

# WZB

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## **Atypical Employment in Sweden**

### **Discussion Paper**

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[www.wzb.eu/atypical](http://www.wzb.eu/atypical)

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### **Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB)**

Research Area

#### **President's Project Group**

Project

**The Institutional Determinants of Atypical Employment and Social Inequality in Europe, founded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and supervised by Jutta Allmendinger, Johannes Giesecke, and Kathrin Leuze**



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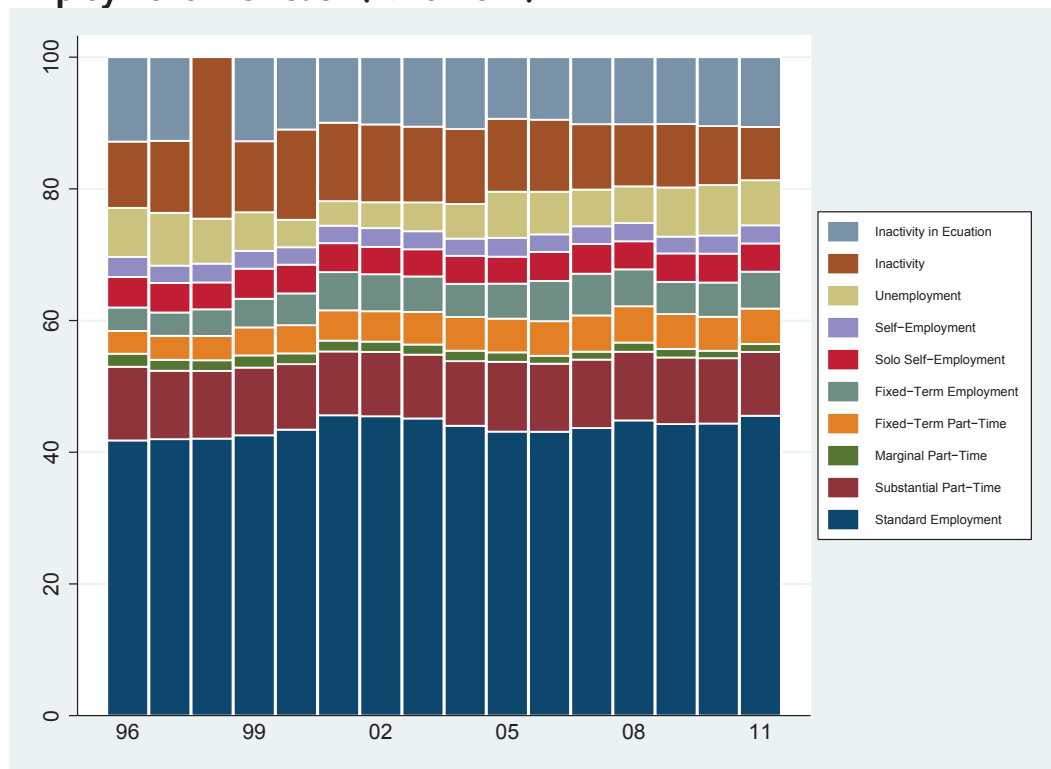
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## Sweden

The Swedish labor market is characterized by generally high employment levels. Women, older people and low-skilled individuals are comparatively well integrated into employment. However, the same trends that affect all the other European countries also apply to Sweden, albeit to a lesser extent: Higher qualification levels increase an individual's likelihood of participating in employment. In Sweden, standard employment is the dominant form of employment in almost all the groups analyzed. Standard employment is slightly increasing in all groups except among young people and low-skilled individuals, where standard employment is decreasing. Substantial part-time employment is the most important form of atypical employment, especially for women. Only the under-30s were more frequently found in fixed-term employment and fixed-term part-time employment. Fixed-term employment rose markedly in this group in the last decade.

Despite a dramatic drop in economic growth—with the exception of low-skilled workers and men—employment in Sweden remained stable during the crisis. Among low-skilled workers there was a comparatively larger fall in standard employment and a simultaneous rise in participation in further education and training. There was a fall in employment among men in 2009 and 2010 of 2 percentage points and a slight increase in unemployment.

