# The decentralized Statistical system of Official Statistics in Sweden

**The legal acts of official statistics in Sweden**

Official statistics in Sweden are regulated by the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) and Official Statistics Ordinance (2001:100).

All of the statistical authorities in Sweden have a Government Agency Ordinance containing directives for its business. The directives provide the Agency instructions about their legal role in the statistical system of official statistics.

There are three other fundamental legal acts that influence the official statistics. The Secrecy Act (2009:400) and the Personal Data Act (1998:204) both have the purpose of preventing disclosure of business respectively individual information. The third is the Act on System of Choice in the Public Sector that gives private companies fair and better business opportunities to make deals with public authorities.

Sweden and every other member state in the European Union must produce energy statistics prescribed in the Regulation (EC) No, 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council. This regulation contains detailed information about the contents of energy statistics and when the member state must report the statistics to Eurostat.

**The Swedish Statistical System**

In the year of 1858 was Statistics Sweden founded. Before that year it was the department of statistics, founded in year 1749, that collected and published some of the Official Statistics, for instance population and harvest statistics.

In beginning of the 1960s were all official statistics in Sweden centralised to Statistics Sweden. Over time become more and more users of statistics to disapprove of the system and in order to have statistics that better provide for user needs was the Swedish Statistical System decentralised in year 1994.

In fact was the Government Agency that used the statistics most in a subject area given the Statistical Authority for the area. 25 government authorities were given responsibility for official statistics. Statistics Sweden continued to be responsible for some statistics about economy, labour market and population. Statistics Sweden had already, in accordance with its Directives, been responsible for coordinating and monitoring the official statistics. This role was strengthened somewhat.

The reform has resulted in the statistics having greater relevance to their users. The decentralised statistical system is more flexible and the quality in official statistics is improved. One purpose with reform was to improve efficiency of statistics production, but there is no evidence of that so far. In fact is the Swedish Statistical System to be investigated again by an official committee.

**The statistical authorities**

According to a decision by Parliament, the government determines the subject areas and statistical areas for which official statistics are to be produced, and which authorities are to be given responsibility for statistics. The statistical authorities decide on the content and scope of the statistics within the statistical Areas for which they are responsible.

In Sweden is the Energy Agency the statistical authority for the subject area of energy statistics. In this subject area there are three statistical areas: energy balances, price trends in energy sector, energy supply and use. To cover these statistical areas the Energy Agency has about 20 surveys in yearly, quarterly and monthly in order to collect data.

The Swedish Energy Agency has on a yearly basis a Government Agency Ordinance containing directives for instance about energy statistics from the Ministry of Enterprise. Also the budget allocation is giving by the Ministry of Enterprise. Statistics Sweden is at the moment in the Ministry of Finance.

In the Swedish Energy Agency’s regulations for a specific survey is the questionnaire and purpose outlined. The content is that enterprises that have been selected to participate in surveys are required to provide the information requested by not later than the date set out in the regulations. For surveys involving private individuals are the participation always voluntary.

**The Act on System of choice in the Public Sector**

System of choice according to the Act on System of Choice in the Public Sector is a procedure where the individual is entitled to choose the supplier to perform the service and with which a contracting authority has approved and concluded a contract. The contracting authority does not need to apply the same system of choice within all areas affected.

The contracting authority shall treat suppliers in an equal and non-discriminatory manner. The contracting authority must observe the principles of transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality when applying a system of choice. In the moment are official energy statistics for Sweden produced by Statistics Sweden and Statisticon on behalf of the Swedish Energy Agency.

**The network of statistical authorities**

As a result of an official committee a Council for Official Statistics was established at Statistics Sweden in February 2002. The main purpose of the Council is to improve cooperation between the statistical authorities by develop and manage a network of statistical authorities.

The Council consists of one chair (Statistics Sweden’s Director General) and six other managers from the statistical authorities. The authorities to be represented in the Council for a period of not more than three years are appointed by Statistics Sweden after consultations with all the statistical authorities.

The duties of the Council are set out in Statistics Sweden's Directives. The Council shall deal with matters as availability, quality, usefulness of the official statistics and response burden. The Council shall prepare an annual report on the official statistics, compile an annual publishing plan and maintain a register of the statistical authorities and their products.