
POPULATION REGISTRATION

in Sweden



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of population registration

The population registration system is the basic register of the Swedish population. It provides current information on who lives in the country and where they live.

The population registration system is intended to meet society's need for basic information on population, i.e. information on the identity (name, personal identity no., nationality etc.), family relationships (marriage, children etc.) and place of abode (residential address etc.) of people who are or have been resident in Sweden.

Population records are kept in special computerized registers and can be retrieved from them for use in various areas of society, e.g. for general elections, statistics, taxation, planning of schools and hospitals and payment of pensions and other benefits. There is therefore a quick and continuous reporting of information from the population records to authorities with responsibility for different social functions. In this way the population registration system becomes a basic register for society as a whole and an important means of directing rights and obligations to the correct person. The individual need not report changes of address etc. to numerous different authorities. Informing the population registry is enough.

The fact that one is registered for population purposes, and where one is registered, is very important to many rights and obligations such as the right to child allowance and housing allowance and where one is assessed for tax. Extracts from the population records enable a person to substantiate his or her personal particulars and family situation in various contexts, e.g. for the distribution of an estate or in order to marry.

Population registers have been kept in Sweden for a long time and the modern computerized registers contain references to the manual registers which were kept earlier. The population registration system therefore makes it possible to trace families a long way back into the past, a fact which is widely used by researchers and other interested persons.

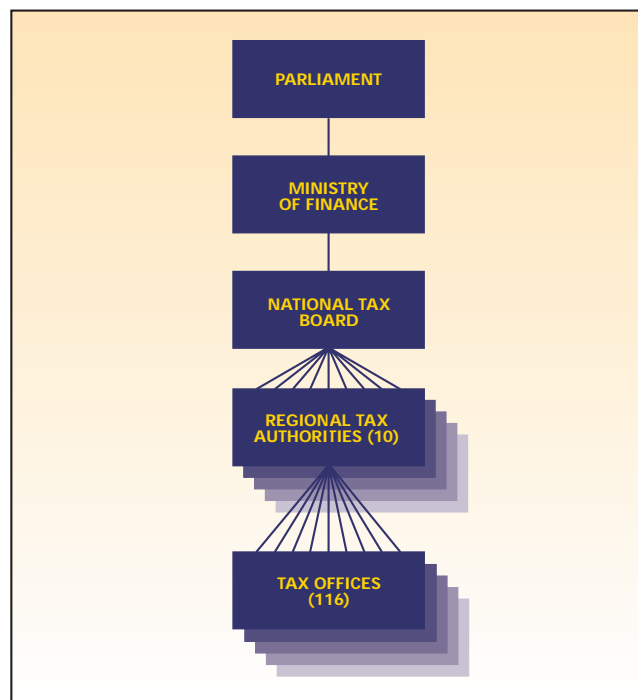
History

Population registration in Sweden has ancient roots. It was originally administered by the church. The first mention of church registers is in 1571. The first national regulation on parish registration dates from 1686. The clergy then acquired the duty to keep catechetical lists of the whole population.

With time the church registers came also to be used more and more by secular society for taxation, statis-

tics, social care, schools etc. The priests were therefore instructed to forward information from their registers to various civilian authorities. An important step was taken in 1947 when personal identity numbers were introduced for every registered person. This was very useful when civil registration was computerized in the 1960s.

