



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: SWEDEN 2012

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Sweden during 2012, including latest statistics. It has been prepared in conjunction with the European Commission's 4th Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (2012).

2. Legal Migration and Mobility

2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

Information on Sweden's labour immigration system can be found on the Swedish government's website www.workinginsweden.se. International students can find useful information under www.studyinsweden.se. In order to improve communication and services directed at migrants, the Swedish Migration Board is running the project **New Way In**, aimed at finding better ways to reach potential migrants with information about legal migration channels.

2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Since December 2008, when new rules on labour immigration came into force, Sweden has pursued a liberal and demand-driven approach to immigration of third country nationals for employment purposes. 2012 witnessed an increase in the number of **employment-related migration**, compared with the previous year. This was mainly due to a strong increase in the number of seasonal workers, as well as of computing specialists. In January 2012, the **stricter control measures** that the Swedish Migration Board has been applying with regard to the issuing of work permits for the berry-picking business since 2011 were extended to companies in the cleaning, hotel, agriculture, construction, and other some sectors of the labour market. This means, among other things, that such companies must now be able to prove they are able to actually pay salaries during the foreseen employment period.

Moreover, in line with the objective of creating an efficient and flexible immigration system, as of 2012, labour migrants from all countries of origin can apply

for residence permits electronically. With regards to **students and researchers**, an independent Parliamentary Committee proposed that a new type of residence permit for doctoral studies should be introduced and that family members of international students should be granted a work permit. These proposals are currently being reviewed within the governmental offices.

Moreover, in order to simplify the migration process of third-country national students that have been accepted by a Swedish university, as of July 2012, applicants that do not need a visa in order to travel to the EU may enter Sweden and submit their biometric details after entry. This represents an exception from the general rule that the residence permit and the residence permit card (including biometric identifiers) must be arranged by the applicant before entry.

2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In January 2012, the Swedish Migration Court of Appeal stated in a judgement that in certain cases of family reunification **DNA analysis** could be used to make one's identity credible and to facilitate family reunification. This could be particularly useful for instance, for the reunification of Somali families who cannot provide identity documents that are accepted by Swedish authorities. Moreover, in the 2012 Budget Bill, the government proposed to spend around 4.6 million euro (40 million SEK) for **civic orientation** also for third-country nationals immigrating for family reasons.

2.4. INTEGRATION

At local level, the Government is investing around 23 million euro (200 million SEK) over two years to stimulate the work of municipalities in urban areas that face problems of **extensive exclusion**. A performance-based support will be paid to municipalities that achieve improvement on the integration of migrants, including achieving high employment rates and good school results. Moreover, the government decided to make the existing financial

support to organisations such as **anti-discrimination agencies** permanent from 2013. Also in 2012, several Swedish stakeholders such as: the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, the Ministry of Employment and NGOs, continued to participate in meetings at both EU and national levels.

2.5 MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY¹

In 2012 Sweden signed 22 new **consular representation agreements** with other EU Member States and Norway to facilitate applications for visas. In the area of border monitoring, as the passenger flow at Swedish border crossing points is not regarded as being particularly high, Sweden has not yet introduced electronic border gates ("e-gates") at its airports. Regarding the **Visa Information System (VIS)**, the Swedish missions abroad have successfully started to use it in accordance with the common roll-out plan. Moreover, since May 2012, the Swedish Migration Board has been able to access VIS and uses it to handle cases of asylum seekers holding a Schengen visa of another Member State or having had such a visa (so-called "Dublin cases").

3. International Protection and Asylum

During 2012 Sweden experienced the greatest **inflow of asylum seekers** since 1992. Most of them originated from Syria, Somalia and Afghanistan. The Swedish Migration Board has implemented a new method of processing asylum cases entitled "**Shorter Wait**", in all stages of first instance asylum processing. In 2012, 52% of all asylum seekers obtained their first instance decisions within three months and 79% of them within five months.

Sweden actively participated in many **European Asylum Support Office (EASO)** activities, and the Swedish Migration Board also benefited from training on the European Asylum Curriculum (EAC) for newly recruited officers. In the framework of international cooperation, Sweden participated in the **Prague Process** by providing Russian speaking countries, as well as Kirgizstan and Turkey, with an EAC training module translated into Russian and Turkish. It also cooperated in a Twinning project together with Poland, aimed at supporting the Armenian State Migration service.

In the field of **resettlement**, Sweden accepted around 1,600 refugees in 2012, corresponding to 90% of the cases submitted to it by UNHCR. Within its resettlement programme, the Swedish Migration Board conducted four pre-missions and five selection missions during 2012 in several countries of origin. The Migration Board also carried out two **cultural orientation programmes** in Iran and Sudan, to give

an opportunity for refugees to learn about society in their country of destination.

