

This is Unionen



UNIONEN

Sweden's largest trade union in the private sector

Unionen is Sweden's largest trade union on the private labour market and the largest white-collar trade union in the world. We have 660 000 members, of which 30 000 are elected representatives, in over 86 000 companies and organisations.

The members of Unionen

All of the white-collar workers at a workplace in the private sector can be members of Unionen irrespective of their position, educational background or level of pay. Some of the more common professions found among our members include Project Managers, Engineers, Administrators, Economists, IT Consultants, Technicians, Managers and Salespeople.



The Right of Association in Sweden

The right of association that is in force in Sweden gives you the right to freely join a trade union of your choice. An employer cannot say that you are not allowed to join a trade union. It is a violation against the freedom of association if anyone, in any way,

tries to prevent you from joining a trade union. The level of trade union membership in Sweden is high – about 70% - and membership is often encouraged by employers. As Unionen is not linked to any political party we can always pursue policies that, irrespective of political considerations, entail a better working life for our members.

The Swedish model

The collective agreements form the basis of 'the Swedish model' in which the conditions in each sector are determined by the trade unions and the employer organisations. The government does not interfere, though it may set the boundaries through labour laws, as the trade union and employer organisations are responsible. The model combines flexibility for companies with security and influence for employees.





Collective agreements

A collective agreement is a voluntary agreement between employers and employees on your rights at the workplace. The collective agreement regulates pay increases every year, overtime pay, supplementary insurance schemes, the right to exert influence and so on. If you are employed at a workplace with a collective agreement then you can be safe in the knowledge that there is a good agreement for you that covers your pay, form of employment, working hours, holidays, period of notice and much more. Approximately 8 out of 10 members in Unionen are covered by a collective agreement and Unionen have in total close to 100 different collective agreements with employer organisations in the private sector.

Unionen at the workplace

The workplace is Unionen's most important arena. This is where we learn about actual working conditions and how these can be improved and changed. This is also where we discuss and negotiate different issues with the employer. Unionen has around 3,200 trade union clubs and 4,000 union representatives.

Unionen throughout Sweden

Unionen consists of 18 regions from Unionen Norrbotten in the north of Sweden to Unionen Sydväst in the southwest of Sweden. At least one or more Unionen offices are located in each region. This means that we are on hand for those workplaces in the region that need advice and support in trade union matters.

Everything can be improved

At Unionen we constantly strive to improve and change conditions for our members. Our conviction and driving force is that although most of us have a pretty decent working life these days, there is still room for improvement. We are in the improvement business.

The unemployment benefit fund (A-kassa)

Unemployment benefit funds and the trade union Unionen are different organisations. By being a member of an unemployment benefit fund, you are guaranteed an income if you lose your job. You get paid a certain amount of money for an interim period of time until you find a new job.

Our membership

Our main mission is to be on hand – through the ups and downs of your working life. We offer a membership that will give you greater job security, provide you with more opportunities to develop your career and the tools you need to influence your working life.

Visit unionen.se for more information.

CALL UNIONEN: 0770 870 870

We can give you information and advice on working conditions and also, the benefits of membership in Unionen.

Please note that the information and advice we give you is primarily in Swedish. We can usually give the same information and advice in English but this does depend on what staff is available on the day.

For further details in English, go to www.unionen.se.

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