	2009 Q4	117
	2010 Q1	121.5
2010 Q2	132.4	
<i>Labor Force Survey, Statistics Sweden</i>		

And the following chart shows a comparison between foreign and Swedish-born, unemployment rates.

Unemployment rate. Comparison home / foreign born			
In percent.			
		Unemployment rate	
Age	Year/ Quarter	Home born	Foreign born
15-74	2005 Q2	0.077	0.145
	2005 Q3	0.062	0.141
	2005 Q4	0.061	0.136
	2006 Q1	0.069	0.141
	2006 Q2	0.07	0.143
	2006 Q3	0.055	0.119
	2006 Q4	0.05	0.121
	2007 Q1	0.059	0.124
	2007 Q2	0.06	0.124
	2007 Q3	0.045	0.113
	2007 Q4	0.045	0.116
	2008 Q1	0.053	0.12
	2008 Q2	0.058	0.126
	2008 Q3	0.047	0.114
	2008 Q4	0.051	0.121
	2009 Q1	0.067	0.141
	2009 Q2	0.078	0.164
	2009 Q3	0.069	0.147
	2009 Q4	0.07	0.153
	2010 Q1	0.079	0.16
	2010 Q2	0.079	0.171
<i>Labor Force Survey, Statistics Sweden</i>			

The following graph demonstrates how these rates have changed over the past five years:



Race crime, hate crime and discrimination in Sweden:

The UN General Assembly Human Rights Council Review, 'National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1' in Sweden, May 2010, expressed the following: Some 13 per cent of the Swedish population were born abroad. A further 10 per cent were born in Sweden with at least one parent born abroad. The objective of Swedish integration policies is equal rights, obligations and opportunities for all, regardless of ethnic and cultural background. Social exclusion, as reflected by the gap between the situation of native Swedes and those with an immigrant background, is a concern for the Government in many policy areas, for example with regard to employment. The Swedish Government (pre-election) recognized that the first few years for a new arrival are often of utmost importance for his or her future life in the host country. They therefore acknowledged that there is an urgent need for more effective policies for new arrivals to promote equal opportunities for migrants.

The document also reports on hate crimes (In Sweden, hate crime is defined as a crime motivated by xenophobia/racism, anti-religious motives (Islamophobia, anti-Semitism or other anti-religious motives), homophobia, biphobia, heterophobia and transphobia.) : Since the mid-1990s, the Government has stepped up efforts to combat hate crime. Despite these efforts, the latest report on hate crime from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) shows an increase in reported crimes with xenophobic/racist motives. It is Brå's view that because of the change in definition of hate crime in 2008, it is not possible to directly compare the levels for all hate crimes and xenophobic/racist hate crimes with previous years. For Islamophobic, anti-Semitic and homophobic hate crimes, however, the change in definition is of no significance and comparisons with previous years are therefore possible. An increase can be seen compared with 2008. (OECD 2010) A cohesive integration strategy for 2008-2010, presented by the government in September

2008, encompasses interventions in seven areas: reception and introduction of new arrivals, employment and entrepreneurship, educational performance and equality in schools, language and education for adults, discrimination, local development in urban districts with wide-spread exclusion and shared values.

Sweden is investing SEK 92.4million annually from 2009 to 2011 in measures enhancing qualified skills. Also, a pilot project with a performance-based bonus system for newly arrived immigrants was introduced in October 2009 to support language acquisition. A new comprehensive and single Anti-Discrimination Act entered into force in January 2009, introducing penalties to both compensate for violation and to function as deterrence against discrimination.

However, following a far-right's group (Sweden Democrats) election breakthrough of a 6% vote in September 2010, indicates that anti-immigration feeling is growing in Sweden. Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's coalition won the election but lost its majority in the 349-seat legislature, weakening its ability to push through crucial integration legislation. (Associated Press, 20.09.2010)

"Today, one in seven Swedes is foreign-born, slightly more than the European average", said Jan Ekberg, an economist at Linnaeus University in Vaxjo who has studied immigration across Europe.

While providing a generous welcome, Sweden has struggled to integrate them into the job market. In 2006, 57 percent of immigrants were working, compared with 80 percent of native Swedes, Ekberg said, citing official statistics. Reinfeldt had difficulty digesting the fact that 330,000 Swedes had voted for the Sweden Democrats, whose roots go back to an explicitly xenophobic movement in the 1980s and who are now accused of Islamophobia. "They couldn't all be xenophobes", he said at a news conference, but instead may be people who have lost faith in the way integration has been handled in Sweden.

Daniel Poohl, the editor of anti-racism magazine Expo, suggested Sweden's self-image "as the world's most tolerant nation" was wrong. "Racism and xenophobia constitute a serious problem for society," he said. "Combined with dissatisfaction and frustration, it has now got a voice in parliament."

