

Statistics on Financial Assistance 2025

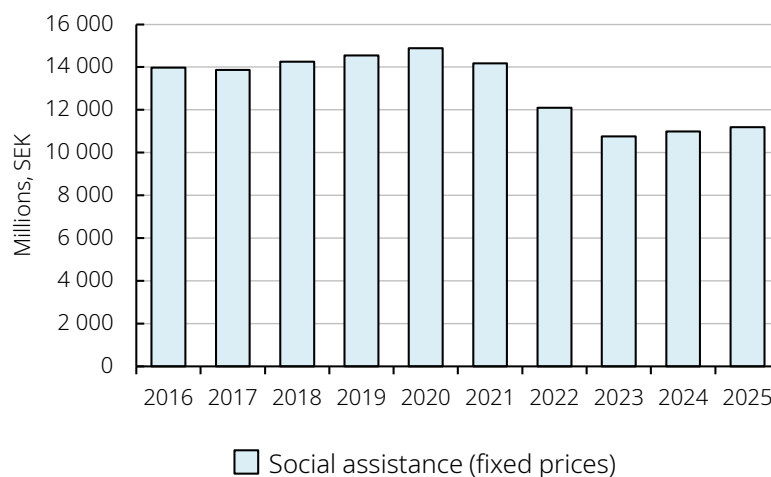
The number of recipients and recipient households decreased in 2025. Approximately 142,000 households received social assistance at some point during the year, corresponding to around three per cent of the total number of households in Sweden. The amount of social assistance paid out, measured at constant prices, increased by almost two per cent during the year.

Social assistance over time

During the year, the number of households receiving social assistance amounted to approximately 142,000, representing a decrease compared with the previous year. After a broadly unchanged level in the preceding year, social assistance reciprocity decreased during the year. In total, nearly 247,000 persons received social assistance, of whom approximately 86,000 were women, 88,000 were men, and 73,000 were children.

In 2025, municipalities paid out nearly SEK 11.2 billion in social assistance. This corresponds to an increase of just under two percent in constant prices compared with the previous year (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Social Assistance 2016–2025, in million SEK (fixed prices) 2025



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

Age and municipality matters

Payments of social assistance vary across age groups. The most common age group among recipients in 2025 was persons aged 30–39. This group

accounted for just over one fifth of all adult recipients in Sweden. Among all adult social assistance recipients, approximately 57 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].

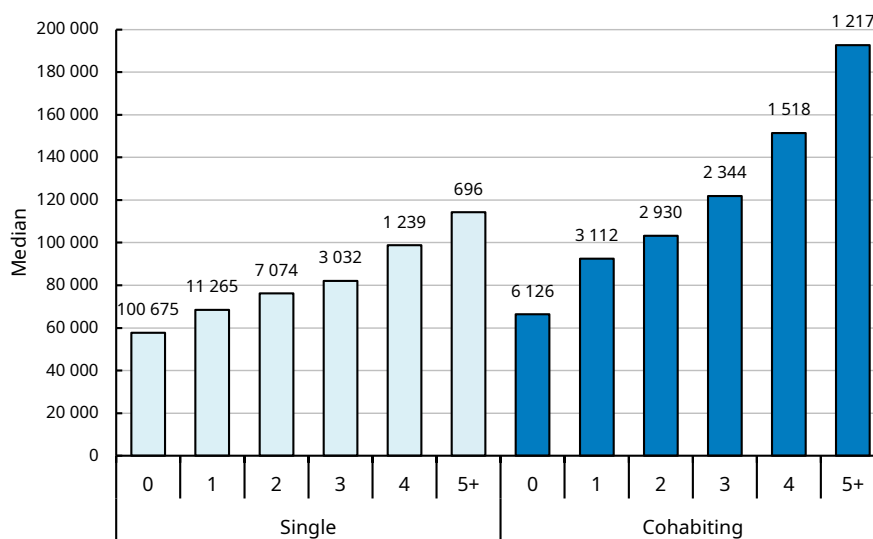
The proportion of residents receiving social assistance varies considerably between municipalities. The age structure and educational level of the population, as well as the local labour market, are examples of factors that influence the overall need for social assistance. In Filipstad and Söderhamn, approximately seven percent of the population received social assistance in 2025. In several municipalities, the proportion of recipients among residents was below one percent. For the country as a whole, the proportion amounted to 2.3 percent, representing a decrease compared with the previous year.

Median amount of social assistance paid

The distribution of social assistance payments by household size is shown below. The purpose of the presentation is to provide a more informative picture of the extent of social assistance based on amounts paid during 2025.

Figure 2. Median social assistance amount by number of children and household type, 2025 (full year)

The figure presents annual amounts of social assistance by household type (single-adult and cohabiting households) and by number of children. The y-axis shows the median amount in Swedish kronor (SEK). The number displayed above each bar indicates the number of households on which the calculation is based.



