



A numeric comparison between the Swedish LFS and statistics based on administrative sources

2023-05-26

Stefan Andersson

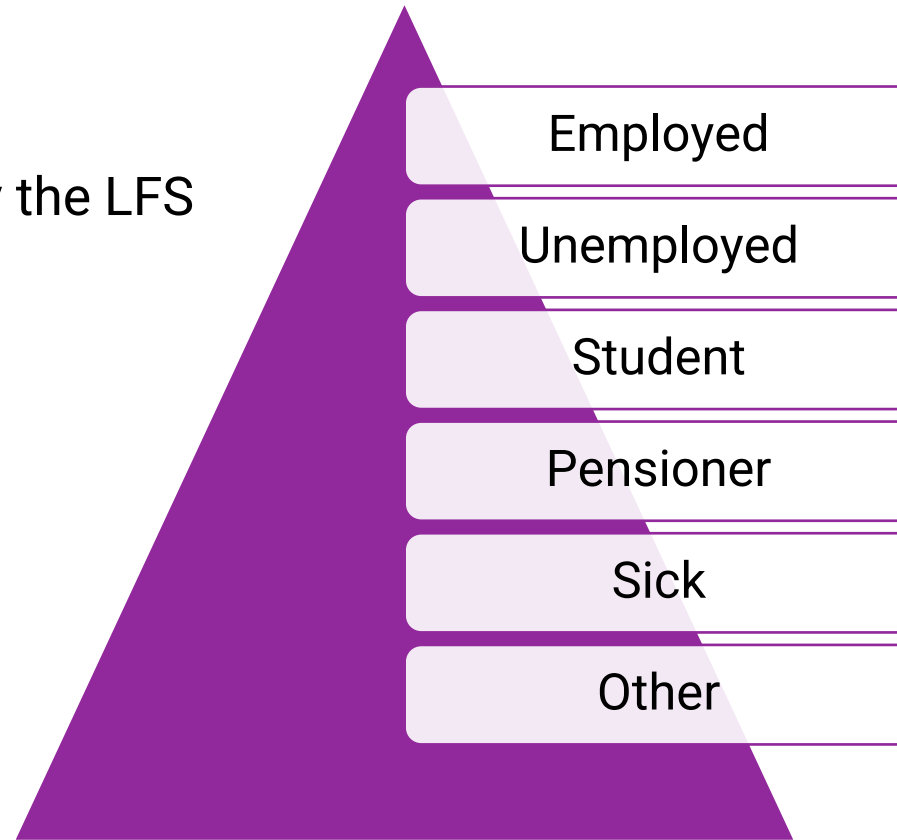
stefan.andersson1@scb.se



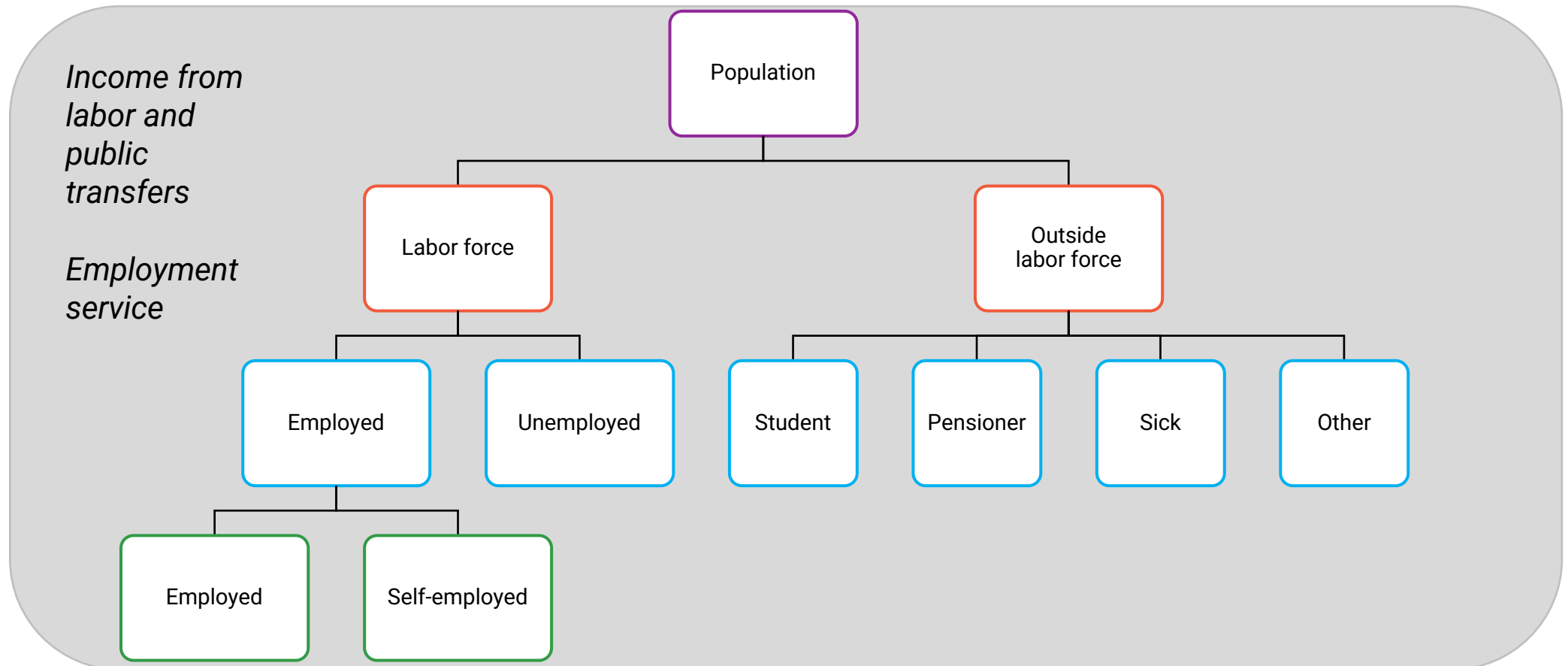
Population by labor market status

(‘Befolkningens arbetsmarknadsstatus’, BAS)

- Decision hierarchy inspired by the LFS
- Register overlaps
- Residual category ‘other’



Labor market status and income



Differences in definitions

Employed

- LFS: Worked during the reference week
- BAS: Received compensation which is basis for employer contribution fee according to employer declarations
 - Hence, BAS measures when payment took place rather than when the work has been carried out

Unemployed

- LFS: Not employed, applied for and able to take a job, based on specific requirements for the time periods for this
 - Hence, no requirements that the individual must have been registered with the Employment Service
- BAS: Registered with Employment service at some point during the month, in categories 'openly unemployed' or 'applicants in programs'

Outside the labor force

- Not employed or unemployed, according to respective definitions
- LFS: Subgroups decided based on classification as full-time student, otherwise according to what they 'mainly consider themselves to be'
- BAS: Subgroups decided hierarchically according to 'student > pensioner > sick > other'

Overview of differences

- Employed
 - LFS: employed in reference *week*
 - BAS: received payment during *month*
- Unemployed
 - LFS: not employed, able to work, applied for job in reference *week*
 - BAS: registered as job seeker at the *Employment Service* during *month*
- Outside labor force
 - LFS: Not employed nor unemployed, *self classified* into subgroups
 - BAS: Similar principle, but subgroups determined by hierarchy (based on source of transfer payments received)