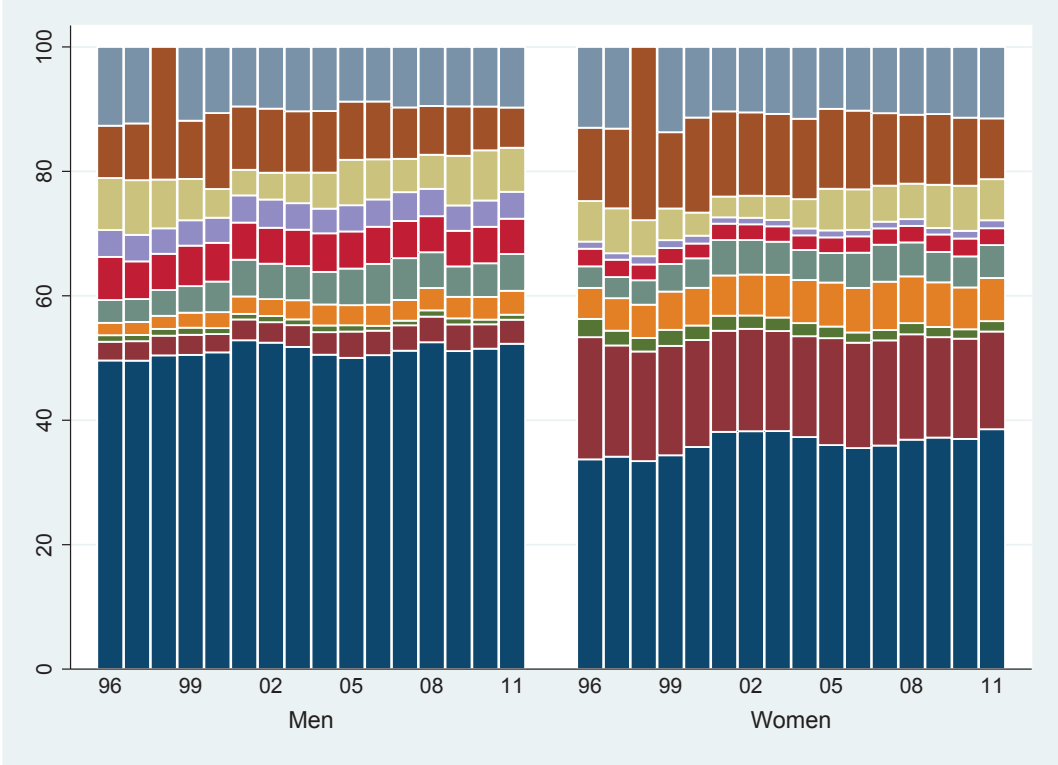
### Employment in Sweden (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).<sup>20</sup>

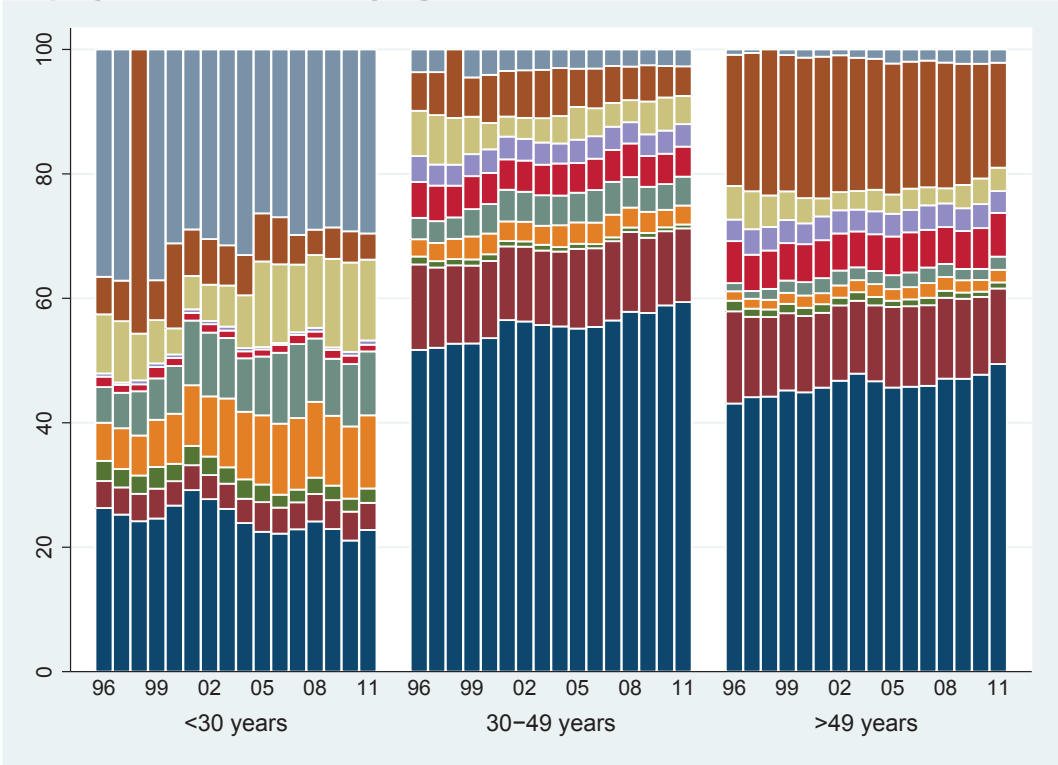
<sup>20</sup> No information was available on education and training in Sweden for 1998. However, the age category chosen (15 to 64 years of age) includes all people attending school and those in education or training. The group of people who were in education or training in 1998 cannot be clearly identified. Therefore, people who were in education or training in 1998 are in the “inactive” category.

