Sweden
Human Capital Index 2020

This brief provides an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI). First launched in 2018, the HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. Worldwide a child born in 2020 can expect, on average, to be 56 percent as productive as she could be when she grows up. All data represent the status of countries pre-COVID-19.

**THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX**

**Human Capital Index.** A child born in Sweden today will be **80 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for Europe & Central Asia region and High income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for Sweden increased from 0.76 to 0.80. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 100 out of 100 children born in Sweden survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Sweden, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **13.9 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Sweden score **519** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only **11.6 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Sweden, **95 percent** of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.
- **Healthy Growth (Not Stunted Rate).** Data on stunting are not available for Sweden.

**DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS**

In Sweden, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

In Sweden, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCI</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival to Age 5</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Years of School</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonized Test Scores</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning-adjusted Years of School</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Survival Rate</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Large circle represents Sweden in 2020
Diamond represents Sweden in 2019
Small circles represent other countries
Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution


PROTECT AND INVEST in people
The outlook for the next generation has been improving in most countries in Europe & Central Asia. Efforts are being made to protect human capital gains against setbacks and accelerate progress for all. The challenges unleashed by COVID-19 require an even stronger policy response, including greater use of technology to improve service delivery and enhanced social assistance programs, to ensure that people receive quality education and health care.

**DOMESTIC RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND MOBILIZATION**

- **Health Spending.** Sweden spends 9.2 percent (2017) of its GDP in public spending on health. This is higher than both the regional average (4.9%) and the average for its income group (5.3%).

- **Education Spending.** Sweden spends 7.7 percent (2016) of its GDP in government education spending. This is higher than both the regional average (4.6%) and the average for its income group (4.5%).

- **Social Assistance Spending.** In Sweden, data on social assistance spending are not available. The average for its region is 1.8 percent and for its income group is 1.7 percent.

- **Government Revenue.** General government revenue in Sweden is 49.3 percent (2018) of GDP. This is higher than both the regional average (38.1%) and the average for its income group (37.3%).

**COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS**

- **Learning Poverty.** In Sweden, 2 percent (2016) of 10-year-olds cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school. This is lower than both the average for its region (11%) and the average for its income group (14%).

- **Pre-primary Gross Enrollment.** In Sweden, the gross enrollment ratio in pre-primary education is 96 percent (2017). This is higher than both the average for its region (85%) and the average for its income group (91%).

- **Quality-adjusted Years of Higher Education.** In Sweden, about 52 percent (2017) of adults ages 30-34 have a tertiary degree. A child born today can expect to complete 1.8 years of higher education. Factoring in the quality of higher education, expected years of higher education is only 1.6 years.

- **NCD Deaths.** In Sweden, the probability of dying between ages 30 and 70 from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases is 9 percent (2016). This is lower than both the average for its region (17%) and the average for its income group (14%).

- **Health Risk Factors.** In Sweden 13 percent of adults are obese, 17 percent are smokers, and 20 percent are heavy drinkers.

- **Hypertension.** In Sweden, 26 percent (2015) of the population age 18 and older has hypertension. This is lower than the average for its region (29%) but higher than the average for its income group (25%).

- **Diabetes.** In Sweden, 5 percent (2019) of the population ages 20-79 has type 1 or type 2 diabetes. This is lower than both the average for its region (6%) and the average for its income group (9%).

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Index.** The index, ranging from 0 to 100, measures coverage of essential health services based on tracer interventions. In Sweden, the UHC Index score is 86 (2017). This is higher than both the average for its region (75) and the average for its income group (79).

- **Social Safety Net Coverage.** In Sweden, data on social safety net coverage of the poorest quintile are not available. The average for its region is 46 percent and for its income group is 70 percent.

**Human Capital Utilization.** In Sweden, 78 percent (2018) of the working-age population is employed. This is higher than both the average for its region (65%) and the average for its income group (70%).

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For more information on the definition of indicators and data sources, please visit: [www.worldbank.org/humancapital](http://www.worldbank.org/humancapital)