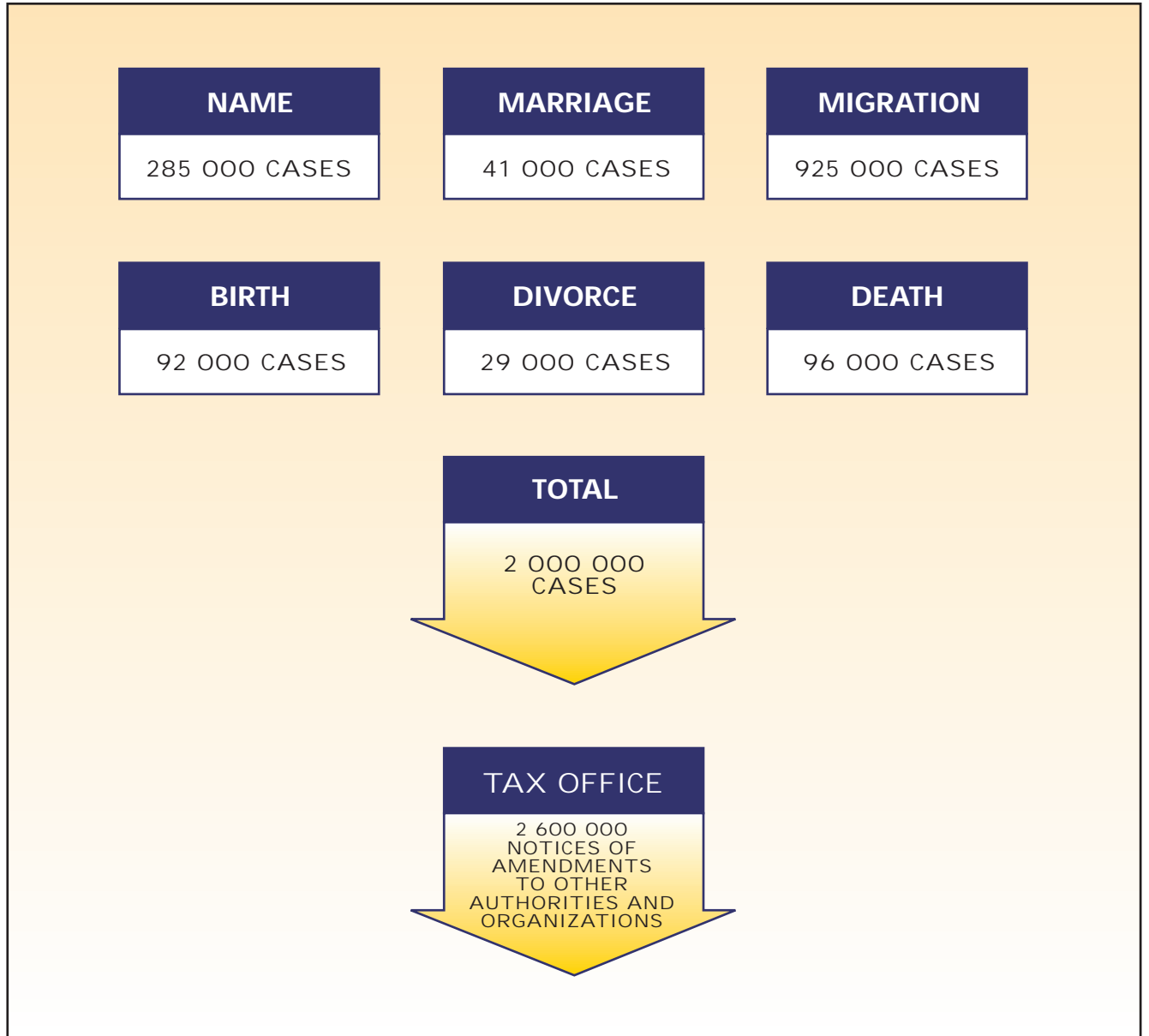
On 1 July 1991 responsibility for population registration was transferred from the Swedish Church to the tax authorities, who thus acquired a new duty alongside their taxation duties. There are today ten tax authorities, each responsible for a region. Each region contains a number of tax offices, where the majority of the business is done. This means that the tax office also functions as local population registration authority. There are altogether 116 tax offices in the country.



National Tax Board

The National Tax Board is the main tax authority and is responsible for ensuring that the tax authorities do their work consistently, rationally and efficiently and that the legislation which controls the activities is applied uniformly. The Board monitors and analyses activities and exercises control by issuing directives and general advice to the tax authorities. The Board also distributes financial resources within this administrative sector.

VOLUME OF POPULATION REGISTRATION BUSINESS EACH YEAR



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Sweden has nearly nine million inhabitants, and ongoing population registration of them is maintained by the 116 tax offices. In 1997 population registration occupied the equivalent of 614 full-time employees and the cost of activities was SEK 381 m.

Each year the tax offices issue some 1.8 million certificates and deal with approx. two million items of

population registration business. Of these approximately half are changes of address. Among others may be mentioned 92 000 births, 41 000 marriages, 29 000 divorces and 96 000 deaths (1998 figures). These items involve approximately 2 600 000 notifications of changes to other authorities and organizations annually.

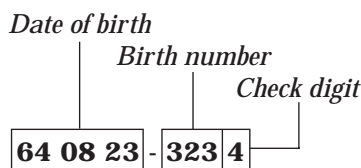
PERSONAL IDENTITY NUMBER

Each person who is registered in the population records must have a personal identity number as an identity code. The personal identity number in its current form dates back to 1967 but as long ago as 1947 a system based on date of birth and three-digit birth number was introduced.

Provisions governing personal identity numbers are contained in Section 18 of the Population Registration Act (1991:481).

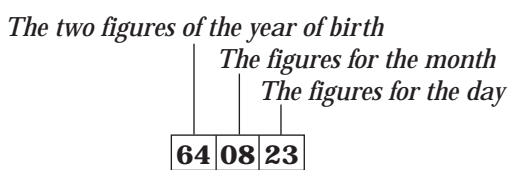
A person who has once been given a personal identity number retains it for life unless it has to be corrected as a result of some error in numbering. So the personal identity number is not changed on, for example, moving into or out of Sweden.

The personal identity number consists of the following three parts.



Date of birth

The date of birth is indicated with six figures. The internal order of the figures is as follows.



Birth number

The birth number consists of three figures. It is a number between 001-999 and is odd for men and even for women. People born on the same day must have different birth numbers. The combination of the figures for the date of birth and different numbers for those born on the same day ensures that all people receive different identity codes.

The initial figure of the birth number has no significance. As from 1990 birth numbers have been allocated at random from a series which is common to the whole country. Previously a particular series was used for each county. The only information which can be inferred from a personal identity number is the date of birth and the sex.

Between the date of birth and the birth number there is a hyphen (-), which is replaced by a plus sign (+) the year a person reaches the age of 100.

Check digit

The check digit, which was introduced in 1967, is calculated automatically on the basis of the date of birth (six digits) and the birth number (three digits) and added to the birth number as a fourth digit. This figure makes it possible to check automatically when data-processing that incorrect figures have not been given in the date of birth or the birth number.

