

Jobseeking in other EU/EEA countries while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit | *second quarter 2004*

=

2005 02 11

x

+

%

This report provides details of a survey of jobseekers who sought employment in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit during the second quarter of 2004. Similar surveys have previously been carried out by the Swedish National Labour Market Board (AMS).

The report has been prepared by Erik Lundkvist.

Contents

Summary	5
Introduction	7
Purpose and method.....	9
Purpose	9
Method	9
People who have been granted form E 303	10
Number of jobseekers re-registered with the Public Employment Services in Sweden	10
Citizenship and country of birth	10
Number of jobseekers per country.....	11
Gender and age groups	12
The people who responded to the survey.....	13
Non-respondents.....	13
Age and gender.....	14
Destination country.....	15
The IAF's service	16
Questions about unemployment benefit abroad.....	16
Education.....	18
The foreign public employment services.....	20
People who found work.....	23
Gender and age.....	23
The most common jobs.....	24
Information	25
Comments from the people who responded to the survey.....	27
Comparisons with previous surveys.....	29
Similarities and differences in the results	30
Appendix: the survey questions.....	32

Summary

EU membership enables jobseekers, under certain conditions, to seek employment in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland while drawing unemployment benefit for a maximum period of three months. A survey has been carried out to shed light on various aspects of this kind of job hunting.

The survey encompasses 243 jobseekers who sought employment during the second quarter of 2004 in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit (form E 303). The Swedish Unemployment Insurance Board (IAF) sent a questionnaire to these people in November 2004 to chart the circumstances and effects of this kind of job hunting.

Of the 243 questionnaires sent out, 146 (60 per cent) were answered. 58 people, i.e. 40 per cent of those who responded to the survey, found work. A non-respondent analysis indicates that the overall proportion who found work was probably some 10 percentage points higher. 39 per cent of the 243 jobseekers were re-registered at the Public Employment Services in Sweden in November 2004.

Characteristics of those who found work were that they made their own contact with employers, that they speak the language of that country well and that they have previous working life experience of the job they were given. The majority were under 35 years of age.

Almost half of the jobseekers say they would have sought employment in another country even if they had not received form E 303. The proportion of these who found work was 57 per cent, significantly higher than the people who would not have sought work without form E 303, 26 per cent of whom found work. Much of the positive effect in the form of work would therefore seem to have been forthcoming even without the opportunity to look for work while drawing unemployment benefit.

The most popular countries in which to seek work were the UK and Spain. Jobseekers in the UK had the highest percentage success with 55 per cent.

Half of the 243 jobseekers were born in Sweden while 23 per cent were born in another EU country. 28 per cent were born outside of Europe. People born outside of Sweden are therefore strongly over-represented among people seeking work in another country while drawing unemployment benefit.

The survey reveals that jobseekers are largely satisfied with the service provided by the Swedish Unemployment Board (IAF), which makes decisions on and provides information about form E 303.

Almost 40 per cent of the jobseekers have encountered problems with the payment of unemployment benefit, which may have rendered job hunting more difficult. Several jobseekers say that they decided to return to Sweden because of these complications.

None of the jobseekers found work through the employment services in the destination country, and views regarding a lack of knowledge among employment agents have been expressed. Some of the jobseekers would like to see better information and increased knowledge among these employment agents. However, almost 70 per cent of the jobseekers say that they had good contact with the foreign employment services. There has been particular praise for the employment services' willingness to help.

The factors that make job hunting easier are evident both in this and previous surveys: experience of the career being sought, language skills and preparation ahead of job hunting in another country. The results of this latest survey stress the importance of jobseekers making their own contact with employers when job hunting.

Introduction

The EU's rules on the free movement of people creates conditions for a common labour market. EU rules on social welfare and security facilitate job hunting in another country. The jobseeker may, provided certain conditions are fulfilled, be entitled to seek employment in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit. This opportunity is restricted to three months and is only granted to people fulfilling the following conditions:

- He/she must have a specific purpose for seeking work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland.
- He/she must be a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, stateless, refugee in accordance with the Geneva Convention or a citizen of a third country with the legal right to live in Sweden. If the jobseeker is a citizen of a third country, he/she must be entitled to register with the employment services and work in the country where he or she is planning to seek work.
- He/she must have been registered with a Swedish public employment office for a consecutive period of at least four weeks prior to the date of departure.
- He/she must have been completely unemployed for at least four weeks prior to the departure date.
- He/she must be entitled to unemployment benefit.
- He/she must have an address in the country where he/she is planning to seek work (not a campsite, youth hostel or similar).
- An application must be received by the IAF prior to departure.
- If the jobseeker has previously been granted the opportunity to seek work abroad while drawing unemployment benefit, he/she must since have worked to some extent.

The Swedish Unemployment Insurance Board (IAF) checks that applicants fulfil these conditions. The IAF issues a special EU form, E 303, to applicants who fulfil the conditions. Unemployment benefit is paid by the authority in the country where the jobseeker is looking for work.

The opportunity to seek work in another country while drawing unemployment benefit applies in the EU countries (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and in the EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). There is also a special agreement which makes it possible to seek work with form E 303 in Switzerland.

In November 2004, the IAF decided to carry out a survey of jobseekers who sought employment in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit (form E 303) during the second quarter of 2004.

The results report is divided into five sections:

- All 243 people who have been granted form E 303
- The 146 people who responded to the survey
- The 58 people who found work in the destination country
- Comments from the people who responded to the survey
- A comparison with previous surveys

Purpose and method

Purpose

The survey aims to shed light on various aspects of seeking work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit.