Numeric comparison

Comparison between BAS and LFS

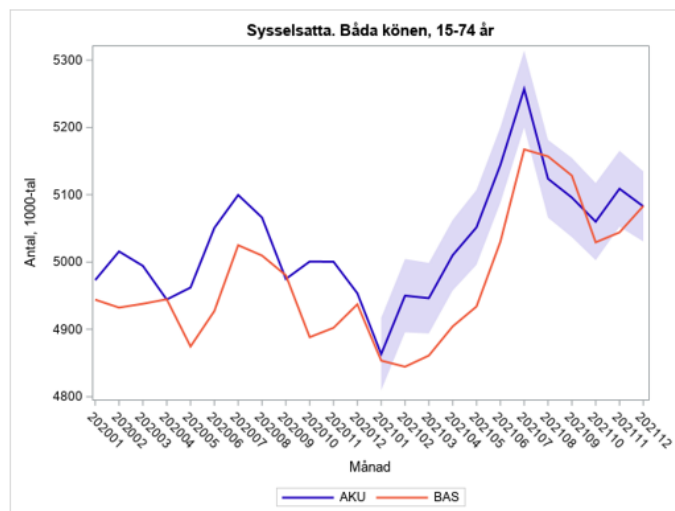
Numeric comparison

- Results from BAS and LFS
15-74 years
(unemployed: 16-64 years)
- Employed, unemployed and
outside labor force
- Jan **2020** – dec 2021
- Age, sex, country of birth

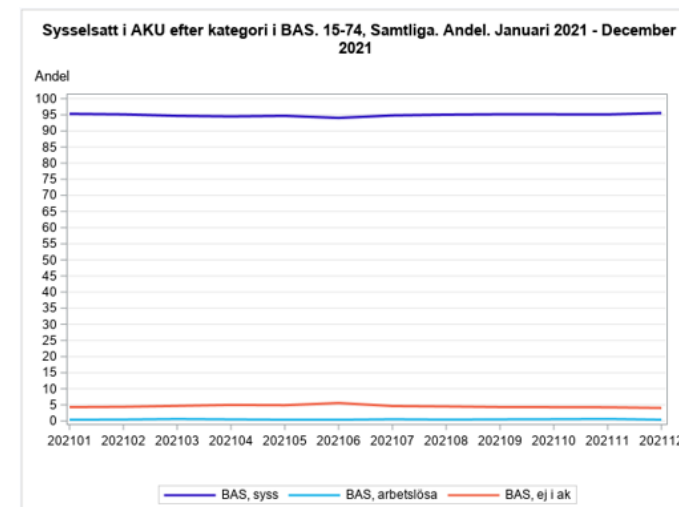
Numeric comparison with the estimation procedure of LFS

- Based on LFS respondents with
information from LFS and BAS
- 15-74 years
- Employed, unemployed and
outside labor force
- Jan **2021** – dec 2021
- Age, sex, country of birth

Comparison between BAS and LFS



15-74 år	BAS			
AKU	Sysselsatta	Arbetslösa	Ej i arbetskraften	Samtliga
Sysselsatta	4 800,7 (23,6)	25,3 (5,7)	231,9 (15,3)	5 057,9 (25,3)
Arbetslösa	81,8 (6,5)	247,4 (7,9)	159,6 (10,1)	488,8 (13,7)
Ej i arbetskraften	192,3 (13,5)	76,8 (8,0)	1 694,9 (24,4)	1 963,9 (26,6)
Samtliga	5 074,7 (22,2)	349,5 (7,5)	2 086,3 (22,8)	7 510,6 (7,5)