The British newspaper, 'The Guardian' reported on 24th October 2010, that "**Sweden joins Europe-wide backlash against immigration**" in that, whilst its asylum policies are the continent's most generous, the public mood is now changing.

This has been argued as being caused by the sheer scale of immigration, rather than xenophobia, for in some neighbourhoods, such as Rosengård, Malmo, known locally as "the ghetto", there are up to 20,00 immigrants, over half of whom are without jobs.

In **Sweden**, in 2007, the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), reported 3,536 hate crimes—an 8 percent increase over the 3,259 hate crimes reported in 2006. "Xenophobic" crimes—

the majority subset of hate crimes overall—also registered a year-on-year increase, up 13 percent to 2,489 such crimes in 2007 from 2,189 in 2006.

"In 2009, 5,800 hate crimes were reported. Crimes against foreigners or with racist motives continue to dominate, and the reporting of anti-Semitic crimes has increased," the council said in a statement.

It is reported, however, that many of these are perpetrated by Muslims, who are themselves victims of Islamophobia and hate crimes, with regular attacks against individuals and mosques. Altogether 600 complaints have been filed because of religiously motivated crimes, according to statements by the Council for the Prevention of Crimes.

Empirical Research Results

The following is the results of the PAUSE project needs analysis conducted with our user groups in Sweden:

1. User group profiles

User Group Number/ Name	Number of group members	Countries of origin	Numbers employed/ unemployed	Young people (<25)/ Adults
1 West-Sweden group (Tibor)	5	Sweden, Hungary, China	All	~ 50/50
2 East-Sweden group (Kennet)	5	Sweden, Finland, Romania	All	~ 50/50
3 West-Finland group (Anna-Kaarina)	4	Finland, Russia	All	~ 50/50
4 East-Finland group (Eiia)	5	Finland, Russia	All	~ 50/50

1. Summarise what your groups considered to be the main myths surrounding the employment of refugees & migrants?

- That the recruitment process is easier to handle than it actually is in reality.
- That the major difficulties are to be found in the recruitment processes rather than in the job-upstart processes (where most of the problems appear)

2. What practical barriers to employment have the members of your user groups experienced?

- There are many and not so visual barriers, but most of them are drastically reducing their self-confidence and reinforces their recognition that it is in reality a very fierce competitive process/world, and not only for them (others who now have an employment would not manage to be reemployed so easily, if they became unemployed – “to be employed does not mean that you are employable”)
- The communication modalities that prevail in a certain workplace context is not familiar or traceable’ by new recruits/employees entering into a new working environment.

3. What problems or difficulties have your employed group members faced in the workplace?

- Obstacles are often generated by the employees themselves when entering into a new work context, and often by their background, positions, competencies and special experiences from similar situations and previous job/employment encounters, recruitment situations and habits from other cultural contexts.
-
- The awareness of proper behaviour and communication modalities, usage of inter-professional communication and workplace skills, as well as the limited capability of 'reading' of the level of acceptances and/or reactions to certain behaviour modalities that applies, are desirable, acceptable, or non-tolerated, in a given workplace. Especially being able to do the 'reading' of those beforehand rather than from the post-facto effects from possible deviations from those.

4. What help has your group members found to be most useful in getting a job? Have job centres/ employment support agencies been a help or not? What help or support would they have found more useful?

- Having a 'peer' with similar background, characteristics and/or nationality nearby at the workplace for informal consultations, advise and support.
- Having an employer, boss, supervisor with more broader life experiences, be from similar cultural contexts, and being a more international and/or caring person.

5. What themes did your user group discussions indicate as priorities for games scenarios? Who should they be aimed at (e.g. employers; refugee groups; employment support agencies)?

- Workplace skills (assessing/understanding) – for more basic professions
- Inter-professional communication (- “ -) – for more professional levels
- Everyday competencies – for new entrants into the social/cultural context
- Planning for “From recruitment interviews to initial employment days”

6. Did your groups give any consideration to the use of social media in the project?

- Familiar to usage of social media facilities for private purposes
- Unfamiliar with usage of social media in learning service applications
- Experience of e-learning mainly as ‘course-in-a-box’ or as LMS solutions
- Familiar with web search and usage of Internet e-services e.g. for job-search

7. Were there any other significant issues raised in your user group sessions?

- Very limited experiences from serious/learning 3Dgames
- Need to be acquired with tools and Internet access (no cost for them)
- Familiar with mobile phones and often also smart-phones, but are often one or two generations behind the latest fads and facilities.

8. Conclusions/Recommendations

What are your conclusions regarding priorities for the themes and target groups for the games?

- 1. Workplace skills, for less qualified job applicants**
- 2. Inter-professional communication, for more qualified job applicants**
- 3. Everyday competencies (socio-culturally anchored), new entrants to national context**
- 4. Planning/preparing the immersion stages – from recruitment interviews to the initial months at the work site, or transfer into a permanent employment/promotion**