

This is Unionen



UNIONEN

Sweden's largest trade union in the private sector

Unionen is the largest trade union in Sweden with more than 700,000 members. Our members can be found everywhere – from large international corporations to small companies, non-profit organisations and associations. Many workplaces have a local organisation incorporating a union club or elected members with a strong commitment to the safety and development of their colleagues and workplace. We believe in uniting all this commitment and robustness into one trade union. We believe in working together.

Members of Unionen

All salaried employees in the workplace and throughout the private sector are eligible to be members of Unionen regardless of position, educational background or income. For example, many managers are members and a lot of our members have an upper secondary or university education.

In addition to our professional members, Unionen also welcomes self-employed people and students.

Some of the more common roles Unionen members perform are Project Managers, Engineers, Administrators, Financial Advisers, IT Consultants, Technicians, Communicators, Managers and Salespeople.

The right to join a trade union in Sweden

In Sweden, all employees have the right to join any trade union they feel will best represent their rights and interests in the workplace. No employer can ever prevent you from joining a trade union. Joining a trade union is your right under Swedish law.

Most employees in Sweden are members of a trade union. Relations between trade unions and their counterparts are usually very good. To achieve broader representation in terms of negotiations and agreements, it is in the interests of both parties that as many professional people as possible become members of a trade union.



The Swedish model of collective agreements

Collective agreements form the basis of the “Swedish model”, according to which the unique working conditions of each sector are regulated and managed jointly by trade unions and employer organisations. Though the basic rules governing collective agreements are established in law, the way these are managed and developed tends not to be a matter of political concern or opinion. The Swedish model gives employers flexibility and unique industry-specific conditions whilst the employees are given protection, security and the right to exert influence.

Collective agreements – fundamental protection and security

A collective agreement is a voluntary agreement between your employer and the trade union that you have chosen to represent your rights in the workplace. The collective agreement provides fundamental protection and security in terms of, for example, your right to an annual salary increase, your working hours and terms of employment, extra remuneration for parental leave or in case of long-term illness, the best occupational pension scheme on the market (ITP), access to information, a right to exert influence, etc. Around 8 out of 10 Unionen members are covered by a collective agreement at work and Unionen has close to 100 different collective agreements. The collective agreement is Unionen’s key tool for ensuring security and influence in the workplace.

Unionen in the workplace

It is in the workplace that we find the necessary knowledge, commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to make changes and improve working conditions. Unionen has around 30,000 elected representatives (members with a union mandate) who all want to make a difference – both for themselves and for their colleagues at work.

Together, we discuss and negotiate issues with the employer.

Unionen in Sweden

Unionen is made up of 18 regions – from Unionen Norrbotten in northern Sweden to Unionen Sydväst in southern Sweden. There is at least one Unionen branch office in every region. This means, we are always close at hand to provide the advice and support needed in various trade union issues. Most regional offices run their own courses, training and activities, often free of charge.

Our membership

The mission of Unionen is to stand by our members through the ups and downs of working life. The valuable services and benefits that come with a Unionen membership will not only provide you with protection and security but also development opportunities and the right to influence your working life regardless of whether you have a job or are looking for a job or are taking on a management role, starting your own business or studying. Learn more about Unionen and the benefits of membership at www.unionen.se.

Don't forget the Unemployment Benefit Fund!

As a member of the Unemployment Benefit Fund, you are entitled to compensation should you lose your job. The amount of compensation paid during the transitional period depends on your previous earnings. The Unemployment Benefit Fund is not the same as a trade union. These are two different organisations. Membership of Unionen Unemployment Benefit Fund – or any other unemployment benefit fund – will not automatically make you a member of Unionen Trade Union or vice versa.

For more information, visit
<https://hejakassa.se/other-languages/>



UNIONEN

SWEDEN'S LARGEST TRADE UNION

We welcome everyone working in the private sector, regardless of education or position.

Our members include a large number of managers as well as self-employed people and students.

Our vision is to create **prosperity, security** and **happiness** in working life - together.