

Swedish Migration – A Historical and Contemporary perspective

Statistics Sweden have detailed statistics on migration flows and stock populations since the early 1900s. This unique statistics makes it possible to describe the change of Swedish migration. We can see when the immigrants came to Sweden which countries the foreign-born population came from and specify the regions where they settled when we combine the information from stock and flow register. By visualizing this information with maps and graphs, we get a comprehensible overview of Swedish migration history. By doing these comparisons for such a long period of time, we show that today's migration is not reminiscent of previous decades' migration.

This is an attempt to describe the Swedish population. Migration have been an important part of our modern history, but it is necessary to understand who the migrants were, why they came to Sweden and where they settled. Our historical statistics give us an important insight of the Swedish migration history.

To be able to get a full picture of the people living in Sweden, population and housing censuses were produced every 10th year from 1860 until the late 1960s. Since then the population statistics is based on the population register. Thanks to this unique data source, it is possible to get a relatively detailed picture of the size and structure of the population for a long time-period. In this presentation, I will illustrate where in Sweden the foreign-born population lived, using a map for every 10th year from 1860 til today.

Number of immigrations and emigrations from 1875–2015

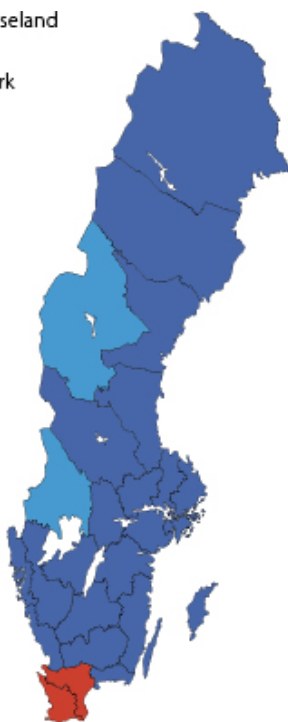


The flow register shows that Sweden have had quite a migration surplus after the WWII. Before the war, Sweden was an emigration country but almost all years after Sweden have had more immigrants than emigrants. In the 19th century, data began to be collected from each household to provide a comprehensive view of the country's inhabitants. It could involve the number of women and men in the household and how old they were, and in which country they were born. This type of collection is called a census. Censuses were carried out regularly from 1860 until the end of the 1960s, when information on the population was based on the population register instead. We are therefore able to compile a relatively detailed picture of the composition and size of the population for an extensive period of time, which is unique to Sweden. As the statistics include foreign-born members of the population. From the census we can look where the immigrants settled.

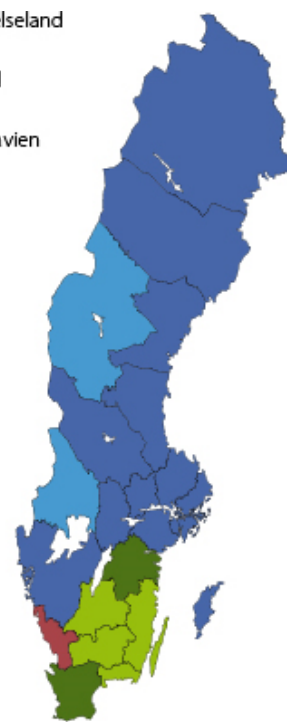
The post-war period – at first we had labour immigration...

...then we had refugee immigration

Vanligaste födelseland per län 1970



Vanligaste födelseland per län 2015



This presentation will illustrate to the immigration to Sweden is closely connected to what happens in the world, only in recent time we see a shift from people coming from the neighboring countries to refugees arriving from far away countries.

Main conclusions

We see how our surrounding have affected the Swedish society, war, poverty and the dream of the quiet Swedish countryside have brought people from many countries to Sweden which we can see in this unique compilation of Swedish statistics.