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Factsheet for case **SE-2020-16/557**

Temporary reinforcement of unemployment insurance

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Country	Sweden, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 13 April 2020 - 03 January 2021
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income support to workers and those laid off – Income support for unemployed
Case created	13 April 2020 (updated 21 April 2020)

Background Information

As a result of the coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent severe slow-down of the economy, unemployment is expected to rise sharply. In order to increase the coverage and overall insurance levels, the government is adapting the unemployment insurance. The measures include making eligibility criteria more generous and raising both minimum and maximum payout levels.

These changes are regulated in the Ordinance (2020:221) on changes in the ordinance (1997:835) on unemployment insurance (Förordning (2020:221) om ändring i förordningen (1997:835) om arbetslöshetsförsäkring.

Content of measure

The requirements concerning who can receive money from an unemployment insurance fund have been temporarily relaxed in terms of how much people need to have worked and how long people need to have been a member of a fund. Under the previous rules, a person had to have been a member of an insurance fund for at least 12 months to be eligible for payouts. Now every month of membership during the months March-December will count as four months, thus making it possible to become eligible in only three months.

Under the former system, you had to have worked at least 50% during the past 6 months (or differently distributed but equivalent). This minimum limit has now been lowered to allow a larger number of part-time workers to become eligible.

Both the highest and the lowest amounts paid out by an unemployment insurance fund have been raised temporarily to alleviate the economic impact on people who become unemployed (the highest from SEK 20,000 to SEK 26,400 per month, and lowest from SEK 365 to SEK 510 per day). Additionally, the six initial qualifying days have been removed and the unemployment insurance funds have received funding for administration.

Use of measure

In only a few weeks, the number of members in the unemployment insurance funds have risen sharply. How many will end up receiving pay-outs due to having lost their job is too early to say.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Trade unions	unemployed	National funds Other

Social partners

Role of social partners	Consulted
Form of involvement	Direct consultation

N/A

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 16 March 2020: Ministry of Finance (2020) Economic measures in response to COVID-19 (www.government.se)
- 30 March 2020: Förstärkt arbetslöshetsersättning (a-kassa) för fler (www.regeringen.se)