

# Statistics on Financial Assistance 2024

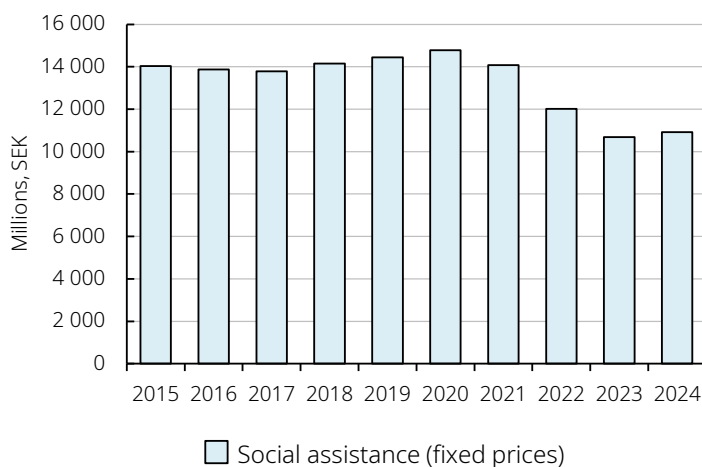
**The number of recipients and households receiving social assistance decreased slightly in 2024. Approximately 145,500 households received social assistance at some point during the year, corresponding to about three percent of all households in Sweden. The number of households receiving assistance has declined for several consecutive years, but this downward trend almost came to a halt in 2024. The total amount of social assistance paid, in fixed prices, increased by just over two percent during the year.**

## Social assistance levels stabilize after several years of decline

In 2024, the number of households receiving social assistance was approximately 145,500, a slight decrease compared to around 145,700 the previous year. The decline that has persisted over the past eight years thus appears to have almost come to a halt. At the same time, the total number of individuals receiving social assistance decreased. In total, nearly 251,400 people received social assistance during the year, including around 86,000 women, 88,000 men, and 77,400 children.

During 2024, municipalities paid just over SEK 10.9 billion in social assistance. This corresponds to an increase of just over two percent in fixed prices compared with the previous year (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Assistance 2015–2024, in million SEK (fixed prices) 2024**



Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

## Age and municipality matters

The quantity of social assistance varies between different age groups. In 2024, the most common age group among recipients was individuals aged 30–39. This group accounted for just over one-fifth of all adult recipients in the country. Among all adult recipients, approximately 58 percent were foreign-born.

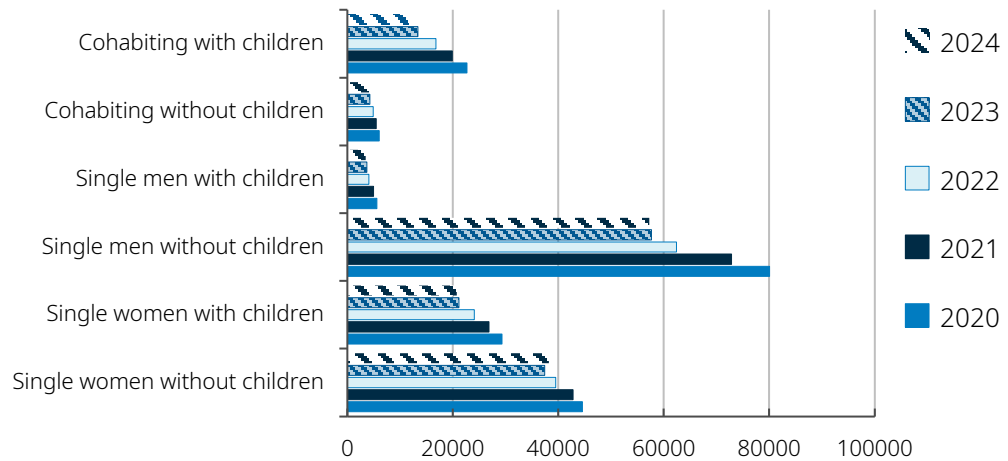
There are many reasons why women and men are unable to support themselves and their families, but most often it is due to unemployment, various social barriers, or illness. The most common obstacle to self-sufficiency is unemployment, and among all adult recipients of assistance, nearly half were unemployed during the previous year [1].

The proportion of residents receiving social assistance varies significantly between different municipalities. Population composition, labor market conditions, and the education level of the population are examples of factors that influence the overall need for social assistance. In Filipstad and Söderhamn, approximately seven percent of the population received social assistance during 2024. In the municipalities of Arjeplog, Danderyd, Lidingö, Mörbylånga, Nacka, Norsjö, Pajala, Solna, Trosa, Täby, and Vellinge, the proportion of assistance recipients among residents was below one percent. For the country as a whole, the proportion was 2.4 percent, representing a decrease compared to the previous year.