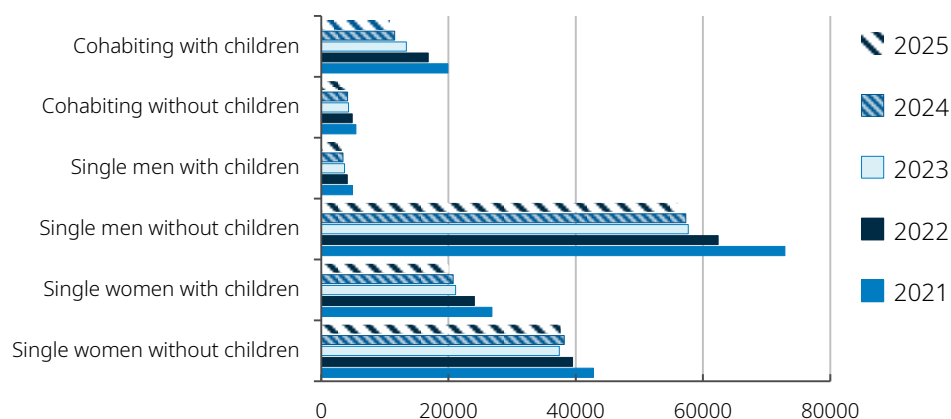
Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Figure 2 shows that social assistance amounts increase with household size for both household types. The pattern is more pronounced among cohabiting households, where the difference between groups with few and many children is larger. This implies that the gradient, i.e. the rate of change between household groups, is higher for cohabiting households than for single-adult households. If the annual amounts are distributed across the twelve months of the year, the median amounts correspond to approximately SEK 5,000–16,000 per month, depending on household type and number of children. The chart shows, for example, that the median amount for single-person households without children is approximately SEK 58,000 per year, and that this group comprises nearly 101,000 social assistance households.

Single men without children are the most common household type

The most common type of social assistance household consists of single men without children (see Figure 3). When accounting for household type in the population, social assistance is most common among single women with children. Nearly eleven percent of all single women with children in the population received social assistance in 2025.

Figure 3. Number of recipient households aged 18-64, by type of household 2021–2025



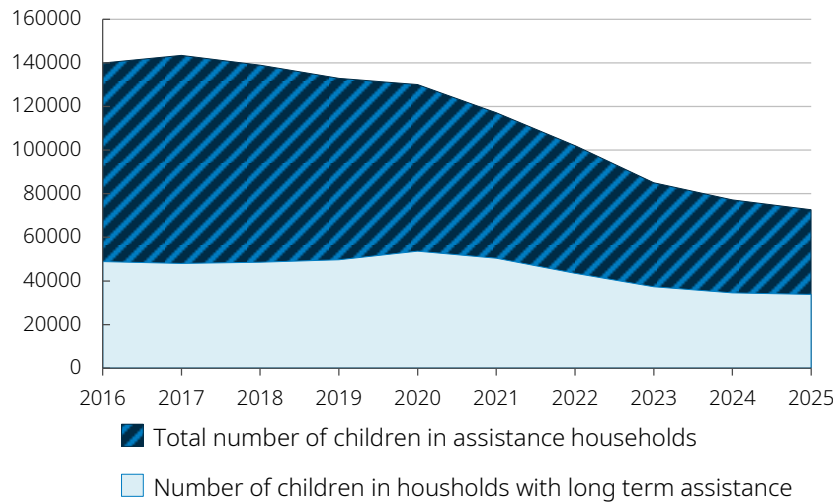
Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

A lower number of children in households receiving social assistance

The number of children in households receiving social assistance amounted to nearly 73,000 in 2025, corresponding to a decrease of just under six percent compared with the previous year. The number of children in households receiving long-term social assistance (assistance for ten months or more) decreased by approximately two percent, to a total of around 34,000. The number of children in households receiving long-term social

assistance has remained relatively stable over several years, but since 2020 a decline has begun, which has continued in subsequent years (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Number of children in assistance households, in total and in households with long-term assistance 2016–2025



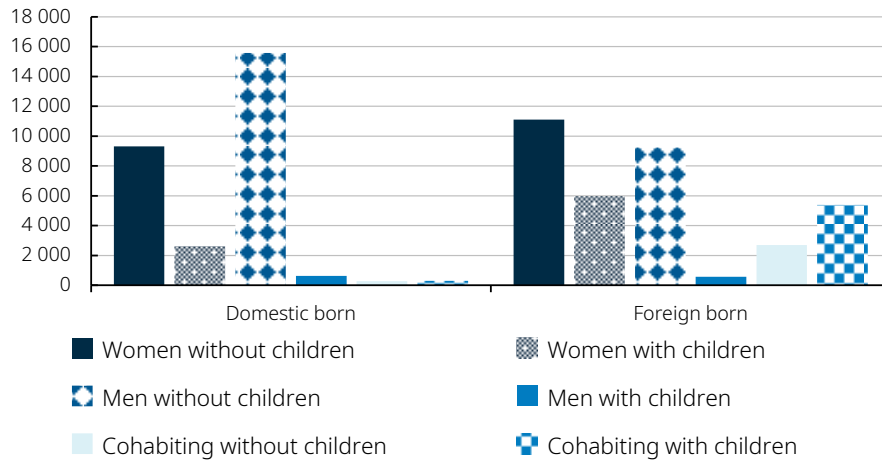
Source: Register of Social Assistance National Board of Health and Welfare

Long-term assistance

In 2025, the number of adult recipients of long-term social assistance (assistance for ten months or more), increased by approximately two percent compared with the previous year. Among long-term recipients, the number increased in several age groups. At the same time, the largest decrease was observed in the 18–19 age group, where the number fell by almost five percent.

Approximately 45 percent of adult social assistance households received long-term social assistance. Over half of these households had an applicant or co-applicant who was foreign-born. Among households with native-born recipients of long-term social assistance, single men without children were the most common household type, while among households with foreign-born applicants, single women without children were the most common household type. Long-term social assistance in married/cohabiting households was paid to foreign-born recipients in more than nine out of ten cases (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Households with long-term assistance by household type and birthplace 2025



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

References

1. <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer/forsorjningshinder-och-andamal-med-ekonomiskt-bistand-ar-2024-2025-10-9832/>

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information in Swedish, but with English list of terms (select *Tillhörande document 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

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