Allocation of personal identity number

The tax authority allocates a personal identity number to a child when the child is first registered in the local population records. In addition the tax authority allocates personal identity numbers to people who immigrate into Sweden and who have not previously had a personal identity number.

Personal identity numbers and names of persons who have been allocated a personal identity numbers are kept in a central reference register - with the exception of persons who died before 1980 and were registered for population purposes.

Use of the personal identity number

The personal identity number has become widely used as an identity code not only in population registration but also in other administrative areas, e.g. for taxation, as a conscript number, for national insurance, driving licence and passport registration, and in the education system.

The personal identity number is also widely used outside the public sector, for example in company accounting procedures and the registers of insurance companies and banks. It is therefore common for the personal identity number to be used as a search code in computerized registers and as a link when collating more than one register. One such form of collation occurs when notification of change of address is forwarded from the population registry to other personal registers in the community.

Personal identity numbers in data processing systems

In the tax authorities' data processing system for population registration the personal identity number is stored with twelve digits, with the two initial ones indicating the century in which the person was born. The figure for the century may be 18, 19 or - after the millennium - 20.

The figure is not normally shown on visual display units or printouts but is included in the transfer of population registration information to other authorities via the notification register. More information concerning the notification register is given further on in this brochure.

The figure for the century is of special significance when storing and processing information on personal identity numbers in computerized personal registers. Example: The personal identity number 640823-3234 for a person born on 23 August 1964 is stored as 196408233234.

Authorities, organizations and companies which need to process information on people born during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries should observe the standard for storage of personal identity numbers which exists within the civil registration system unless it is possible in some other appropriate way to distinguish between personal identity numbers from different centuries. This applies only to storage in computerized registers and need not therefore be visible outside the register.

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Calculation of check digit

The check digit is determined by the "modulus 10" method, with the magnitudes 1 and 2. The figure is added to the birth number in accordance with the following rules. The example relates to a man born on 23 August 1964 with the birth number 323.

1. The digits in the year, month and day of birth and the birth number are multiplied alternately by 2 and 1.

<i>Birth year</i>	<i>month</i>	<i>day</i>	<i>number</i>
6	4	0	8
2	1	2	1
1	2	1	2
2	1	2	1
2	1	2	2
12, 4, 0, 8, 4, 3, 6, 2, 6			

2. Add together the figures in the products. NOTE! 12 is counted as 1+2.

$$1+2+4+0+8+4+3+6+2+6=36$$

3. The unit digit in the sum of the digits is deducted from the figure 10.

$$10-6=4$$

4. The remaining digit becomes a check digit. If the remainder is 10 the check digit will be 0.

Check digit=4

The personal identity no. is 640823-3234

YEAR OF BIRTH	MONTH OF BIRTH	DAY OF BIRTH		BIRTH NUMBER	CHECK DIGIT
64	08	23	-	323	4

6 4 0 8 2 3 - 3 2 3

2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

1 + 2 + 4 + 0 + 8 + 4 + 3 + 6 + 2 + 6 = 36

10 - 6 = 4

POPULATION REGISTRATION WORK AT THE TAX OFFICES

Population registration legislation

Ongoing population registration takes place locally at each tax office. Activities are regulated by two acts, the Population Registration Act and the Population Registers Act, both of which came into effect on 1 July 1991.

The Population Registration Act contains a definition of the term Population registration and also states when and where a person has to be registered, when change of address has to be reported and how a population registration decision may be appealed against. The act is supplemented by a population registration ordinance, which includes rules prescribing that certain other authorities should furnish the population registry with information concerning addresses.

The Population Registers Act states which registers must be kept, the purpose of the registers, what they may contain and how one may search in them. The Act is supplemented by an ordinance on population registers which states among other things when information is to be transferred between the different registers.

Population registration business is also affected by other legislation, e.g. legislation on marriages and names. The tax office issues certificates relating to eligibility to enter into marriage on the basis of the population records and a person wishing to change his name may in certain cases do this by notifying the tax office, which will then make the relevant amendment to the population records.

An important principle, known as the principle of public access to official records, is contained in one of Sweden's constitutional laws, the Freedom of the Press Act. The principle implies that any person is entitled to study official documents. In this way people are ensured a right of insight into the activities of the authorities and the opportunity of inspecting and discussing them. However in certain cases exceptions must be made to the right of access with regard to particularly sensitive information. These exceptions are stated in a special Official Secrecy Act.

As far as population registration is concerned, the principle of public access means that anybody normally has the right to obtain information from the population registers. Under the Official Secrecy Act an exception is made if there is special reason to assume that the person to whom the information applies will suffer disadvantage from the divulging of the information. An example is information concerning the address of a person who feels threatened or harassed.

Another provision of relevance to population registration business is a special Personal Information Act which contains general rules governing the automatic processing of personal information. It contains, for example, rules on the duty of the party responsible for the register to correct incorrect particulars in the register.

The local population registers

Each tax office keeps a local register of the population in its area of operation. For each person the register has particulars of

- personal identity number
- name
- residence (address, property, county, municipality and parish where the person resides)
- civil status
- parents, spouse, children, guardian of children under the age of 18, adoption
- place of birth
- nationality
- immigration from abroad
- removal from the population registers (due to death, migration abroad or other circumstance)
- place of burial

The register contains both current and earlier information. The register also contains the date of amendment of the particulars, e.g. the date of change of address or date of marriage.

