

## **Nonresponse work at Statistics Sweden – examples from the past and plans for the future**

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Nonresponse is an ever-increasing problem within the field of official statistics. This is especially true for sample surveys where the respondents participate on a voluntary basis. For example, in the Swedish Labor Force Survey the nonresponse rate has increased from around 8 % in the mid-1970s to close to 28 % today. From a strictly statistical point of view, nonresponse is likely to induce both bias and additional variability in the point estimator, thus having a direct negative impact on quality through an increase in the mean squared error of the estimator. However, for a national statistical institute (NSI) the problem of nonresponse will also have an indirect negative effect on quality; more money spent on nonresponse related work indirectly means less money available for other important quality-defining activities. Against this background, it is not surprising that the problem of nonresponse is considered an issue of major importance by many NSIs. In this paper, we will provide insight into some nonresponse-related initiatives that has been carried out by Statistics Sweden, as well as present some plans for the future.

**Key Words:** sample survey, quality