**Employment in Sweden by Gender (1996–2011).**



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).<sup>20</sup>

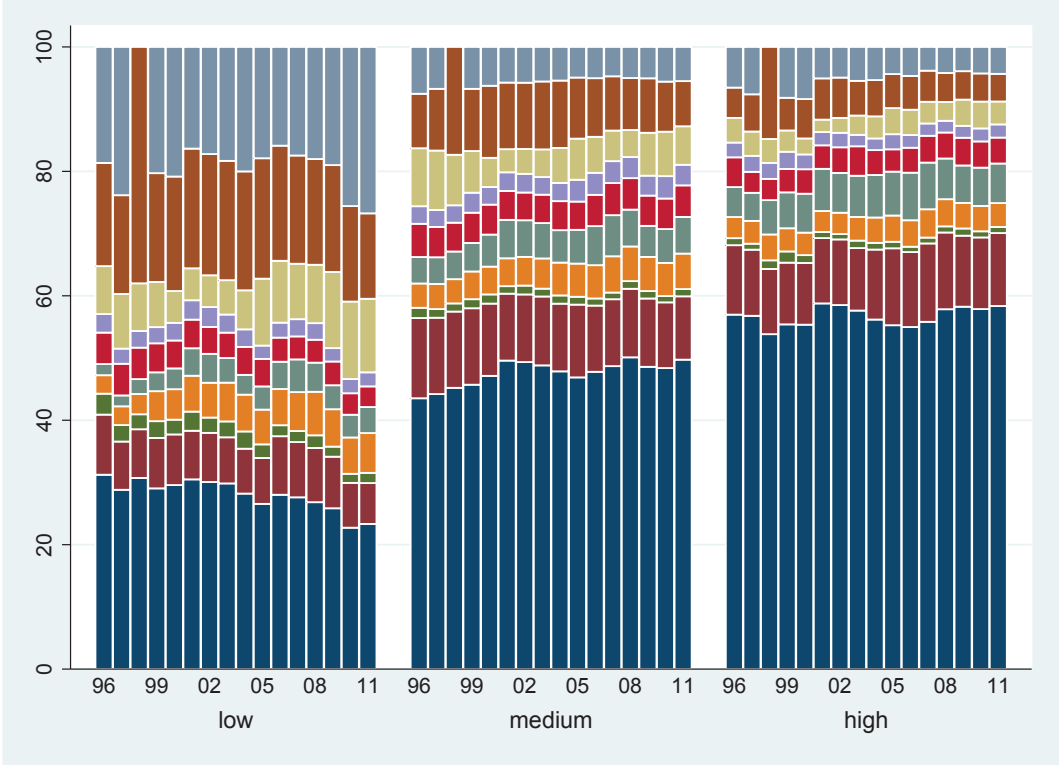
**Employment in Sweden by Age (1996–2011).**



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).<sup>20</sup>

Changes in the survey program in 2001 mean the comparability of the data with the previous time points is restricted. Further source details are contained in the respective country tables, which can be accessed on the project website.

**Employment in Sweden by Education (1996–2011).**



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).<sup>20</sup>

## **Important terms**

The **population studied** includes all people who were of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age) at the time of the survey but excludes those living in collective living quarters (monasteries/convents, hospitals, etc.) and those doing military service.

A person was considered **employed** if they were working in the private or public sector, either in a dependent or self-employed capacity, for at least one hour a week and received a salary, wage, or other monetary remuneration for this.

Individuals were considered **unemployed** if they were not employed but were actively seeking work and were available to the labor market or if they were entering employment within the following three months.

Those who were neither employed nor unemployed were considered economically **inactive**. Inactive individuals who were in education or training were assigned to the inactive **in education or training** category.

A **standard employment relationship** exists when an individual is in a dependent employment relationship for at least 35 hours weekly and has a permanent employment contract.

**Marginal part-time employment** is employment with fewer than 20 hours a week.

**Substantial part-time employment** is employment with 20 hours and more a week but less than 35 hours a week.

**Fixed-term employment** exists when the period during which a contract is valid is limited. We differentiate between fixed-term employment (35 hours and more a week) and fixed-term part-time employment (less than 35 hours a week).

**Self-employment** exists when an individual's main economic activity is not dependent employment.

**Solo self-employment** refers to self-employment without employees.

The **educational/skill levels** "low," "medium," and "high" are based on the ISCED classification of qualifications developed by UNESCO.

The aggregated data used in our country profiles can be downloaded from the project's website ([www.wzb.eu/atypical](http://www.wzb.eu/atypical)). Interested users can also find explanations regarding some of the methodological problems that exist for certain years or variables.