In conjunction with the local population register an official record (daybook) is kept of incoming registration business, i.e. reports and information which may necessitate amendments to the population register. The daybook records when an item of information comes into the tax office, what the item concerns, who has dealt with the item and when this was completed.

Access from terminals to a local population register is obtained from tax offices within the region where the register is kept. Search routines using the personal identity number as a search code make it possible to obtain many different combinations of personal particulars, such as the relations (spouse, children etc.) of a person, who is registered at a particular property and what names a person has had. Search routines are an important support in the work because they make it possible to obtain quickly the particular information which is needed in each individual case.

The central reference register

A central reference register is kept for the whole country by the National Tax Board. All tax offices have terminal access to this. This register contains details of persons who have been allocated personal identity numbers with the exception of people who were registered for population purposes and died before 1980. The reference register is used to ascertain in which local population register a person is to be found.

It is also used for the allocation of personal identity numbers.

The central reference register contains the name and personal identity number of each person and also whether the person is registered for population purposes or deregistered and the local tax office within whose area he is or last was registered.

For searching in the central reference register the personal identity number is used or, if this is not known, a combination of name, date of birth and sex.

How the information in the population register comes in

General

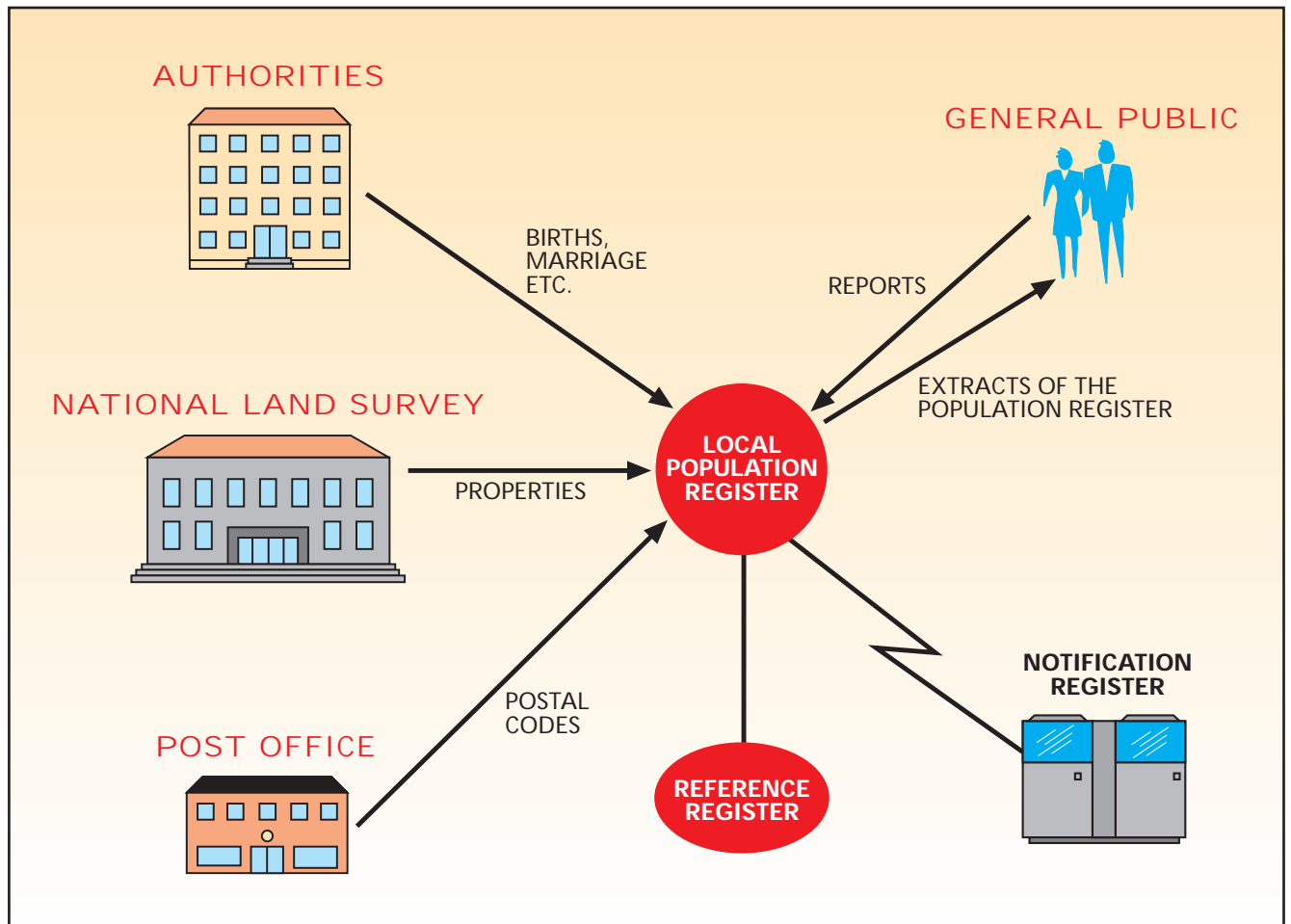
The work of population registration at the local tax office basically involves receiving information which is

to be recorded in the local population register, checking that the information may lawfully be recorded and entering it in the register. The information may then be supplied to different users, either by the issue by the tax office of extracts from the register on paper directly to private individuals, or by automatic notification of larger users.

