

# Swedish level of living survey (LNU): Register information on occupation, social class and education

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## **Creator/Principal investigator(s)**

Sten Johansson - Stockholm University, Swedish Institute for Social Research

Robert Erikson - Stockholm University, Swedish Institute for Social Research

Jan O. Jonsson - Stockholm University, Swedish Institute for Social Research

Michael Tåhlin - Stockholm University, Swedish Institute for Social Research

## **Research principal**

[Stockholm University](#) - Swedish Institute for Social Research

## **Description**

The first level of living survey started within the framework of a governmental commission set up to study the prevalence and problems of low incomes. Their task was broadly defined, so beside a range of studies on income and income distributions they also commissioned a group of sociologists, headed by Sten Johansson, to study the distribution of welfare in Sweden more generally. The study by Johansson and his colleagues, undertaken in 1968, came to be known as the Level of Living Survey. From the beginning it was not the longitudinal aspect that was the novelty, but rather the fact that a wide spectrum of living conditions was studied with the survey method as such.

The division of level of living into different components, inspired by the work within the UN, resulted in the following list of components included in the Swedish Level of Living Surveys: Health and access to care; Employment and working conditions; Economic resources; Educational resources; Family and social integration; Housing and neighbourhood facilities; Security of life and property; Recreation and culture; Political resources.

The first survey was based on a 0.0001 random sample of the Swedish population aged 15 to 75 years of age. The interviews were made face-to-face according to a structured questionnaire covering all areas listed above. A large number of questions were asked dealing with a variety of aspects within each area.

The 1968 survey was to be repeated in 1974, and the decision was made to stick to the original sample but also include new cohorts of young people and immigrants arriving to Sweden in between the survey periods. Dropped from the sample was those above 75 years of age and those who had either emigrated or died. In 1981 the third Level of Living Survey was conducted with the same sample design and by and large with the same questionnaire. When Johansson left the project in 1982 Robert Erikson became the project leader. Erikson was project leader for the fourth level of living survey, conducted in 1991. During the project period Jan O. Jonsson and Johan Fritzell also were directors of the survey work. The 1991 survey was conducted with basically the same design, except for the fact that the youngest age bracket now became 18 instead of 15. The 1991 survey was enlarged in several respects. An obvious drawback of the panel design in the Level of Living Surveys

is the relatively large time-span between each survey. Partly in order to fill in these missing years the 1991 questionnaire includes a work-life history section, and educational and family histories as well, thereby broadening the longitudinal aspects of the study. A second novelty was a specific survey to all individuals previously within the sample but excluded in the 1991 survey, due to the upper age limit. The sample included all persons older than 75 in 1991 who had previously been included in the Level of Living Survey sample and had been interviewed at least once. The interviews included most of the welfare components, with the exception of work related questions and education. Instead, more detailed data on health status and functional abilities was collected, partly by means of simple test performed during the interview. The third major extension was a separate work-place study consisting of interviews with managers at the work-places of all individuals who were employed at a work-place with at least ten employees.

**Data contains personal data**

Yes

**Type of personal data**

Indirect identifiers such as occupation, political opinion and health data.

**Language**

[German](#)

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Finnish](#)

[Polish](#)

[Serbo-Croatian](#)

[Swedish](#)

**Unit of analysis**

[Individual](#)

**Population**

1968: Individuals aged 15-75 years. -

1974: Individuals aged 15-75 years; 1) Individuals included in the 1968 survey, under the age of 76 and still living in Sweden, 2) A new addition of young individuals aged 15-20 years, 3) Individuals immigrating to

**Time Method**

[Longitudinal: Panel](#)

**Sampling procedure**

The first survey was based on a 0.0001 random sample of the Swedish population aged 15 to 75 years of age. The 1968 survey was to be repeated in 1974, and the decision was made to stick to the original sample but also include new cohorts of young people and immigrants arriving to Sweden in between the survey periods. Dropped from the sample was those above 75 years of age and those who had either emigrated or died. In 1981 the third Level of Living Survey was conducted with the

same sample design. The 1991 survey was conducted with basically the same design, except for the fact that the youngest age bracket now became 18 instead of 15.

**Time period(s) investigated**

1968-05-01 – 2000-12-30

**Data format / data structure**

[Numeric](#)

**Geographic spread**

Geographic location: [Sweden](#)

**Responsible department/unit**

Swedish Institute for Social Research

**Research area**

[Housing](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Employment](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Working conditions](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Social sciences](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Sociology](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Social welfare systems/structures](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[General health and well-being](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Medication and treatment](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Diet and nutrition](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Specific diseases, disorders and medical conditions](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Leisure, tourism and sport](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Social conditions and indicators](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Economic conditions and indicators](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

**Keywords**

[Housing](#), [Employment](#), [Health](#), [Social welfare](#), [Residential mobility](#), [Family environment](#), [Wages](#), [Housework](#), [Political action](#), [Unemployment](#), [Living conditions](#), [Membership](#), [Drinking behaviour](#), [Travel](#), [Trade union membership](#), [Medical care](#), [Political influence](#), [Economic conditions](#), [International travel](#), [Income](#), [Social security benefits](#), [Self-employed](#), [Supervisory status](#), [Housing facilities](#), [Housing economics](#), [Medicinal drugs](#), [Diseases](#), [Dental health](#), [Hospitalization](#), [Smoking](#), [Labour and employment](#), [Fringe benefits](#), [Farmers](#), [Care of dependants](#), [Holiday leave](#), [Assets](#), [Holidays](#), [Educational background](#), [Inheritance](#), [Theft](#), [Criminal damage](#), [Crime victims](#), [Political participation](#), [Standard of living](#), [Autonomy at work](#), [Nationality](#), [Employment history](#), [Social life](#), [Industrial injuries](#), [Family members](#), [Working conditions](#), [Households](#), [Leisure time activities](#), [Organizations](#), [Hours of work](#), [Social protest](#), [Diet and exercise](#), [Assault](#), [Exercise \(physical activity\)](#), [Cors](#), [Nutrition](#), [Rewhard](#)

**Publications**

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### **Accessibility level**

Access to data through an external actor

Access to data is restricted

### **Homepage**

[Level of Living Surveys](#)

### **Related research data in SND's catalogue**

[LNU91 - Swedish level of living survey 1991](#)

[Swedish level of living survey \(LNU\) 1968](#)

[Swedish level of living survey \(LNU\) 1974](#)

[LNU81 - Swedish level of living survey 1981](#)

[LNU Swedish level of living survey: Registerinformation on income](#)

[LNU00 - Swedish level of living survey 2000](#)

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