## Single men without children are the most common household type

The most common type of household receiving social assistance consists of single men without children (see Figure 2). However, when considering household types within the population, social assistance is most common among single women with children. In 2024, eleven percent of all single women with children in the population received social assistance.

**Figure 2. Number of recipient households aged 18-64, by type of household 2020–2024**

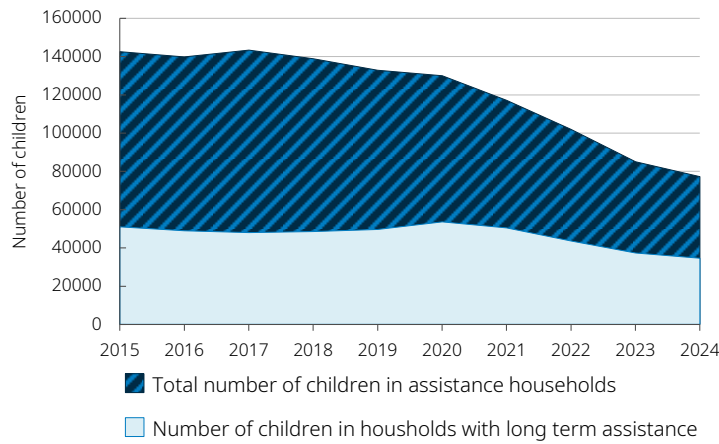


Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

## A lower number of children in households receiving social assistance

The number of children in households receiving social assistance counted to nearly 77,400 in 2024, a decrease of just over nine percent compared to the previous year. The number of children in households with long-term social assistance (i.e., assistance for ten months or more) decreased by approximately 2,750, to a total of around 34,600. The number of children in households receiving long-term social assistance has remained relatively stable for several years, but since 2020 a decline has begun and continued in the subsequent years (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Number of children in assistance households, in total and in households with long-term assistance 2015–2024**



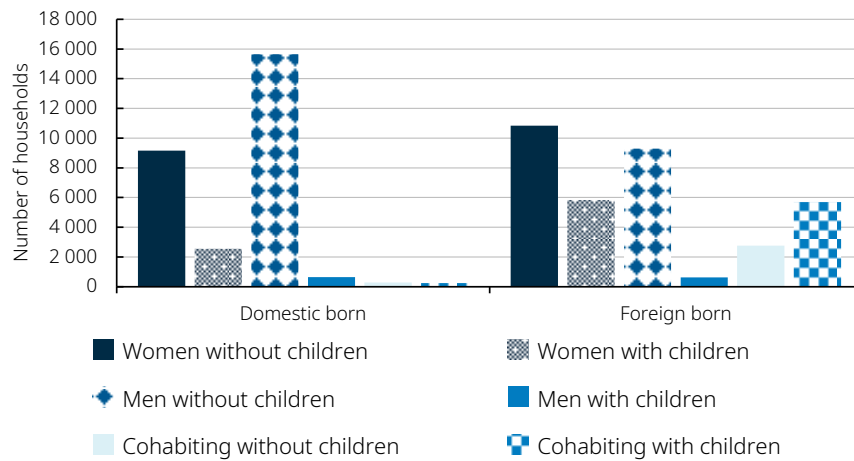
Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

## Long-term assistance

In 2024, the number of adult recipients of long-term social assistance, defined as assistance received for ten months or more, decreased by nearly three percent compared to the previous year. Among long-term recipients, the largest decrease was observed in the 20–24 age group, where the number declined by just over six percent. Conversely, the proportion of long-term recipients aged 65 and older increased by approximately ten percent.

About 44 percent of adult social assistance households received long-term assistance. Slightly more than half of these households had a primary or co-applicant who was foreign-born. Among households with native-born recipients of long-term assistance, single men without children were the most common household type, while single women without children were the most common household type among households with foreign-born applicants. Long-term assistance to married/cohabiting households was paid to foreign-born individuals in more than nine out of ten cases (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Households with long-term assistance by household type and birthplace 2024**



Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

### Social financial assistance

Social financial assistance is composed of two parts: direct assistance and general assistance. Direct assistance is supposed to help cover daily living expenses such as groceries, clothing, rent, utility bills (electricity, telephone, gas etc.), travel expenses (for work), home insurance and union membership costs. General assistance covers other necessary expenses for childcare, health related, medicine and dental care. For more information (in Swedish): [www.socialstyrelsen.se/ekonomisktband](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/ekonomisktband)

## References

1. <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/artikelkatalog/statistik/2024-10-9243.pdf>

### More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in Swedish, but with English list of terms (select *Tillhörande dokument och bilagor*): <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/>

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish): [https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if\\_ekb/val.aspx](https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_ekb/val.aspx)

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