The tax office where a person is registered decides on amendment of particulars in the population register. Decisions on registration of change of address are taken by the tax office for the area to which the person moves. In cases of movement between the geographical areas covered by different tax offices all information on the person moving is automatically transferred from the population records of the earlier office to the new one.

A person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the tax office on a population registration matter may appeal against it. Depending on the nature of the case the decision may be reviewed at up to three levels, the highest being the Supreme Administrative Court.

Each person who is resident in Sweden must be registered for population purposes. One is registered where one resides and one is considered to reside where one regularly - at least once a week - takes one's



nightly rest or corresponding rest. A person migrating into Sweden is registered for population purposes if he intends to reside in Sweden for at least one year. A person moving abroad is deregistered if he intends to reside outside Sweden for at least one year. A person who dies is removed from the register.

The individual has a duty to report certain particulars for inclusion in the population register himself. The majority of the particulars however are not information that he needs to notify himself but are sent into the tax office by other agencies.

Information which the individual himself must submit

Under the Population Registration Act the birth of a child must be reported to the tax office as soon as possible by the hospital where the child is born or by the midwife who otherwise assists in the delivery. If the child is born neither in hospital nor with the assistance of a midwife the parents must themselves report the birth within a month.

When the newborn child has been registered for population purposes the tax office sends an extract from the register to the parents with the child's personal identity number. At the same time forms are sent for stating the name of the child. The parents must inform the tax office of the child's name within three months.

A person who changes address must report this within a week. The information may be given to the post office or the social insurance office, which will then forward it to the tax office. A person wishing to do so may on request also have a separate postal address recorded in the population register as well as the address of the place of abode.

Information to the population registry must be given in writing.

If a person fails to give a prescribed item of information, e.g. concerning the name given to a child, on time, the tax office may require him to supply the desired information. If the information is still not supplied the person liable to provide it may be fined.

Information from other agencies

With the exception of change of address, name of her/his child and, in certain cases, birth of the child, the individual does not need herself/himself to report the information which is to be kept in the population register. This information is instead reported to the tax office by other agencies.

For example:

- the person officiating at a marriage has to inform the tax office of the marriage. The corresponding requirement applies to courts which grant divorces.
- courts have to inform the tax office when they have decided on the paternity of a child, on adoption and on custody of a child.
- a doctor who has ascertained that a person has died has to inform the tax office of this.
- the authority which arranges burial has to inform the tax authority of where the deceased has been buried.

In order to be able to register the place of abode of the population the tax office automatically receives lists of postal addresses and property designations from the responsible authorities, the post office and the National Land Survey.

A summary and description of the rules relating to information in the population records is contained in an appendix to this brochure.

DISSEMINATION OF POPULATION REGISTER INFORMATION IN THE COMMUNITY



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The population registration system gives society simple access to basic information concerning the population. The information is communicated by means of

- extracts from the population register to private individuals
- automatic notification of authorities

Extracts from the registers are issued by the tax office to private individuals free of charge. Such extracts may be issued for numerous different purposes, e.g. court business, employment and marriage. The purpose determines which information from the register will be included in the extract.

Notification register

The information in the population register is transfer-

red from the tax offices to other authorities via a central notification register which is kept by the National Tax Board. Rules governing the register are contained in a special act of parliament, the Notification Register Act of 1995. The notification register contains details of all people who are registered for population purposes in the country or who have been allocated a personal identity number for reasons other than civil registration. In the case of a person registered for population purposes the current information contained in the local population register is shown.

The notification register is updated daily with the changes which are made in the local population registers.

The particulars which may be used for searching in the notification register are personal identity number, name

and address and other information concerning where a person is registered, e.g. property and municipality. Use may also be made of nationality (in the Nordic countries or the EU) and spouse, parents, children and legal guardians. Certain administrative data such as date of registration may also be used for searching.

In addition to ongoing notification of information in the population register the notification register may be used for retrieval of selections of personal particulars for special purposes, e.g. for drawing up lists of voters for general elections.

Authorities which use the notification register

A large number of authorities whose business requires information concerning the population obtain this from the notification register. Depending on the needs of the authority, this may be done in the form of

