



**Summary Note for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
(BIS)**

***Mid-Sized Businesses in Sweden – General Statistics 2009***

**National Institute of Economic and Social Research**

**2 Dean Trench Street  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HE**

**Andreas Cebulla  
[a.cebulla@niesr.ac.uk](mailto:a.cebulla@niesr.ac.uk)**

# Mid-sized Businesses in Sweden

## General Background on Data and Statistics

- This note summarises statistics about the Mid-sized Business (MSB) sector in Sweden. Mid-sized Businesses (MSB) are defined as those with a turnover of between €25m and €500m. Sweden is not part of the EURO zone. Swedish Kronor were converted into EUROS at a rate of 10:1.
- Data about this sector were obtained from the Swedish Structural Business Statistics (SBS) provided by Statistics Sweden. The SBS are derived from the Swedish business tax register and were first estimated in 1997. Statistics typically refer to calendar years.
- The statistics used in the tables refer to the smallest legal unit (enterprises). Subsidiaries of larger enterprises are counted separately and, thus, also appear in the statistics.
- The SBS counts all employees, not full-time equivalents. We were informed that about 20 per cent of the workforce might be part-time workers, that is, counting everyone working fewer than what is considered the hours of full-time work.
- The industrial breakdown used in the statistics is that of the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE). The industrial classification was revised in 2007 when NACE Rev 2 was introduced. Only statistics for 2007 are available using NACE Rev 1.1 and NACE Rev 2. This limits the comparability of data over time.
- The SBS does not record statistics for the financial sector (NACE Rev 1.1 J and NACE Rev 2 K, respectively).
- The expressions 'business' and 'enterprise' are used interchangeably in this note.

## Treatment of missing information

- Small case numbers restrict the reporting of some cells of the business statistics for enterprises with turnover of €500m or more. For this reason, some categories in that turnover group (and this group only) were combined. Specifically, for statistics using the NACE Rev 1.1 industrial breakdown:
  - Enterprises in mining and quarrying (category C) or in real estate, renting and business activities (category K) are not reported
  - Enterprises in health and social work activities (category N) are combined with enterprises in other community, social and personal service activities (category O).
- Using the NACE Rev 2 industrial breakdown:
  - Enterprises in mining and quarrying (category B) are not reported
  - Enterprises in Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (category E) are combined with enterprises in Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (category D)

- Enterprises in Professional, scientific and technical activities (category M) are combined with enterprises in Administrative and support service activities (category N)
- Enterprises in Human health and social work activities (category Q) are combined with enterprises in Education (category P)
- Enterprises in Arts, entertainment and recreation (category R) are combined with enterprises in other service activities (category S).

When analysing and describing the statistics in the remainder of this document, no special allowance was made for these omissions or combinations. Some caution may therefore be required when interpreting the statistics and the commentary.

### Size and Sector Distribution of MSB in 2009

- In 2009, there were 928,000 enterprises with taxable turnover operating in Sweden. Two thousand six hundred and fifty-five (2655, or 0.3%) of these enterprises reported a turnover of between €25m and €500m.<sup>1</sup>
- Mid-sized businesses accounted for 29 per cent of total employment and 33 per cent of total turnover.
- Throughout the time series going back to 2003, employment and turnover shares of MSB remained fairly stable, varying by little more than one percentage point. The turnover share was highest in 1998 (35 per cent).
- Manufacturing firms account for a quarter of all MSB enterprises and approximately the same share of employment and turnover. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles are the largest MSB sector, accounting for 30 per cent of businesses, 35 per cent of employment and 18 per cent of turnover. Construction is the third largest MSB sector contributing 10 per cent of businesses and five per cent of employment and turnover.
- Compared to the overall average, MSB were **numerically** heavily concentrated in six sectors (cp. T3 in worksheet “2009”):
  - Mining and quarrying (quotient of the share of MSB-to-All Businesses<sup>2</sup>: 3.5)
  - Manufacturing (4.4)
  - Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (22.6)
  - Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (6.5)
  - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (2.6)
  - Transport and storage (2.4).
- MSB were also numerically over-represented in transport and storage (1.1), while matching the national share of businesses in the information and communication sector. MSB were under-represented in all other sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all statistics can be found in the accompanying excel spreadsheet SWE MIDSIZED 1998 2003-2009.xls. The specific statistics reported here can be found in that spreadsheet under the worksheet “2009” (Table T1).

<sup>2</sup> The quotient was estimated by dividing the relevant value for MSB by that for all businesses.

- In terms of **employment**, MSB were over-represented<sup>3</sup> in
  - Manufacturing (1.7)
  - Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (5.7)
  - Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (1.8)
  - Transport and storage (1.2)
  - Information and communication (1.4)
  - Administrative and support service activities (1.7)
  - Human health and social work activities (1.5).
- In terms of **turnover**, MSB were over-represented in
  - Manufacturing (1.9)
  - Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (4.2)
  - Transport and storage (1.2)
  - Information and communication (1.3).
- Although quotients varied, the same industries were over-represented in 2007 and, indeed, in 2008. No comparison was attempted with earlier years because of the change in NACE.

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<sup>3</sup> Sectors with quotients below 1.2 were excluded to allow for the increased margin of error as a result of missing data.

## APPENDIX

**Table A.1 NACE concentration of enterprises by turnover category (in€, 2009)**

Less than €25m	€25m – less than €500m	€500m+
Agriculture, Forestry (1.0; 1.5, 1.9)	Mining and quarrying (3.5, 0.6, 1.0)	Mining and quarrying (21.3, n/a, n/a)
Construction (1.0, 1.2, 1.5)	Manufacturing (4.4, 1.7, 1.9)	Manufacturing (5.8, 1.6, 1.3)
Accommodation and food service activities (1.0, 1.5, 2.1)	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (22.5, 5.7, 4.2)	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (78.8, 2.6, 9.1)
Professional, scientific and technical activities (1.0, 1.4, 1.8)	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (6.5, 1.8, 1.2)	Construction (0.5, 2.1, 1.3)
Administrative and support service activities (1.0, 1.4, 2.0)	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (2.6, 0.9, 1.1)	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (2.0, 1.1, 1.0)
Education (1.0, 1.0, 1.6)	Transport and storage (2.4, 1.2, 1.2)	Transport and storage (2.6, 1.8, 0.7)
Arts, entertainment and recreation (1.0, 1.4, 2.1)	Information and communication (1.0, 1.4, 1.3)	Administrative and support service activities (1.2, 0.2, 1.6)
Other service activities (1.0, 1.5, 2.1)	Administrative and support service activities (1.1, 1.7, 1.0)	

Note: Figures in brackets are quotients of 'turnover category MSB-to-All MSB' for the number of enterprises, aggregate employment and aggregate turnover, in that order. Only cases with at least one quotients greater than 1.1 are reported.