

## Sweden

Report by

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### **Introduction - Key Issues**

The Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs (Arts Council) since 1995 is the responsible authority for the Swedish Cultural Statistics. The official cultural statistics include, among others, statistics on Museums and Art Galleries. Statistics on Cultural Heritage and Sites are managed by the Arts Council in co-operation with The National Heritage Board. The Museum Statistics was first produced in the 1930s by the Swedish Museums Association. From 1981, Statistics Sweden compiled Museum Statistics but since 1997 the statistics is produced by the National Council for Cultural Affairs.

The Swedish Museum Statistics include annual reporting of activities from more than 230 museums, certain municipal art galleries and cultural centres. The data collection includes, among others, data on collections, exhibitions, visits, employment (in units of full-time equivalence), financing and costs. Method of data collection: Earlier, a written questionnaire distributed by the National Council for Cultural Affairs. Routines for collecting data via Internet are implemented for the first time in 2002. In this web-based system, data from the museums are reported directly into a database.

### **Definition of Museum**

Swedish Museum statistics refers to the ICOM Definition of Museums acknowledged by the Swedish Museums Association. The standards and quality of official and professional museums will set an example of what it means to be a museum. National museums and regional museums that receive financial support from the state have to be acknowledged by the Government.

The museums statistics include data from about 210 museums, most of them members of the Swedish Museums Association. Criteria to be included into the statistics are: that the museums must be open to the public all year round and have an annual employment of at least one man-year (1,600 hours last year) on full-time basis and with a professional museum training. From this restriction follows that about one thousand small museums (many of them local open-air museums, "hembygdsgårdar") are not included in the statistics. Science centres, natural parks, aquariums, zoological gardens and various exhibition areas are also not systematically included.

### **Existence of Museum - related Laws**

Very few special laws/acts regulate cultural life and institutions in Sweden. This is also the case for museums. However, in annual budget regulations from Government detailed instructions are given to central state museums. Goals for activities and special tasks are also given in these documents.

Public museums may be national, regional, local or private, have their ordinances with directives, regulations combined with other guidelines referring to either national, regional or municipal cultural policy goals. The only Act strictly speaking is the following:

#### ***The Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds:***

The National Heritage Board, in co-operation with the Regional County Boards, is monitoring the application of the Act concerning Ancient Monuments and Finds. This Act defines the statutory means to protect important objects and components of the cultural heritage like archaeological finds and sites, religious heritage and specified objects of historic value. The introduction to the central part of the Act concerning the cultural heritage reads: "It is of national concern that our cultural environment is protected and maintained. This responsibility is shared by all citizens". The Act defines a number of areas where cultural heritage has to be protected through special rules:

- appropriate use and maintenance of traditional local geographical names
- the handling and preservation of archaeological finds and sites
- criteria for classified cultural heritage buildings and their preservation

- religious sites like churches, their inventories and cemeteries
- the administration of special permits to allow the exports of ancient cultural objects (furniture, art-works, documents) of specified importance
- the restitution to the country of origin of illegally exported cultural heritage objects (within the EU).

***The Planning and Building Act:***

The main part of the monitoring of the Act lies with the central and regional authorities. But local communities carry a great responsibility as well concerning the cultural heritage protection. Local initiatives in this area are often linked to the Planning and Building Act that regulates the use of land and water and the change of settlement and housing.

***The Law on Environment:***

The revised Fundamental Act on Natural Environment adopted in 1999 has its impact on the cultural environment as well. The Act stipulates that natural and cultural environments be protected and maintained. Among other things 1 700 environments of national interest to cultural heritage are implied. The Act presents an interesting reform by making it possible for cultural heritage reserves to be established in the same way as the nature reserves.

**Categories used regarding Type of Collections**

The statistics only include categories regarding exhibitions last year. These categories of exhibitions/collections are:

- Arts and handicraft
- History and archeology
- Ethnography
- Technology and industrial history
- Natural science history
- Other museums.

**Categories used regarding Type of Ownership**

- State-owned museums
- Municipal museums
- County council museums
- Municipal and county council in co-operation
- Associations
- Other owner.

**Existing Data - Basic Figures and Diagrams**

The statistics contain data from museums in Sweden which have an annual personnel which together works at least one man-year. Since 1988, the data collection includes art galleries without permanent collections, in this report called "art galleries". In the last report (not yet published) data for the year 2001 are presented from 238 units, 209 museums and 29 art galleries.

***Visits, opening hours and entrance fees:***

In 2001, there were 15,9 million visits all together, 14,9 million at the museums and about 1 million at the art galleries. There are 23 central museums, most of them in Stockholm, with a co-ordinating responsibility in their areas. These museums had 4,8 million visits altogether. The 26 regional museums reported just over 2,6 million visits, while the 72 municipal museums had 3,3 million visits. 1,3 million visits were in groups and 0,6 million came from schools or nursery schools. The attendance figures for museums show annual fluctuations but seen over a ten year period an upward trend can be noted. The institutions were open for the public 273 days during the year on the average or 34 hours a week, the museums 35 hours and the art galleries 34 hours a week. About 20 % of the museums and 66 % of the art galleries gave free admission to the public. The average entrance fee for museums was 29 SEK and for art galleries 12 SEK.

***Exhibitions:***

The number of basic exhibitions at the museums and art galleries produced in 2001 was 164.

The museums and art galleries showed about 1 608 temporary exhibitions. The most frequent type of exhibitions were those which display art and art handicraft (56 %) followed by cultural history exhibitions, 23 %. The art galleries showed 244 temporary exhibitions.

The museums and art galleries arranged 235 travelling exhibitions which were shown at 735 different places.

***Publications:***

In 2001, about 840 publications were produced by all the museums and art galleries. About 87 % of the publications were produced by the museums. 29 % of the printed matter is exhibition catalogues.

204 of the institutions use information technology in some way.

***Acquisition:***

The quantity of annual acquisitions is large. In 2001, the growth of the number of photos housed at museums was about 8 000 000, objects of archives about 800 running meter and the growth of other objects was 325 000.

***Personnel:***

In 2001, there were about 4 522 man-years work spent at the museums and 209 at the art galleries. Women did more than 50 % of the man-years.

***Current incomes:***

The current incomes in 2001 were for the museums 2 896 million SEK and for the art galleries 93 million SEK. The public funding for the museums totalled SEK 1 940 million (214 million Euro), of which the state accounted for 60 %, the municipalities for 25 % and the county councils for 15 %. Of the museums' total revenues, admission fees made up 10 %.

***Current costs:***

In 2001, the total current costs of the museums were about 2 937 million SEK and of art galleries 161 million SEK. Approximately half of the costs were personnel costs.

***Museum visiting habits:***

According to surveys of cultural habits, somewhat less than half (46 %) of the Swedish population have at some time in the past year visited a museum. In particular, well-educated adults and young people studying are frequent museum visitors. Small children also visit museums often, with their parents or in groups from schools/nursery schools. However, there is no major difference between men and women as regards frequency of visits. 43 % of the Swedish population had visited an art exhibition at an art gallery or art museum during the year.

**List of References**

- Museer och konsthallar 2001 (Museums and Art Galleries 2001)
  - Den kulturella välfärden. (Cultural Welfare. Cultural habits in Sweden 1976-1999)
  - Kulturbarometern 2000 (Culture Barometer 2000)
  - Kulturstatistik 2002 (Culture Statistics 2002).
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- The reports can be ordered from the National Council for Cultural Affairs:  
Tel. +46-8-519 264, e-mail: statens.kulturrad@kur.se
  - The reports are also available as pdf-files: [www.kur.se](http://www.kur.se)