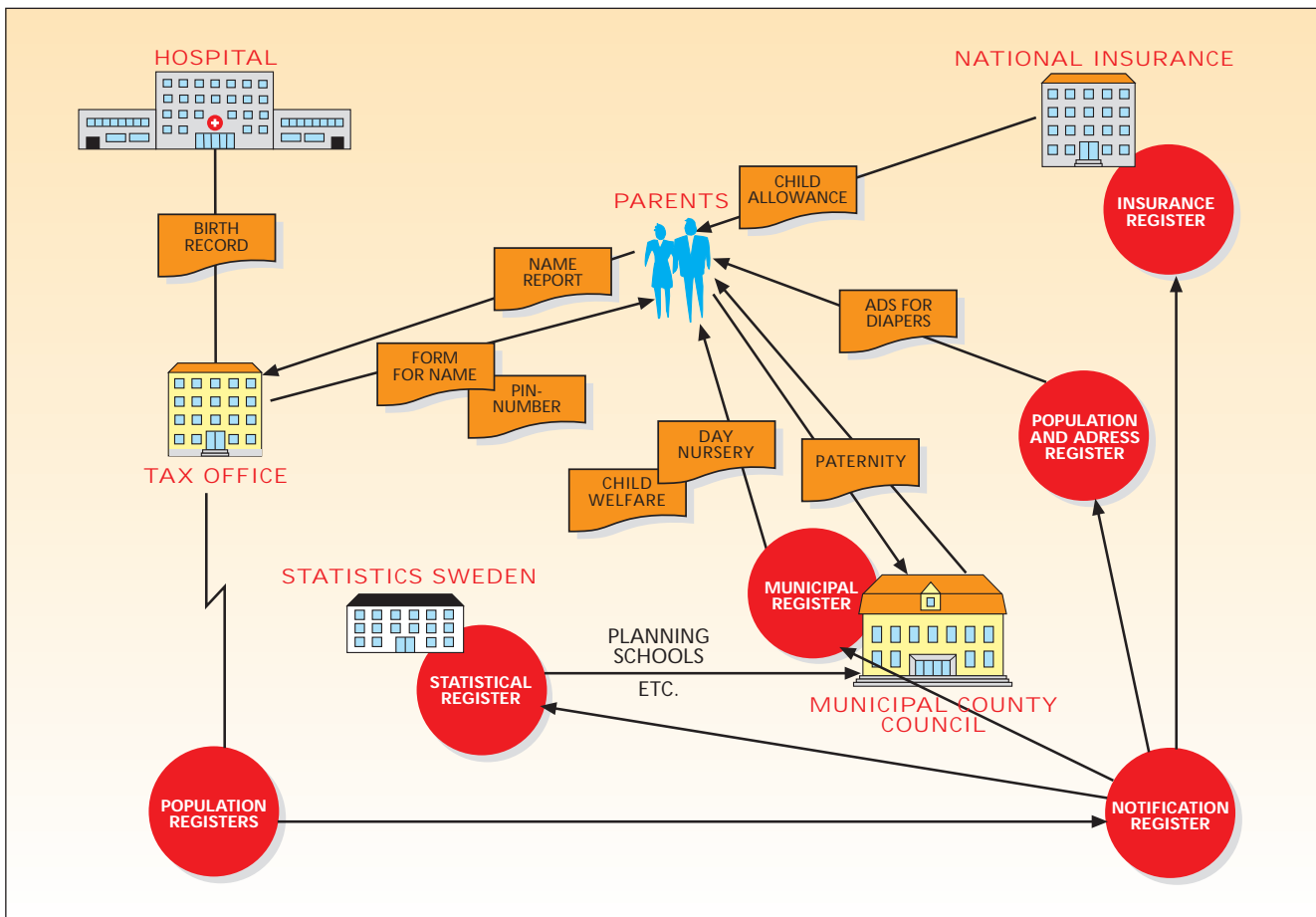
- continuous notification of information which has been amended concerning persons whom the receiving authority is entitled to have in its own register
- selective notification, selection of a group of persons with the aid of different search concepts or with an input file

- terminal access, the possibility of searching in the notification register
- computer-computer access, the possibility of obtaining a personal item with the aid of the customer's own application.

Agreements between the National Tax Board and the receiving authority regulate how the information is to be retrieved. A charge is made for utilization of the notification register unless the government decides otherwise. The National Tax Board decides on the fees charged.

Authorities using the notification register include

- Statistics Sweden, which keeps a register of the whole population for statistical purposes
- The National Police Board, which is responsible for registers within the police and judicial system
- The National Social Insurance Board, which keeps registers for the payment of child allowance, sickness allowance and national basic pension
- The National Service Administration, which keeps a register of conscripts and others with duties within the defence forces



- The National Land Survey, which keeps registers of property owners
- The National Road Administration, which keeps a register of driving licence holders and vehicle owners
- The Swedish Immigration Board, which keeps a register of non-Nordic nationals resident in Sweden
- Municipalities, which keep registers of for instance children of school age within their area.

Another important recipient of information from the notification register is the Swedish Population and Address Register (SPAR), which has been set up in order to satisfy commercial and other non-official needs for population register information. Many companies and organizations utilize this register to update their customer registers or to make a selection for direct mail advertising or information. The activities of the registry are regulated by a special law.

REGISTER QUALITY

Monitoring of changes of address

For population registration to be able to fulfil its function in society it is important for it to reflect the actual settlement of the population. The tax office has therefore to ensure continuously that all persons who are resident within its area of activity - and no others - are also registered there. In most cases a person's current residence is registered from the notice of change of address which he has a duty to give under the Population Registration Act. However the tax office also checks other information indicating that a person is resident somewhere other than where he is registered for population purposes. Such information may sometimes come from other authorities. A number of authorities whose business involves many contacts with the public have a duty to inform the tax office when they receive information that a person may have an address which is not registered in the population registry. Examples of such authorities include the social insurance offices, the municipalities and the National Road Administration, i.e. the authority which is responsible for registration of vehicles and issue of driving licences.