4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

Sweden continued to witness a steady increase in the number of **unaccompanied minors (UAMs) seeking asylum** during 2012, most of them originating from Afghanistan and Somalia. The reception system for UAMs has thus been under enormous pressure and local communities faced difficulties in offering sufficient accommodation and care. In light of the increasing influx of UAMs, the Swedish Migration Board increased its efforts to facilitate their return, also through participation in the "**European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minors**" (**ERPUM**). The project, which runs from 2011 until June 2014, aims at promoting the humane and orderly return of UAMs needing to return to their countries of origin after a final negative decision. (See table 5)

5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

The Stockholm County Administrative Board has been given a national mandate to co-ordinate assistance and repatriation of victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Finland.

A report of the Administrative Board of November 2012 shed light on the phenomenon of **trafficking in children**. According to the latter, 166 children have been registered in Sweden as suspected victims of trafficking between 2009 and 2011, most of them having come to the country as unaccompanied minors. The identified reasons of trafficking were sexual exploitation, theft, begging and child labour.

Also in 2012 trafficking in human beings for purposes of **labour exploitation and forced labour** continued to be tackled by the Swedish Migration Board, which applied more stringent controls on work permits for third-country nationals in the restaurant and catering branches, as well as in the berry picking business.

In order to better identify victims of trafficking in human beings, the **National Task Force against trafficking in human beings and prostitution** launched an experimental project collecting reports from various institutions and NGOs, to create strategic reports and initiate operational measures. Also the Swedish National Bureau of Investigation is continuing to be involved in the prevention and fight against THB through its participation in the ETUTU project, aiming to prevent THB related to organized crime groups and networks originating from Nigeria.

¹ "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

In the framework of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GMFD)**, Sweden has been involved in activities regarding the inclusion of migration into development planning. It has also participated in the work of the GMFD-roundtable « Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies».

In the field of **remittances**, the Government financially contributed to the work of the Swedish think tank Global Utmaning (Global Challenge) on how diasporas in Sweden contribute to developing their countries of origin. Moreover, the **Kosmopolit project** has been set up with the aim of targeting diasporas as a resource in trade promotion between Sweden and countries of origin.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) also targeted **diasporas**, including a project to facilitate the involvement of the organised Somali diaspora in Sweden in the development cooperation with Somalia.

Finally, the final report of Sweden's Parliamentary Committee for Circular Migration and Development contains proposals and recommendations aimed at facilitating increased **circular migration** between Sweden and migrants' countries of origin, in order to promote its positive development effects.

7. Irregular Migration

To reinforce actions against employers who make use of irregularly staying third-country nationals, a bill has been proposed in January 2013 to transpose the **EU Employer Sanctions Directive** into Swedish law.

In the area of return, much effort has been put on encouraging **voluntary return** of irregularly staying third-country nationals. In 2012 there were 20,765 persons found to be illegally present in Sweden. Many of these were absconding rejected asylum seekers. In 2012, 12,988 persons returned voluntarily to their home countries (mainly to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq).

On 1 May 2012, national legislation transposing the **EU Return Directive** into Swedish law, entered into force. Information on the Return Directive and the introduction of re-entry bans has been illustrated in a leaflet in several languages.²

In the area of **border management**, the National Border Management Division, with the Criminal Intelligence Unit and the National Bureau of Investigation trained 60 staff members at the Sabiha

Gökçen Airport in Istanbul, Turkey, on discovering false documents.

8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

Sweden actively participated in the activities of EASO and of the **European Migration Network (EMN)**. In the framework of the EMN, a national network conference was organised on the topic of "entry and stay of international students". Moreover, the Swedish Central Border Management Division, together with the Swedish Coastguard, participates in the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC).

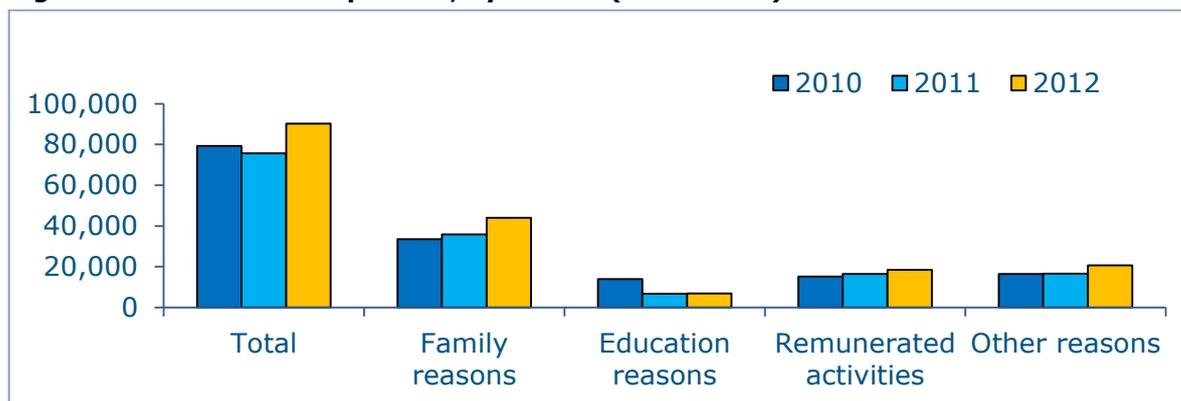
STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Sweden on aspects of migration and asylum (2010-2012), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