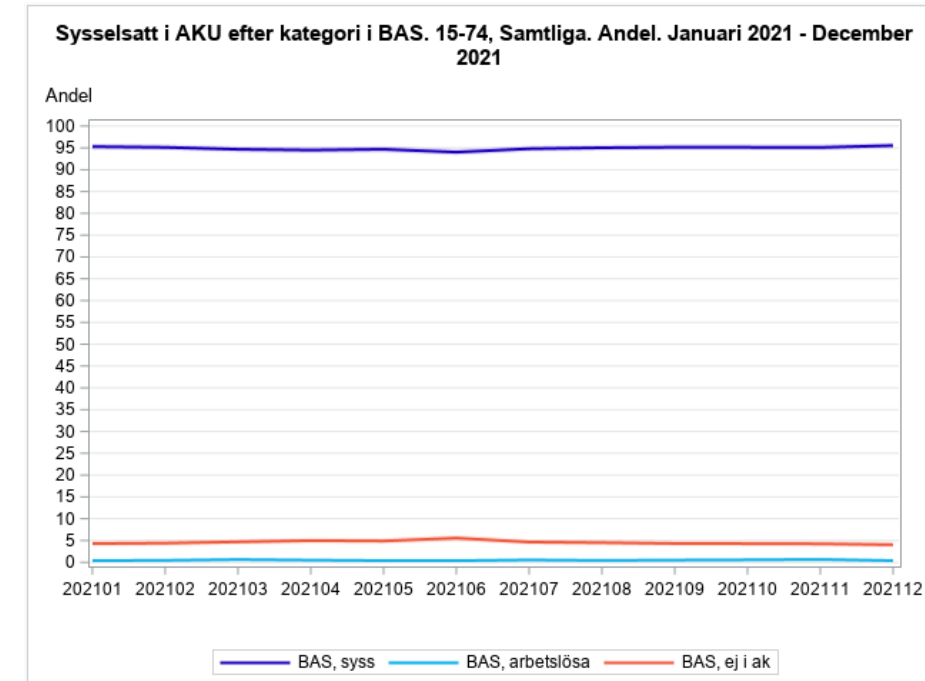
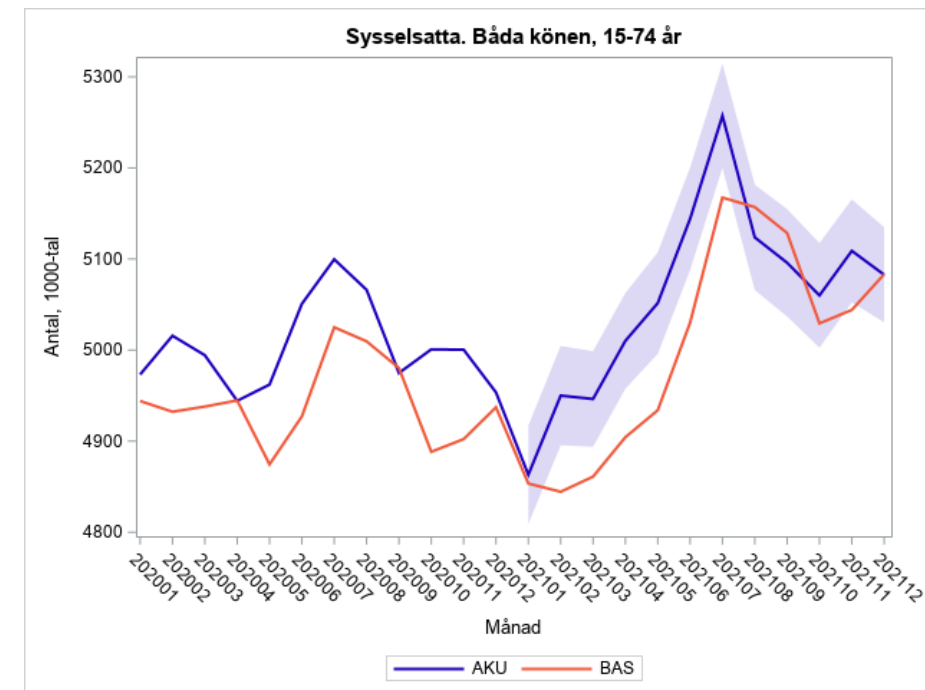


Employed



Employed

- High consistency
- BAS usually gives lower estimates than AKU. An average of 58,000 people.
- The share of employed in BAS, of those employed in LFS, is constant over the year – about 95 percent.



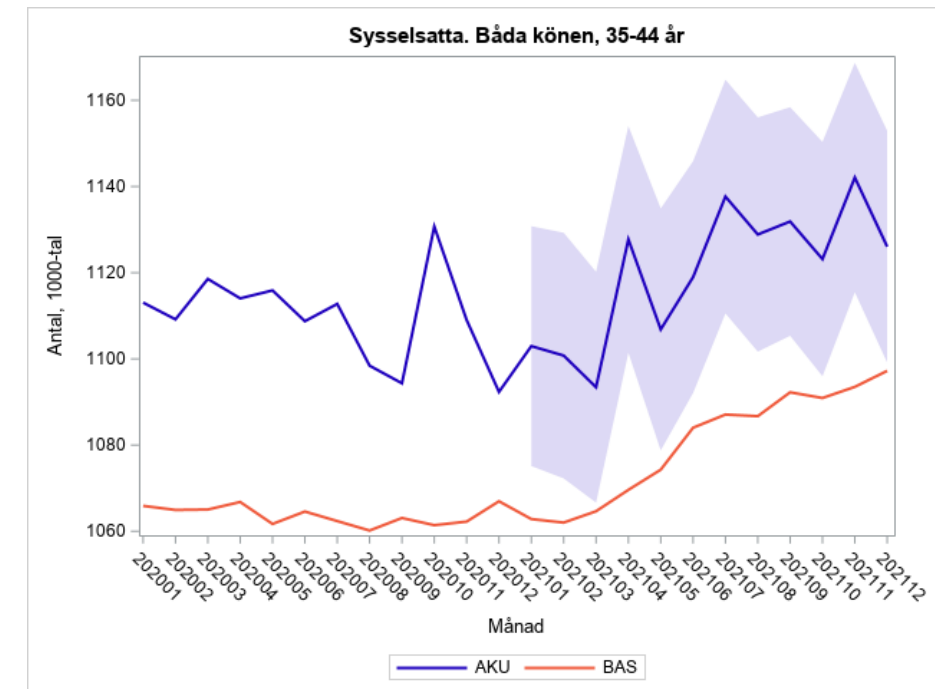
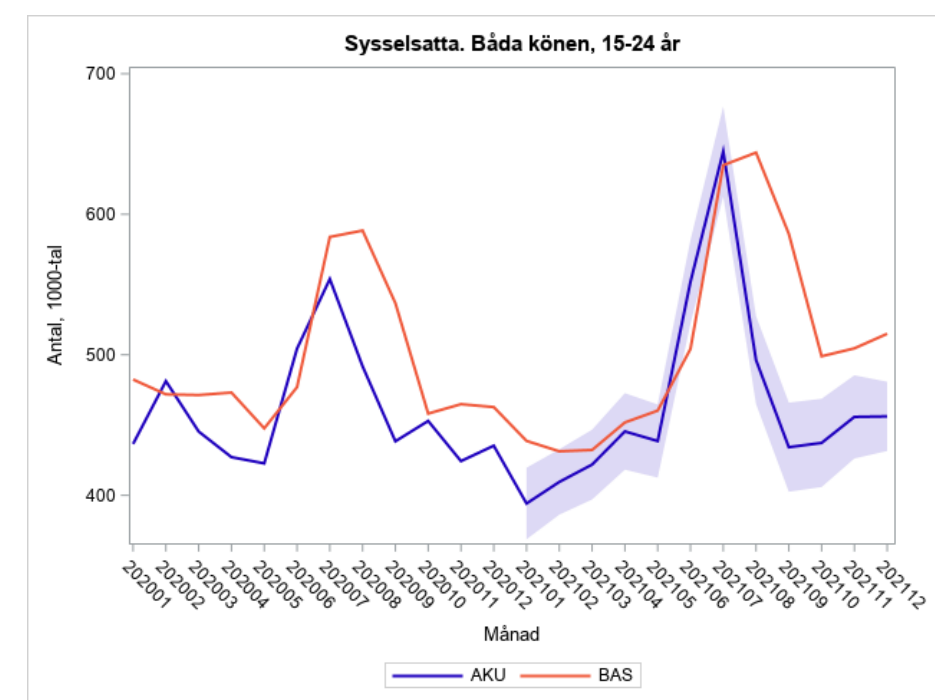
Employed, by age

15-24 years, differences may depend on

- Time lag between work and payment
- LFS: one hour during the week
- BAS: payment during the month

35-44 years, systematically fewer in BAS than in LFS, may be due to

- The LFS estimation procedure
- Self-employed, work abroad, temporarily absent, ...

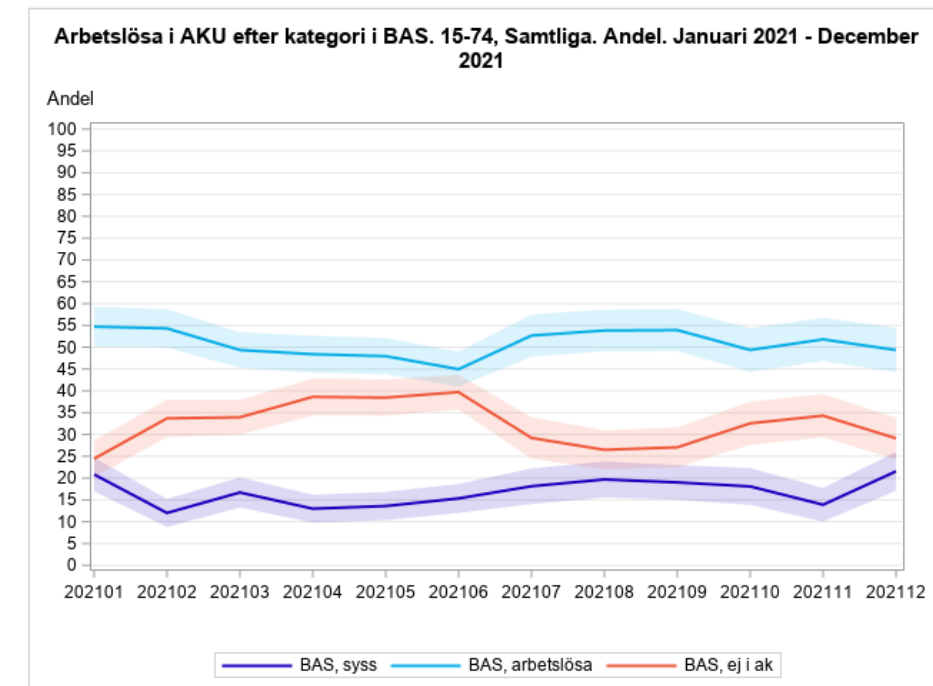
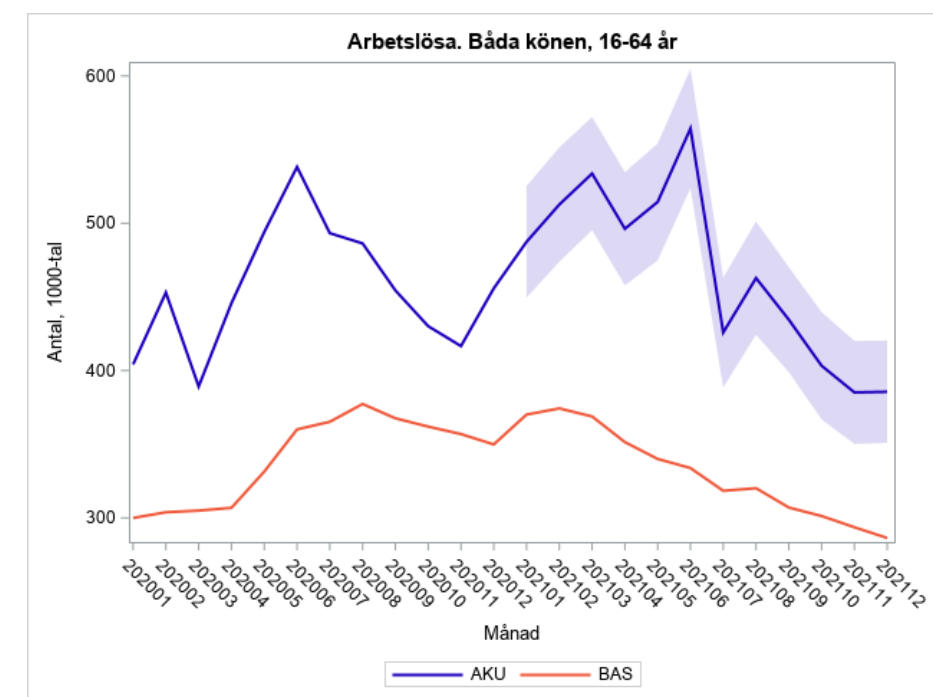


Unemployed



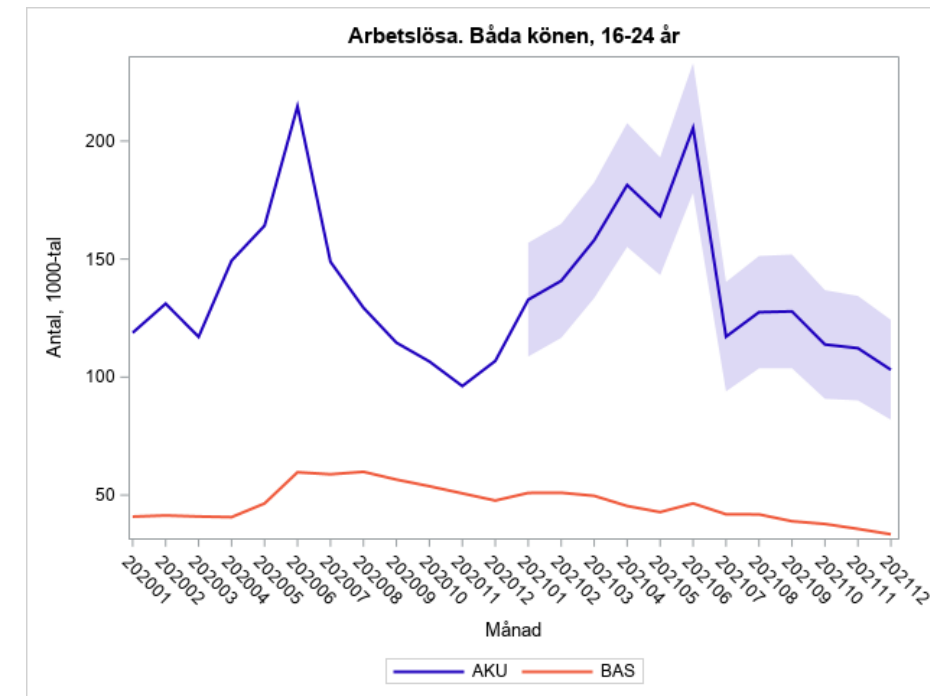
Unemployed

- Level differences, seasonality, volatility, different developments over time
 - Lower estimates in BAS than LFS, 60 000–231 000 persons, aged 16–64
 - Share of unemployed in BAS among unemployed in LFS, aged 15–74, varies around 50 percent
- Fewer unemployed in BAS also compared to the statistics of the Employment Service
 - Unemployment spells longer at ES than in LFS (youth, lags)



Unemployed, youth

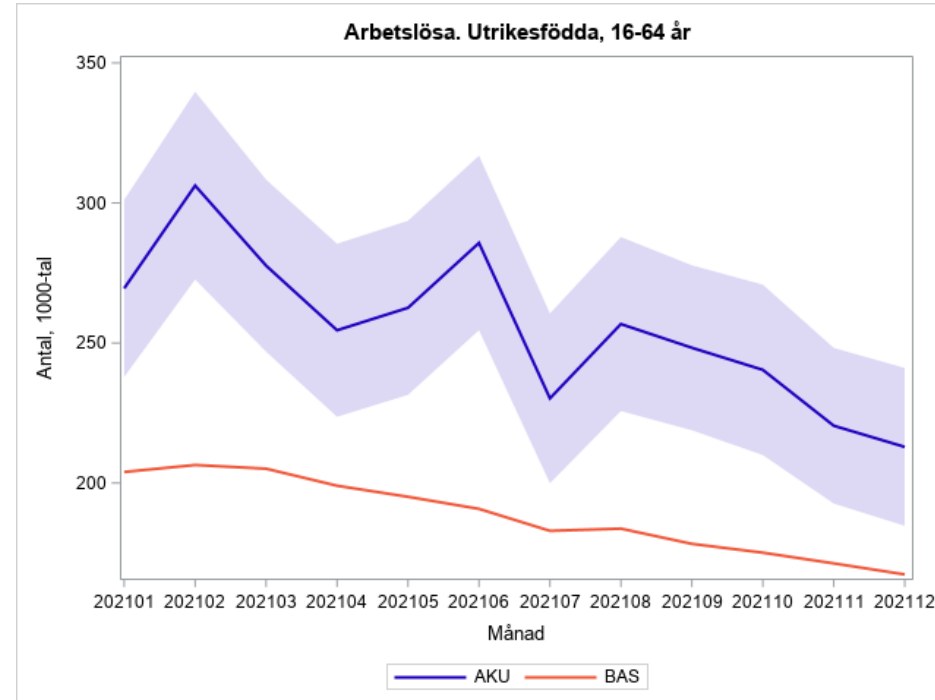
- Largest differences in the age group 24 years or younger
 - Weaker incentive to register with the Employment Service
 - Largest differences before the summer holidays
 - Fewer than one in five unemployed youth in the LFS are also unemployed in BAS
- Differences decrease with age



15-24 år	BAS			
AKU	Sysselsatta	Arbetslösa	Ej i arbetskraften	Samtliga
Sysselsatta	407,7 (12,4)	4,0 (2,6)	53,9 (7,3)	465,6 (13,4)
Arbetslösa	27,8 (4,0)	26,4 (3,6)	99,7 (7,1)	153,9 (8,7)
Ej i arbetskraften	61,1 (7,8)	9,6 (1,7)	457,2 (13,3)	527,9 (14,5)
Samtliga	496,5 (10,9)	40,0 (4,3)	610,8 (11,7)	1 147,4 (5,2)

Unemployed, foreign born

- Less difference in levels due to discrepancy in both directions
- Compared to Swedish-born
 - Fewer unemployed in LFS with a different status in BAS
 - More unemployed in BAS with a different status in LFS
 - More often registered with the Employment Service



Utrikes födda	BAS			
AKU	Sysselsatta	Arbetslösa	Ej i arbetskraften	Samtliga
Sysselsatta	1 017,3 (20,5)	10,3 (3,8)	46,0 (8,8)	1 073,6 (20,3)
Arbetslösa	33,2 (4,1)	164,9 (7,9)	61,5 (6,7)	259,6 (10,6)
Ej i arbetskraften	39,0 (6,6)	50,6 (6,7)	347,3 (18,5)	436,8 (19,9)
Samtliga	1 089,5 (20,4)	225,8 (8,5)	454,7 (19,6)	1 770,0 (3,8)

Conclusions and discussion

Conclusions

- Similar employment measures
 - Differences among temporary and self-employed
- Substantially different unemployment measures
 - Youth unemployment and seasonality
 - Registry lags, mainly regarding outflow
- Further analysis needed
 - Longer period for seasonal effects
 - Period without coronavirus pandemic
 - Based on user feedback as BAS gets more established

Discussion

- Some advantages of the labor force surveys
 - Topicality
 - Consistency
 - Unemployment and labor supply
- Some advantages of register-based measures
 - Totalled, more observations
 - Employment and economic (in-)activity
 - Studying subgroups, e.g. regions and industries
- Advantages of combining the two types of measures?

Thank you!

