

Income Mobility Statistics in Sweden – Compilation and Measurement

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Traditionally, cross-sectional surveys on income distribution have been the corner stone of income distribution analysis at statistical offices. These surveys provide the basis for analysing the distribution of income at a given point in time, where annual income is the international standard to which the statistics refer.

However, cross-sectional surveys are limited in respect to the possibilities to analyse the effects of individual's movement over time in the distribution of income. Using longitudinal data, though, it is possible to analyse such aspects and its implications on e.g. poverty and income distribution.

As a complement to the national Swedish cross-sectional income distribution statistics, Statistics Sweden has, based on longitudinal data, developed entirely new statistics on intragenerational income mobility – the Total Population Income Mobility Statistics (TPIM).

The statistics cover the period 2000-2016 and are published on an annual basis. It is to some extent the effect of the recently developed cross-sectional statistics on income distribution covering the whole population using administrative data, where access to the household composition on register is a key feature. TPIM is based on individual disposable income during the period 2000-2016 and on equivalent disposable income during the period 2011-2016.

This paper will provide a description of the longitudinal data sources, methodology and indicators used in the income mobility statistics in Sweden. It will also cover findings in income mobility in Sweden during the period 2000-2016 and relate findings in the EU-SILC-indicator Persistent at Risk of Poverty based on TPIM to estimations based on the EU-SILC.