² The leaflet is available under this link:
http://www.migrationsverket.se/info/487_en.html

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Sweden (2010-2012)

Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason (2010-2012)



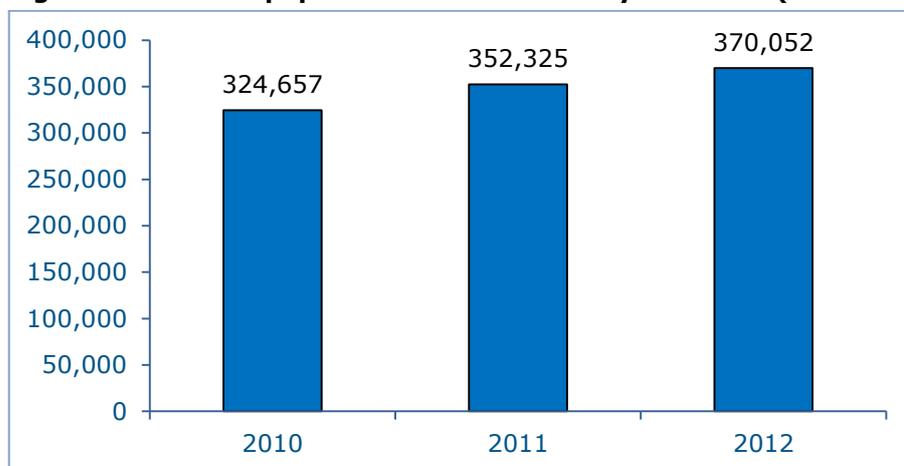
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst)

Table 1: First residence permits: Top 5 nationalities (2010 – 2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Thailand – 7,040	1. Iraq – 6,457	1. Thailand – 8,162
2. Somalia – 6,915	2. Thailand – 5,849	2. Somalia – 8,134
3. China – 6,429	3. China – 4,859	3. Syria – 7,265
4. Iraq – 6,348	4. India – 4,375	4. India – 5,296
5. India – 4,547	5. Afghanistan – 4,346	5. Afghanistan – 5,009

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst)

Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals (2010-2012)



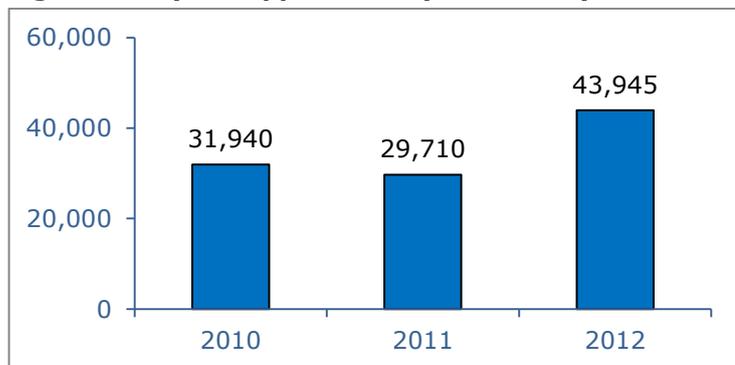
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz)

Table 2: Resident population: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Iraq – 55,114	1. Iraq – 56,581	1. Iraq – 55,846
2. Somalia – 24,699	2. Somalia – 30,807	2. Somalia – 33,003
3. Thailand – 17,099	3. Thailand – 18,278	3. Thailand – 19,008
4. Iran – 11,846	4. China – 14,134	4. China – 15,494
5. China – 11,817	5. Iran – 13,493	5. Iran – 14,301

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz)

Figure 3: Asylum applications (2010-2012)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza)

Table 3: Asylum applications: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Serbia – 6,255	1. Afghanistan – 4,130	1. Syria – 7,920
2. Somalia – 5,630	2. Somalia – 4,045	2. Somalia – 5,650
3. Afghanistan – 2,400	3. Serbia – 2,645	3. Afghanistan – 4,760
4. Iraq – 1,995	4. Eritrea – 1,705	4. Serbia – 2,670
5. Kosovo – 1,715	5. Iraq – 1,640	5. Eritrea – 2,405