The aims of the survey include to chart how many jobseekers found work abroad, and to describe the circumstances that lead to a successful job hunt. The survey also outlines the difficulties encountered by the jobseekers in receiving unemployment benefit payments and other problems in contacts with authorities. The results in the report are also compared with previous surveys.

Method

In November 2004, 243 questionnaires were sent to people who were seeking work abroad while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit during the second quarter of 2004.

The surveys were sent to both the Swedish and overseas addresses given on the application for form E 303.

A comparison with Sweden's Public Employment Services register has been carried out to find out how many jobseekers had re-registered with the Employment Services in November 2004.

The survey protected the anonymity of the jobseekers.

The questions that were asked have been reported in the results in italics. A total of 24 questions were asked:

- 18 questions encompass everybody who took part in the survey.
- Six additional questions were put to the people who found work in the destination country.

The questions asked in the survey are shown in an appendix at the end of this report.

People who have been granted form E 303

In this section, the results of a search in Sweden's Public Employment Services register are firstly reported. This is followed by a review of details provided on the application forms for form E 303.

Number of jobseekers re-registered with the Public Employment Services in Sweden

A comparison of details in the Public Employment Services register shows how many of the 243 jobseekers had re-registered with Sweden's Public Employment Services in November 2004 (i.e. had returned to Sweden and registered as jobseekers).

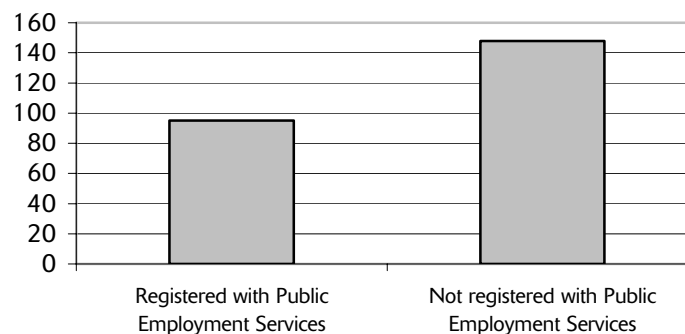


Diagram 1

95 people (39 per cent) were registered with Sweden's Public Employment Services in November 2004. The remaining 148 (61 per cent) were no longer registered for various reasons.

Citizenship and country of birth

This section covers details provided in the application forms.

207 of the people (85 per cent) are Swedish citizens, the other 36 (15 per cent) are citizens of other EU countries (one of whom is a refugee in accordance with the Geneva Convention). 28 of the 36 people without Swedish citizenship sought work in the country in which they are citizens.

120 of the people (50 per cent) were born in Sweden, while 48 (20 per cent) were born in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland. 6 of the people (2 per cent) were born in the rest of Europe and the remaining 68 people (28 per cent) were born outside of Europe.

People born outside of Sweden are strongly over-represented among people seeking work in other countries while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit.

Number of jobseekers per country

All countries except for the new EU countries

Belgium	2
Denmark	9
Finland	15
France	7
Greece	16
The Netherlands	2
Ireland	3
Iceland	4
Italy	12
Liechtenstein	0
Luxembourg	3
Norway	16
Portugal	5
Switzerland	6
Spain	51
The UK	64
Germany	15
Austria	4

Table 1

By far the most common countries to seek work in were the UK with 64 people (26 per cent) and Spain with 51 people (21 per cent). A total of 44 people (18 per cent) sought work in the Nordic countries.

EU countries as of 1 May 2004

Cyprus	1
Estonia	0
Latvia	2
Lithuania	0
Malta	0
Poland	3
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	0
The Czech Republic	1
Hungary	2

Table 2

The 10 new Member States have been reported separately as they were not EU members during the period covered by this study. The new Member States joined the EU on 1 May 2004, and the survey relates to jobseekers during the period April – June 2004. A total of 10 people sought work in the new EU countries while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit in May and June 2004.

Gender and age groups

A total of 122 women and 121 men were granted the right to seek work in another country while drawing unemployment benefit. The average age of the women was 35, and of the men 37. Women relatively often sought work in the UK, Greece and Italy, while men relatively often sought work in Spain, Finland and Germany.

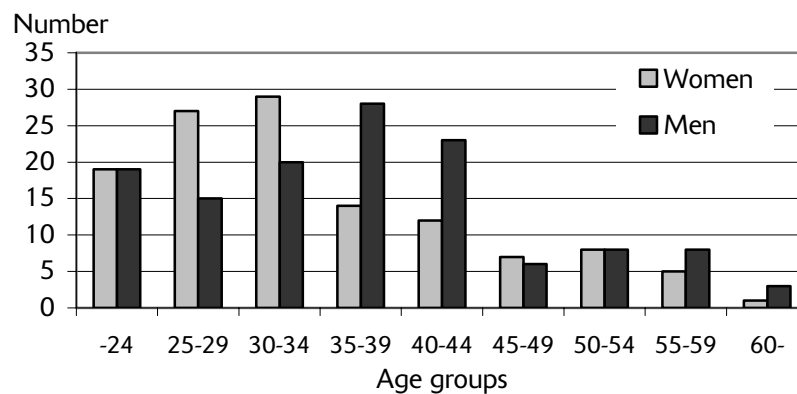


Diagram 2

The people who responded to the survey

146 out of 243 people answered the questionnaire, corresponding to a response frequency of 60 per cent. 99 of the people who responded were in Sweden while the remainder were abroad.

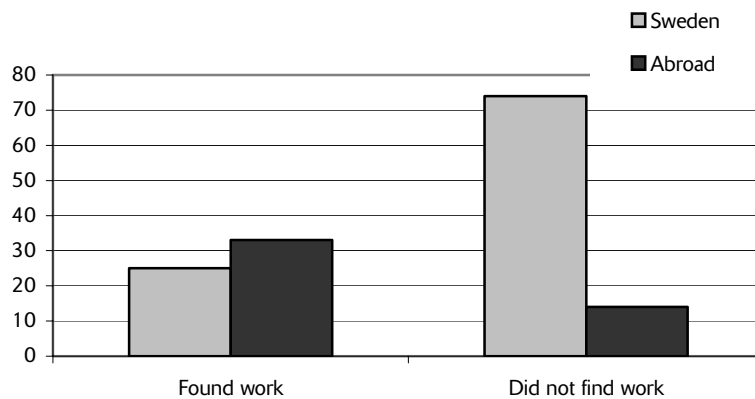


Diagram 3

The diagram shows that the percentage of jobseekers who found work in the destination country is higher among those who responded to the survey from abroad than among those who responded to the survey in Sweden.

Non-respondents

97 out of 243 people did not respond to the survey. A closer analysis of these non-respondents shows that 21 per cent were once again registered with Sweden's Public Employment Services in November 2004. This compares with a full 51 per cent of those who responded to the survey. One fully conceivable cause for this difference is that a higher percentage of those who did not respond to the survey had found work and are still in the destination country.

Of those who responded to the survey, 58 had found work, which equated to 82 per cent of those who were not re-registered with Sweden's Public Employment Services (71 people).

If the same relation is assumed among those who did not respond to the survey and the number of people who found work (82 per cent of the 77 people not registered with the Public Employment Services in November), a full 64 per cent of the non-respondents would have found work compared to the 40 per cent of those who responded.

Based on this assumption, a total of 120 of the 243 jobseekers would have found work, i.e. almost 50 per cent. It is therefore likely that the proportion of

jobseekers who found work is significantly higher than indicated by the completed questionnaires.

Age and gender

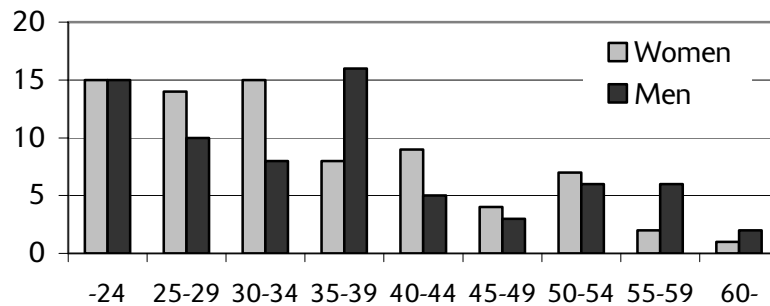


Diagram 4

The questionnaire was completed by 75 women and 71 men. The average age of the women was 35, and of the men 37.

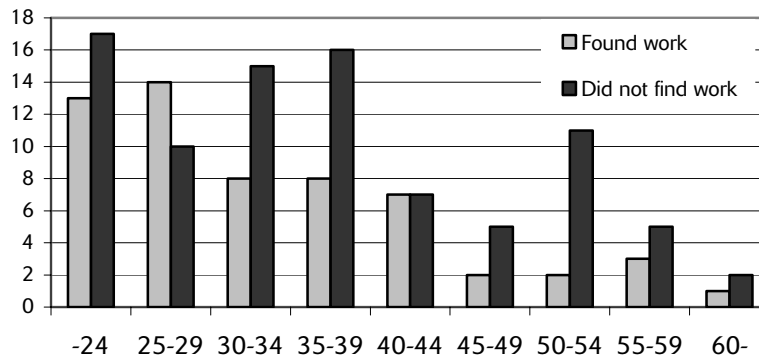


Diagram 5

50 per cent of the jobseekers aged under 30 found work, 34 per cent in the 30-39 age group and 31 per cent in the 40 years plus group.

Destination country

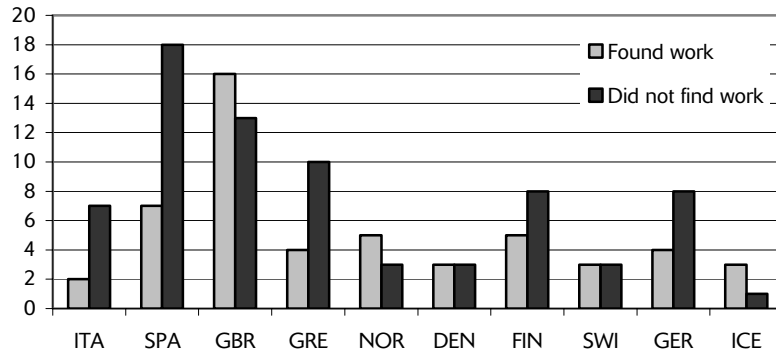


Diagram 6

The proportion of jobseekers who found work in each country varies dramatically. The number of jobseekers in each country is low, so comparisons are restricted to the countries where replies have been received from nine jobseekers or more. Those who sought work in the UK had by far the best results with 55 per cent of jobseekers finding work. The proportion who found work in Finland and Germany is 38 and 33 per cent respectively, while less than 30 per cent of the jobseekers in Italy, Greece and Spain found work.

The following question was asked about the jobseekers' attitude to looking for work abroad without drawing unemployment benefit:

*If you had **not** received form E 303 (unemployment benefit), would you still have travelled abroad to find work?*

	Yes	No	Don't know	Non-respondents
Answer	65	53	27	1

Table 3

45 per cent say that they would have travelled without form E 303, while 36 per cent say they would not.

57 per cent of those who say that they would have sought work abroad without unemployment benefit found work, while the corresponding figure for other jobseekers was only 26 per cent. This indicates that a relatively large proportion of the desirable effects would have been forthcoming even without the opportunity to seek work abroad while drawing unemployment benefit.

The IAF's service

The following question was asked regarding the IAF's service: *Are you satisfied with the service you received from the IAF when you applied for form E 303 prior to departure (information and form processing)?*

	Yes	No	Don't know	Non-respondents
Answer	126	19	0	1

Table 4

The majority of the jobseekers – 86 per cent – are satisfied with the IAF's service as regards information and form processing.

Questions about unemployment benefit abroad

When did you receive your first unemployment benefit payment abroad?

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	After month 3	Not received
Answer	53	53	14	6	20
Percentage	36	36	10	4	14

Table 5

The answers indicate that 73 per cent received their first benefit payment during the first or second month. 14 per cent replied that they have not yet received any unemployment benefit. Some of these jobseekers did not, for various reasons, pursue attempts to receive their benefit payment (for example, some returned home before contacting the foreign authority). The chart below shows the distribution of answers by country.

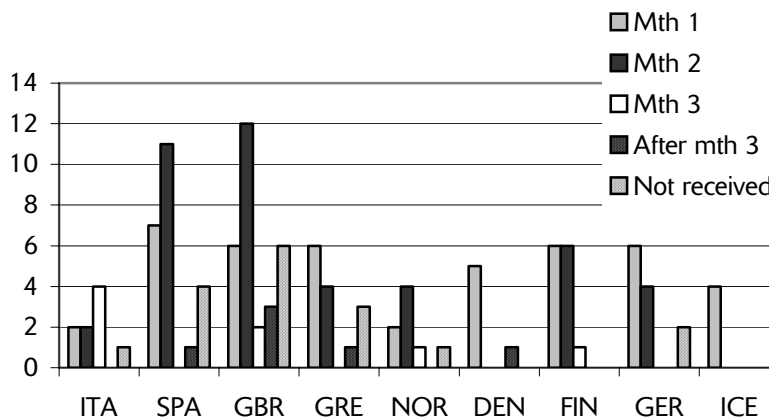


Diagram 7

Iceland is the only country where all jobseekers received their first unemployment benefit payment during the first month (4 people only).

Did you have difficulties in receiving your unemployment benefit payment in the destination country?

	Yes	No	No answer
Difficulties	55	84	7

Table 6

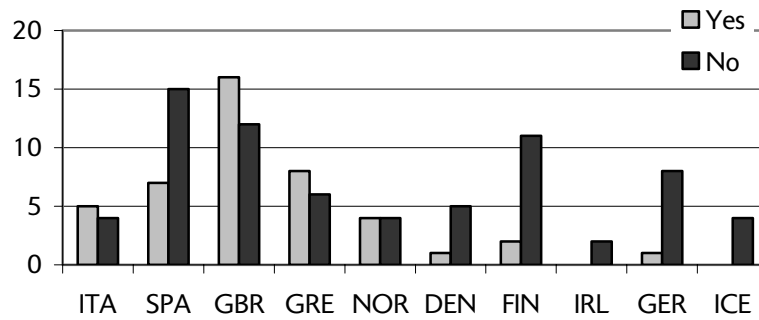


Diagram 8

The countries where over half the jobseekers had difficulties with unemployment benefit payments were the UK, Greece and Italy.

Difficulties experienced regarding payment of benefit and language skills

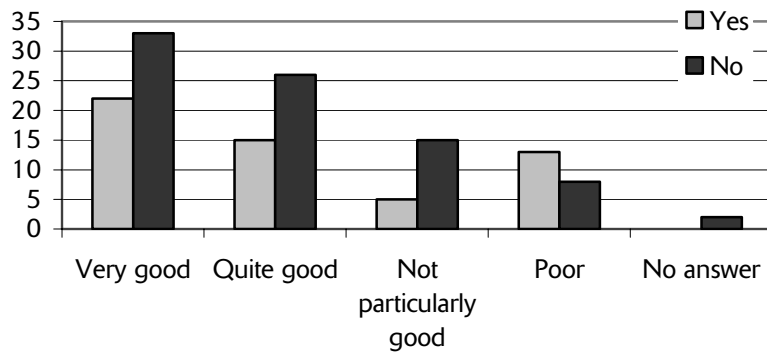


Diagram 9

Difficulties in receiving unemployment benefit payments do not appear to be linked to the level of language skills. Only among the fairly small group who say they have poor language skills (21 of the 146 respondents) is the percentage who experienced such difficulties markedly higher.

Education

What is your educational background (choose one answer only)?

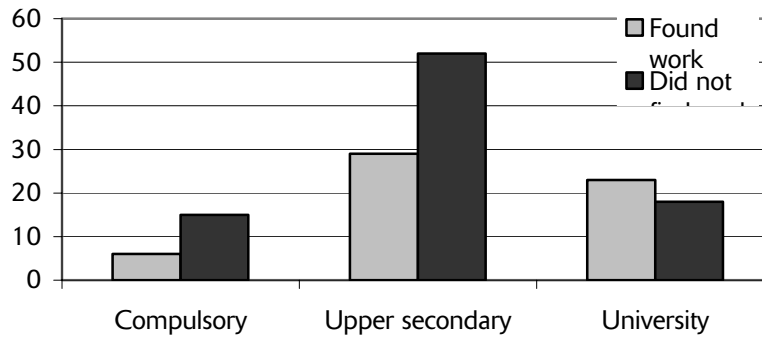


Diagram 10

Please specify any professional qualification from upper secondary school or university.

	Work	No work
Professional qualification	22	44
No professional qualification	28	27

Table 7

Jobseekers without a professional qualification found work in more cases (50 per cent) than those with a professional qualification (33 per cent).

Over half the jobseekers with a university education found work, while the corresponding figures for those with compulsory and upper secondary school education were 25 and 36 per cent respectively. This may be due to language skills within these groups. Good language skills appear to influence the chance of finding work (see later report).

Was the information you had to seek work abroad adequate?

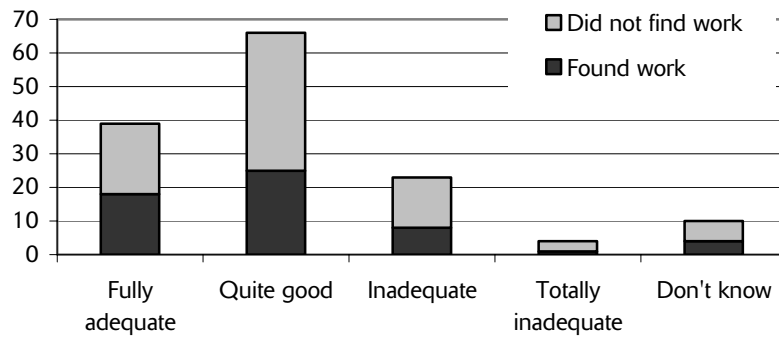


Diagram 11

The vast majority answered that they received fully adequate or quite good information about seeking work abroad. There is a certain link between how adequate the jobseekers perceived the information before leaving and to what extent they found work.

How did you obtain information about seeking work abroad prior to departure (tick one or more answers)?

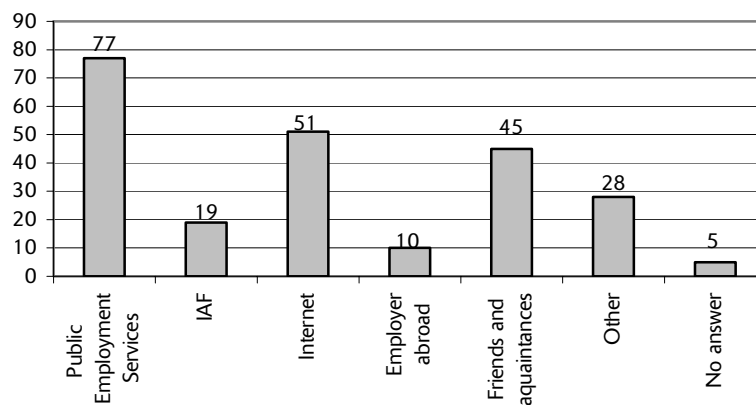


Diagram 12

The most common source of information was Sweden's Public Employment Services which would also seem to include the Swedish National Labour Market Board website and the IAF website. Other online searches and information from friends and acquaintances have also been important sources of information ahead of seeking work in another country.

Do you speak the language of the destination country?

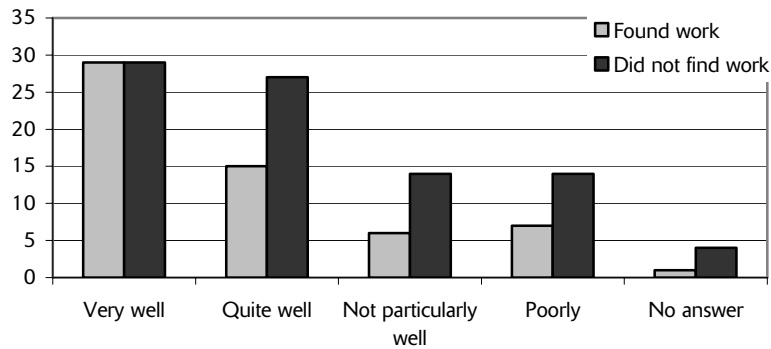


Diagram 13

Most people who answered (70 per cent) say that they speak the foreign language very well or quite well. There is a clear link between knowledge of the language and the chance of finding work.

The foreign public employment services

How often did you visit the foreign employment services during your first 30 days in the destination country?

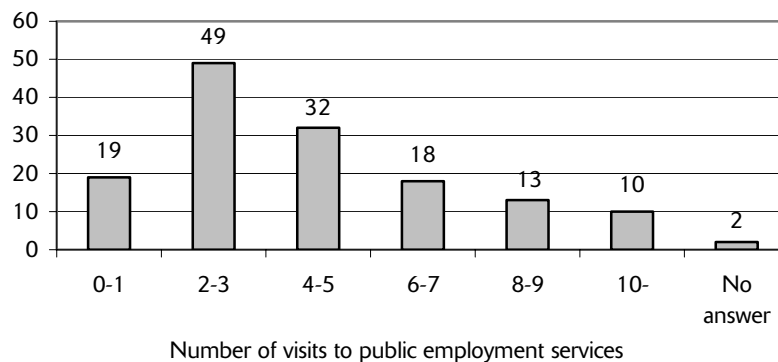


Diagram 14

Some of the job seekers found work or returned home during the first month. Some of the visits to the public employment services regarded unemployment benefit. Some job hunting was carried out independently, but, judging from the answers, over half the jobseekers contacted the public employment services at least once a week. Only 13 per cent made one or no visit during the first 30 days.

How would you describe your contacts with the public employment services in the destination country?

	Very good	Quite good	Not particularly good	Poor	No answer
Contacts	41	59	19	19	8
Percentage	28 %	40 %	13 %	13 %	6 %

Table 8

In total, 68 per cent answered that contacts with the foreign public employment services were very good or quite good.

November 2004

Question 18 refers to what those who sought work abroad while drawing unemployment benefit were doing in November 2004, i.e. five to seven months after leaving Sweden.

What are you doing now?

The answer options were:

I am back in Sweden and...

- 1) have the desired amount of work
- 2) have work, but not the desired amount
- 3) am looking for work/unemployed
- 4) am doing something other than working or seeking work

I am still in the destination country and...

- 5) have the desired amount of work
- 6) have work, but not the desired amount
- 7) am looking for work/unemployed
- 8) am doing something other than working or seeking work
- 9) I am neither in Sweden nor the destination country.

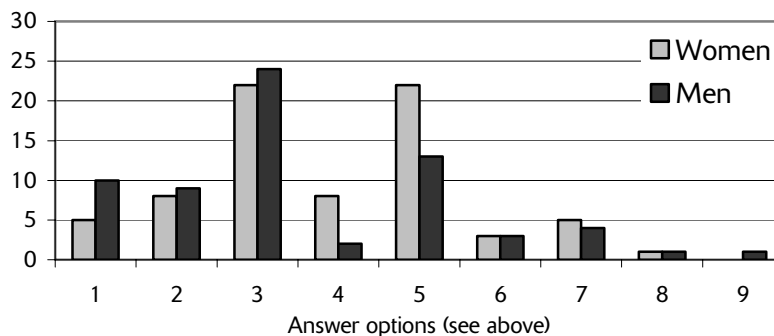


Diagram 15

As mentioned previously, a large percentage of the jobseekers are no longer registered with Sweden's Public Employment Services. Naturally, those who were still in the country they had travelled to seeking employment had work to a greater extent than those who were back in Sweden in November 2004.

In total, 25 women and 15 men were still living and working in the country they had travelled to seeking employment in November 2004. They comprised 33 per cent of the women and 22 per cent of the men who answered the question. This slightly more long-term effect of job hunting abroad is, as indicated by the non-respondent analysis, probably an underestimate as the percentage who have found work abroad is probably far high among those who did not answer the survey than among those who did respond.

People who found work

Of the 146 people who responded to the survey, 58 (40 per cent) found work in the destination country.

Gender and age

Jobseekers who found work by gender and age

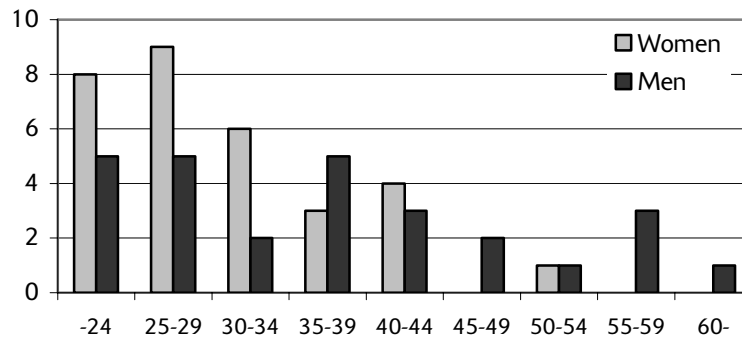


Diagram 16

There were approximately an equal number of men and women who found work.

The most common jobs

What type of work did you find?

The work found by the jobseekers can be divided into the following categories:

Retail	14
Restaurant	8
Social/educational	7
Graduate jobs	7
Property/transport	6
Other	10
No answer	6

Table 9

A slightly more detailed specification of which jobs the jobseekers found shows that:

Eight out of 14 people found work as store assistants (retail).

Four people found work as waiters/waitresses, three as bartenders and one as a buffet manager (restaurant).

Two people found work as language teachers and one person each found work as a child minder, welfare worker, home help and recreation leader (social/educational).

Two people found work as chemists and one person each found work as a researcher, scientist, environmental therapist, systems expert and controller (graduate jobs).

Three people found work as cleaners and one person each as a chauffeur, guard and warehouse worker (property/transport).

Other jobs specified were: Self-employed, butcher, bricklayer, carpenter, production assistant (manufacturing), convenience food packer, insurance co-ordinator, market/communications manager, office worker and accounts assistant.

Information

How did you obtain information about your first job in the destination country?

The answer options were:

- Contact with the employer before leaving
- Instructions/suggestions from the foreign public employment services
- Private contacts in the destination country
- Responded to an ad in a newspaper or online
- Phone call not connected to advertisement
- Visit to employer not connected to advertisement

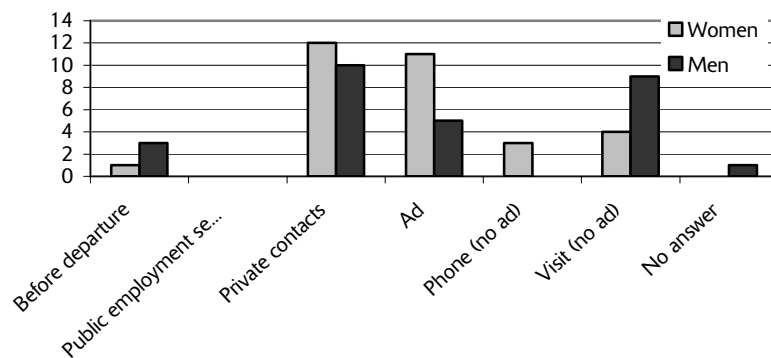


Diagram 17

The most common way of finding work has been through the jobseeker's own contacts. Women found work to a higher degree than men by applying for jobs through ads, while men found work to a higher degree than women by spontaneously visiting employers. None of those asked found work through instructions or suggestions from the foreign public employment services.

Did you have previous experience of the work you found?

	Good	Some	None
Experience	26	20	11

Table 10

46 of the 58 people (79 per cent) had good or some experience of the work they found. Previous experience of the work sought is therefore an important factor in successful job hunting.

What type of employment contract were you given?

	Number
Employment for over 3 months	33
Temporary employment (maximum 3 months)	10
Hourly work/occasional stand-in	13

Table 11

Approximately 60 per cent of the employment contracts were for three months or longer.

What was the scope of the employment?

Full time	45
Part time	12

Table 12

75 per cent of the employment contracts referred to full-time work.

When did you begin work?

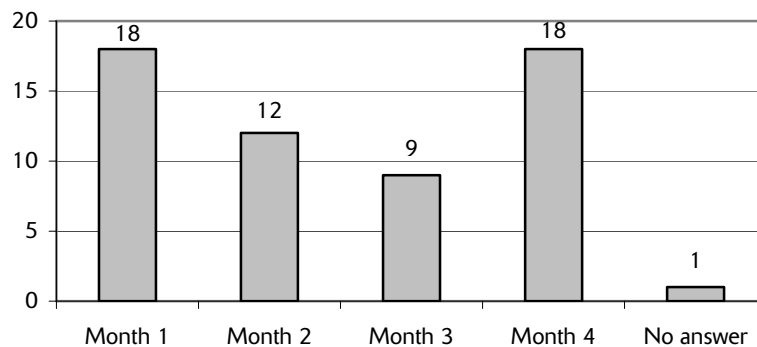


Diagram 18

31 per cent (18 people) of those who found work began after the three-month search period.

Comments from the people who responded to the survey

The jobseekers had an opportunity to make specific comments about the following aspects: contacts with the IAF, any difficulties receiving unemployment benefit, and contacts with the foreign public employment services.

The IAF's service

Describe what worked well and not so well

Positive comments on the whole. Praise was given for knowledge and speed. Some people did however comment on bureaucracy and complicated rules.

For example, one person wrote: *The time from applying for a decision until you can travel is very tight. I felt uncertain about whether you would make it in time, but it went well.*

Payment of unemployment benefit

Describe any difficulties in receiving your unemployment benefit payment in the destination country

The comments reveal that several jobseekers had problems receiving their unemployment benefit payment.

Language problems, impenetrable bureaucracy and inadequate information made it more difficult to receive the benefit payment.

Some jobseekers gave up trying and either stayed in the country without unemployment benefit or decided to return to Sweden.

A large number of people would like better information before leaving.

One of the jobseekers who did find work describes the bureaucracy as follows:

First you have to register with the public employment services and then with the aliens' police. Then you have to decide between the different trade associations which pay the benefit. Then the police come to check that you actually live at the address you gave; they turn up unannounced. Then the procedure to get a social security number begins. Despite that, you still have to continue signing on twice a month. You have to queue up even if you don't receive a penny.

Many jobseekers also indicated difficulties making themselves understood:

They had never heard of the scheme before and wouldn't register me at first. All the forms were only in English and no one knew English. I was sent back and forth! If I didn't know the language it would have been extremely difficult.

Many people thought the foreign authorities sometimes lacked knowledge about the opportunity to seek work abroad while drawing unemployment benefit from the home country (E 303):

The personnel had never dealt with form E 303. I was, therefore, initially refused benefit.

Some found that there was simply no employment services agency to register with:

I couldn't find where to go or who I should turn to.

The foreign public employment services

Describe what worked well and not so well

The jobseekers had both criticism and praise for the foreign public employment services. Many employment services seem to have insufficient knowledge about the rules regarding form E 303.

A large number of jobseekers praise the willingness of individual employment services employees to help, but many came under criticism for their poor English language skills. However, several jobseekers noted that the employment services agency does not have that great an opportunity of filling job vacancies. Some jobseekers say that in some countries it is difficult to find work other than cash-in-hand jobs, especially at holiday destinations.

There was only a noticeboard with notes put up by employers and jobseekers. No help from personnel.

Quite complicated – didn't have much time. I'd probably have had more help from the employment services if I was intending to stay longer than 3 months.

The foreign public employment services were pleasant, understanding, helpful and very competent.

I was treated well when I finally found someone who spoke German/English. However, I didn't get any help whatsoever actually finding a job. The only thing we discussed at the employment services office was which forms I had to fill out and which stamp I would be given.

It's hard to find an employer prepared to pay social security contributions.

Comparisons with previous surveys

The Swedish National Labour Market Board (AMS) has carried out two similar surveys in 1996 and 1998, the results of which have been compared with this survey.

AMS survey in 1996 (Fuu 1996:2)

The survey was carried out by the AMS and was directed at the 805 jobseekers granted the opportunity to seek employment during the first half of 1995 in another EU/EEA country while drawing Swedish unemployment benefit (form E 303). 490 people answered a questionnaire, giving a response frequency of 61 per cent. 153 people answered that they found work (31 per cent).

The most visited countries were the UK, Spain and Greece.

A third of the jobseekers had problems with the public employment services in the destination country, and/or problems receiving unemployment benefit payments.

AMS survey in 1998 (Fuu 1998:5)

The survey was carried out by the AMS in partnership with Sveriges Television in 1998 and was directed at the 404 jobseekers granted the right to seek employment in another EU/EEA country (form E 303) during the first quarter of 1997.

254 out of 404 people answered the questionnaire, giving a response frequency of 63 per cent. Of the 254 people who responded to the survey, 111 (44 per cent) found work.

47 per cent of those who responded to the survey had problems with the public employment services in the destination country, and/or problems receiving unemployment benefit payments.

Methods – a comparison of the surveys

In this survey the IAF asked the jobseekers similar questions compared with those asked in 1995 and 1997, although some of the questions have been reformulated. This includes the question about whether the jobseekers encountered problems receiving unemployment benefit payments and/or with the foreign public employment services. The IAF asked two questions about this in order to clarify which difficulties exist.

One question not included in the earlier surveys was whether the jobseeker would have sought work abroad without the opportunity to continue receiving unemployment benefit from the home country. In addition, more questions

were put to the people who found work in order to find out more easily which factors increase the chances of finding work.

Overall, however, all three surveys are similar in terms of factual content, purpose, method and reporting of results.

Similarities and differences in the results

In terms of the present survey's results there are similarities and differences compared with the previous two surveys.

Comparison of results from the 1995, 1997 and 2004 surveys (%)

Year	Answers	Found work	Problem with benefit payments	Problem with foreign employment services
1995	61	31	33 ¹	33
1997	63	44	45 ²	18
2004	60	40	38	26

Table 13

When it comes to those who found work in the present survey, it is clear that a certain number found work after the three-month period. It is also clear that those who sent their answers from abroad found work to a greater extent than those who were in Sweden at the time.

Several found work in the hotel and restaurant sector in 1995 (30.7 per cent). Work in retail was also common. The 1997 results showed that 33 per cent found work in the hotel and restaurant sector while 13 per cent found work in retail. The results from 2004 show that work in retail is top of the list with 24 per cent. This is followed by restaurant work.

The factors that make job hunting easier are evident in the results from the previous surveys: experience of the job being sought, language skills before seeking work in the other country. This latest survey from 2004 stresses the importance of private contacts when job hunting.

A larger proportion of women than men sought employment abroad in 1995 and 1997. In 2004 there were approximately an equal number of men and

¹ In the 1995 survey, only 33 per cent encountered problems receiving unemployment benefit payments and/or with the foreign public employment services.

² In the 1997 survey, 45 per cent encountered problems receiving unemployment benefit payments and/or with the foreign public employment services. However, it was not clear how many answered the question on problems receiving unemployment benefit payments.

women who sought work. In the first two surveys, more women found work than men, but the difference was negligible in the 2004 survey.

Moreover, the most common countries for seeking work are the UK, Spain and the Nordic countries. The proportion of jobseekers who found work was highest in the UK. The proportion of jobseekers who found work was also high in the Nordic countries.

All three surveys indicate a link between those who did not find work. Some have a lack of knowledge about the country where they are seeking work, while others have problems with the foreign language.

Many jobseekers have encountered problems receiving unemployment benefit payments, which has made job hunting more difficult. A large number of jobseekers in the various surveys have demanded clearer information about job hunting abroad with form E 303.

Appendix: the survey questions

General

1. What is your year of birth?
2. Gender?
 Female Male
3. In which country did you seek work with form E 303 (spring 2004)?
4. If you had **not** received form E 303 (unemployment benefit), would you have still travelled abroad to find work?
 Yes No Don't know
5. Are you pleased with the service you received from the IAF when you applied for form E 303 prior to departure (information and form processing)?
 Yes No
6. Describe what worked well and not so well (comments regarding question 5):

Financial aspects

7. When did you receive your first unemployment benefit payment abroad?
 Within 30 days of arrival
 Within 31 – 60 days of arrival
 Within 61 – 90 days of arrival
 Over 90 days after arrival
 Never received any unemployment benefit payment
8. Did you have difficulties in receiving your unemployment benefit payment in the destination country?
 Yes No
9. Describe any difficulties in receiving your unemployment benefit payment in the destination country (comments regarding questions 7 and 8).

Seeking work abroad

10. What is your educational background (choose one answer only)?
- Compulsory education or equivalent
 - Upper secondary school University education
11. Please specify any professional qualification from upper secondary school or university.
12. Was the information you had to seek work abroad adequate?
- Fully adequate Quite good
 - Inadequate Totally inadequate
 - Don't know
13. How did you obtain information about seeking work abroad prior to departure (tick one or more answers)?
- Sweden's Public Employment Services IAF
 - Internet Direct contact with employer abroad
 - Friends and acquaintances Other
14. Do you speak the language of the destination country?
- Very well Quite well Not particularly well
 - Poorly
15. How often did you visit the foreign employment services during your first 30 days in the destination country?
- 0-1 times 2-3 times 4-5 times
 - 6-7 times 8-9 times 10 times or more
16. How would you describe your contacts with the public employment services in the destination country?
- Very good Quite good
 - Not particularly good Poor
17. Describe what worked well and not so well (comments regarding questions 15 and 16):
18. What are you doing now (November 2004)?
- I am back in Sweden and... (circle one option)
 - a) have the desired amount of work
 - b) have work, but not the desired amount
 - c) am looking for work/unemployed
 - d) am doing something other than working or seeking work
 - I am still in the destination country and... (circle one option)
 - a) have the desired amount of work
 - b) have work, but not the desired amount
 - c) am looking for work/unemployed
 - d) am doing something other than working or seeking work
 - I am neither in Sweden nor the destination country.

The following questions are for people who found work in the destination country

19. How did you obtain information about your first job in the destination country?
- Contact with the employer before leaving
 - Instructions/suggestions from the foreign public employment services
 - Private contacts in the destination country
 - Responded to an ad in a newspaper or online
 - Phone call not connected to advertisement
 - Visit to employer not connected to advertisement
20. What type of work did you find?
21. Did you have previous experience of the work you found?
- Good experience
 - Some experience
 - No experience
22. What type of employment contract were you given?
- Employment for over 3 months
 - Temporary employment (maximum 3 months)
 - Hourly work/occasional stand-in
23. What was the scope of the employment?
- Full time
 - Part time
24. When did you begin work?
- The first month in the destination country
 - The second month in the destination country
 - The third month in the destination country
 - After more than three months in the destination country

www.iaf.se

÷

+

%