Other cases which indicate that the registered address may be incorrect arise when tax cards/notices do not reach the addressee at the recorded address and are therefore returned to the tax office.

The tax office may also on its own initiative carry out checks of the residence of the population, for example by requiring information from property owners in a particular area concerning who is resident in their properties. Under the Population Registration Act property owners have a duty to provide such information at the request of the tax office.

If the tax office receives information indicating that a person's registration is not correct this person shall

first be given the opportunity to comment on the information and to report change of address himself. In the last resort, however, the tax office may amend his population registration without information from the person himself.

Other checks

In addition to checking of change of address other measures are also taken to check and maintain the quality of the population registers. For example there is an automatic check that persons who have a family relationship, e.g. parents and children, have register particulars which are mutually compatible.

Another method of checking is to have a selection of persons in a survey report whether their own particulars are correctly recorded in the population register. For example a survey was carried out in a particular area, the County of Västernorrland, in 1996. Ten thousand persons then received an extract from the population register showing their particulars. Of those asked, 94 % replied, and the number of incorrect items which were discovered was 201, representing 1.7 per thousand of all the particulars checked.

Another stage in the quality check is provided by following up how quickly an item of registration business is dealt with by the tax offices. Of approximately 2 million items processed annually, some 60 % are completed within 2 days. The quality of processing is monitored by follow-up of randomly chosen items.

Another factor of relevance in monitoring register quality is the provision in the Personal Information Act which allows the individual to receive a statement once a year, free of charge, showing all the particulars concerning himself in the register. This right is general, i.e. it applies to all authorities and others who keep any sort of register of personal particulars.

SECURITY OF THE POPULATION REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Authorization

For access to the population registration system it is necessary to possess authorization, of which there are several levels. The level varies according to whether the person is a system administrator, the director of a tax office, an executive officer, a clerical officer or a member of the general public. A person using the system has a pass card with a code number which only the holder should know. The code is changed for security reasons at regular intervals or if it may be assumed that any outside person has learned of it.

Members of the general public are entitled to sit at a terminal with authorization which gives access to names and addresses of registered persons and to statements of which items of business have been received by the tax office. To obtain access to other particulars in the population registers it is necessary for members of the public to turn to executive officer at the tax office.

Transaction log

All amendments (registrations) made to the local population register and the daybook are simultaneously recorded in a separate transaction log. Here it is possible if necessary to trace who has done what and when.

Safety copy

At the end of each working day the local population register, the transaction log and the daybook are copied. This safety copy is kept in a fireproof locked room to which only authorized personnel have access. The copy is used to restore the population register and the daybook after a computer failure.

A special emergency plan has been drawn up for such serious disruptions as imply that normal operation cannot be resumed within a certain time.

APPENDIX – INFORMATION IN THE POPULATION REGISTER – A SUMMARY

When one is registered

Each person resident in Sweden must be registered for population purposes. A person who moves into Sweden is registered if he intends to reside in Sweden for at least a year. A person who is a citizen of a non-Nordic country normally also requires a residence permit.

A child who is born in Sweden is registered if the mother is registered for population purposes or if the father is registered and is also a legal guardian.

Where one is registered

One is registered where one resides. Under the Population Registration Act one is considered resident where one regularly – at least once a week – takes one's nightly rest or similar rest. If applying this rule means that one can be regarded as resident in more than one place one is registered where one has one's family. If a person has no family the registration is determined by other circumstances, primarily the place of employment.

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The Population Registration Act also contains rules for registration in various special situations such as when studying or receiving medical care.

Birth

All births which take place in Sweden must be registered with the tax offices. Normally the birth is registered in the population register when the child is registered. If the child's parents are not registered for population purposes the birth is instead registered in the daybook of the tax office. This means that it is always possible for the parents to obtain a certificate which confirms that the birth of the child has been officially registered in Sweden.

The birth must be reported to the tax office by the hospital where the child is born or by the midwife who assists with the birth. If the child is neither born in hospital nor with the assistance of a midwife the parents themselves must report the birth within a month.

Parents

The identity of the child's mother is recorded from the report of the birth. If the mother is married her husband is registered as the father of the child. If she is not married then paternity must be determined judicially before the father can be registered. This can be done by the father's signing a written acknowledgment of paternity which is accepted by the mother and the social welfare committee. The social

welfare committee then informs the tax office of the acknowledgment.

Paternity may also be determined by a court judgment. Notice of the judgment is then sent to the tax authority by the court. The same applies if a court establishes that the mother's spouse is not the father of her child.

Custody of children

If the parents are married to each other they are both registered as legal guardians. Otherwise the mother alone is registered as legal guardian. The parents may in this case ask the tax office to have custody registered as being held by them both jointly. A later variation of custody may be made by a court or by the parents' reaching a written agreement on this. Such an agreement must be approved by the social welfare committee in order to be valid. The court or the social welfare committee informs the tax office that custody has been varied.

Adoption

Adoption is formalized in Sweden by a decision of a court. The court informs the tax office of the decision. If an adoption has taken place abroad then it must in certain cases be approved by a special authority, the National Board for Intercountry Adoptions, in order to be valid in Sweden. In this case the authority informs the tax office that the adoption has been approved.

It is recorded in the population register who has adopted the child. However information concerning the biological parents must be retained.

Name

Rules on names in Sweden are codified in a special Names Act. A person has one surname and one or more given names. Sometimes a middle name is also used.

Children of parents with a shared surname acquire this surname at birth. If the parents have different names the child acquires at birth the surname of its most recently born sibling. A child who has no older siblings acquires that one of the parents' surnames that is submitted within three months after the birth. If the parents do not submit a name within three months the child automatically acquires the name of the mother.

A child who has acquired a surname borne by only one parent may bear the other parent's surname as a middle name. The tax office must in this case be informed of the middle name.

The parents have a duty to submit a given name for the child within three months. The tax authority may in certain cases refuse to approve a given name, for example if the name may be expected to lead to serious inconvenience to the child.

Couples who marry must tell the tax office which surname they choose to bear. They may choose the man's or the woman's surname as a joint surname or they may decide each to retain their own name. A person who takes the spouse's surname may retain her/his previous surname as a middle name. Information concerning names in connection with marriage may be given to the person officiating, who will forward the information to the tax office.

Within certain limits it is possible to change one's name by informing the tax office. For example one is allowed once to delete or change all given names except one or to change one's surname to another surname borne by a parent. Otherwise change of name requires application to a special authority, the Patent and Registration Office. When this authority has approved a change of name it sends confirmation of this to the tax office.

Marriage and partnership

The requirements made by Swedish law for eligibility for marriage are that one has reached the age of 18, is not already married (or a registered partner, see below) and is not too closely related to the prospective spouse (parent-child, siblings). Half-siblings may marry with the consent of the government. A person who is under 18 years of age may marry with the consent of the county administration.

Prospective spouses must request the tax office for a certificate showing that there are no impediments to their marriage. The certificate, which is issued after a check of the population register, is valid for four months and has to be shown to the person officiating at the marriage. The marriage may be solemnized by a minister of the Church of Sweden or any other denomination which has the right to officiate at marriages. It may also be solemnized by a judge or other official who has this right.

The person officiating must send a notice of the marriage to the tax office.

When a court has made a judgment of divorce or annulled a marriage the court sends a notice of this to the tax office.

In Swedish law two persons of the same sex may enter into a relationship equivalent to marriage which is called registered partnership. A registered partnership has roughly the same legal effect as a marriage. The difference consists largely in the fact that two

registered partners cannot adopt children either jointly or separately. Nor can they have joint legal custody of a child. The requirements for entering into a registered partnership are also largely the same as for a marriage.

Nationality

In the case of a foreign citizen the nationality or nationalities of the person are recorded in the population register. Only Swedish nationality is recorded in the case of a Swedish citizen, even if the person also has another nationality.

When a foreigner has acquired Swedish nationality the authority which has decided on this (the National Immigration Board or the county administration) sends a notice of the decision to the tax office.

Deaths

A death which occurs in Sweden is registered with the tax office irrespective of whether the deceased was registered for population purposes in Sweden or not. A person who is registered for population purposes is removed from the population registers after death. If the deceased was not registered for population purposes the death is registered in the daybook of the tax office.

Before a death can be registered a doctor must have issued a death certificate. If the deceased was in hospital at the time of death, or if he was taken there in connection with the death, the hospital must send the death certificate to the tax authority. Otherwise the death certificate is to be submitted by the doctor who has issued it.

The remains of the deceased may not be buried or cremated until the administrators of the crematorium or the burial place have received a certificate from the tax office giving particulars of the deceased and the time of death. Interment or cremation must take place not later than two months after death. If the remains have been cremated, interment must take place within a year afterwards. Notice of interment or cremation is to be sent to the tax office, which also ensures that interment or cremation takes place within the prescribed time. In the event of delay the tax office must investigate the reason and if necessary inform the municipality where the deceased was last registered for population purposes. The municipality is responsible for ensuring that the deceased is interred if there is nobody else who does this.

POPULATION REGISTRATION – CONCLUSIONS

- the content and purpose of the population registration system should be defined by law.
- the population registration system should maintain a continuous record of who lives in the country and where
- the population registration system should constitute a basic register of the population which can supply various functions in society with current information about the country's residents
- the population registration system should contain only basic data about each person, i.e. such information (e.g. name, address, family situation) as is required by several different users in the community
- for each person in the population registration system there should be a unique identity code
- information should come into the population registration system by standardized, quick and reliable reporting procedures. The principle should be that the person responsible for or assisting in an event which is to be registered, e.g. midwife (birth), solemnizer of marriages (marriage), and doctor (death) should also report the event to the population registration system. In as few cases as possible should the individual herself/himself need to report what has to be registered
- information in the population registration system should be quickly forwarded using regular and reliable reporting procedures to other authorities responsible for important social functions, e.g. taxation, health services, general elections, statistics, planning of schools and payments of child allowances and pensions. This also means that the individual need only report changes in her/his data to a single authority
- the population should themselves feel that there is a good reason for being recorded in the population registration system. They should feel that such registration simplifies life for them and is an efficient support in achieving a correct distribution of social rights and obligations
- there should be both a local and a central organization for civil registration. The local organization is responsible for ongoing recording of the particulars, the central organization is responsible for the design of systems and programs and issues instructions to the local organization to ensure that business is carried on in a uniform manner all over the country.



National Tax Board

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