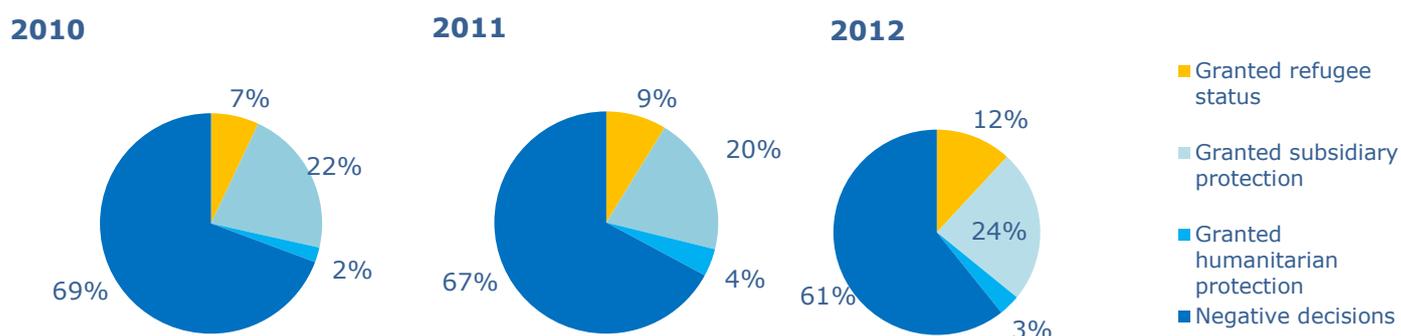
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza)

Table 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
2010	27,715	8,510	1,935	5,970	605	19,205
2011	26,760	8,805	2,335	5,390	1,075	17,960
2012	31,570	12,400	3,745	7,595	1,060	19,170

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta)

Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)

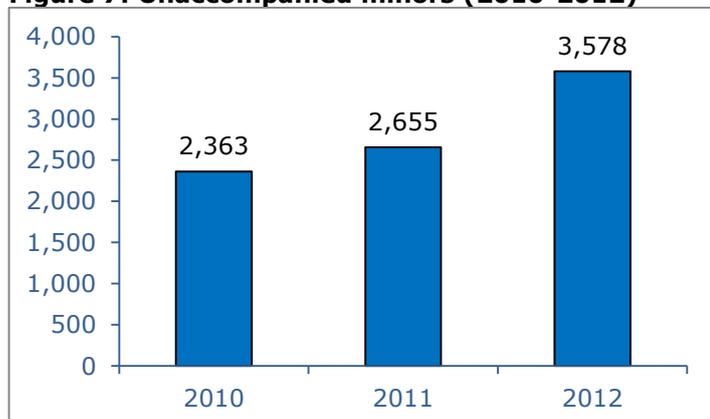


Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta)

Table 5: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2011-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals relocated	0	0	0
Third-country nationals resettled	1,790	1,620	1,680

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyresa)

Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)

Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report and: *Information updated/provided by EMN NCP

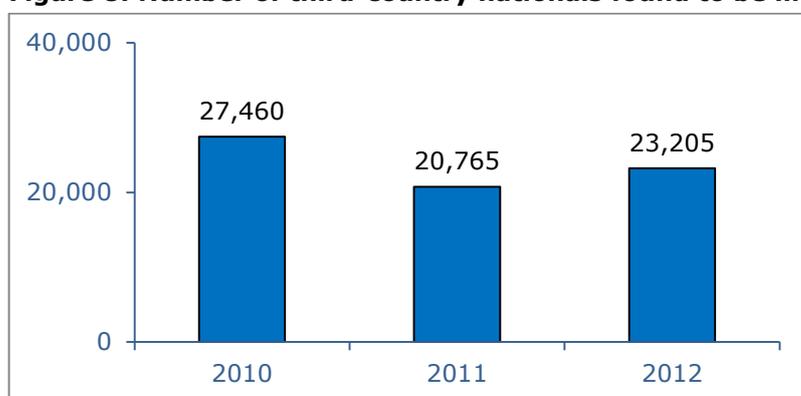
Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Unaccompanied minors (total)	2,393*	2,657	3,578
Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	2,393*	2,657*	3,578*

Table 7: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders	90	155	155

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)

Figure 8: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present (2010-2012)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eipre)

Table 8: Third-country nationals returned (2010-2012)

	Third-country nationals ordered to leave	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2010	20,205	1,868	N/A	N/A
2011	17,600	2,495	9,740	1,415
2012	19,905	2,893	12,988	614

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eiord) and National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

Table 9: Number of visas issued by type (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Total visas	189,914	202,657	194,781
Schengen visa (short-stay visas)	189,236	200,172	191,244
National visa	678	2,485	3,537*

Source: Information provided and updated by EMN NPC and *Commission Staff Working Documents on the Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum;