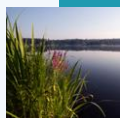


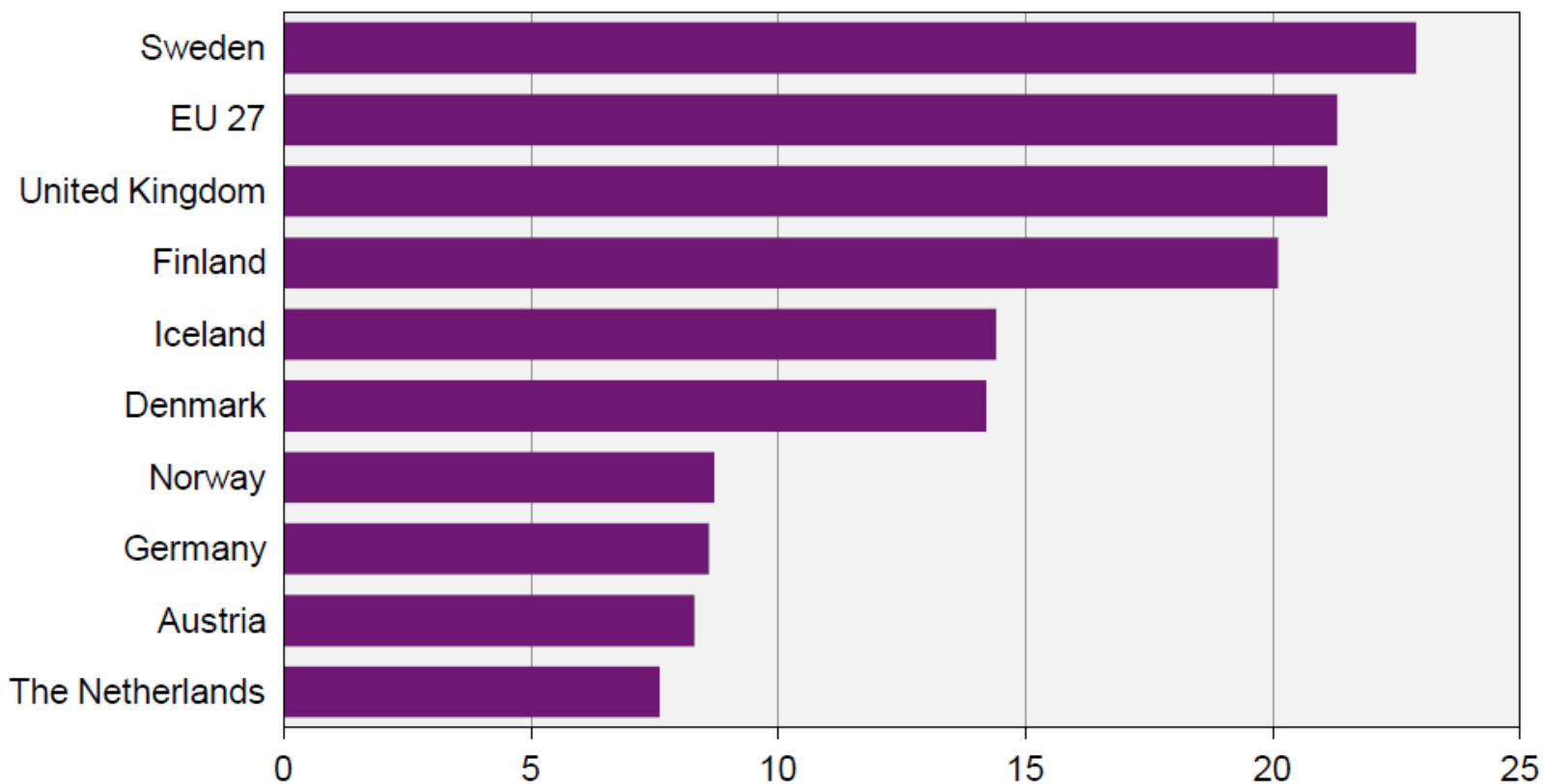
Youth unemployment – comparability in statistics between a number of European countries

Anna Broman

anna.broman@scb.se



Youth unemployment, 2011



Source: Eurostat, LFS.

The commission

- Statistics Sweden was assigned to report on methodological differences between the labour force surveys of nine designated countries. The countries covered by the study included Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland.
- In addition, Statistics Sweden would present an overview of institutional differences between the countries and provide assessments of how these differences could affect comparability of the statistics.



Contacts with the countries

- The LFS units are the experts in their respective countries
- Questionnaire
- Follow-up
- Labour market programmes
- Educational system
- Dialogue about two chapters in the report
- Over-all assessments
- Eurostat



Method

- Measurements and definitions
- Target population
- Sampling frame
- Measurement error
- Proxy interviews
- Non-response and estimation
- Reference weeks

Comparability – main findings

- The comparability of the statistics is very good
- Differences is
 - the "want to work"-condition in the Netherlands
 - Iceland and the UK estimate youth unemployment for ages 16-24.
 - The Nordic countries cover both collective and private households
- However, these differences have only a marginal effect on the unemployment level, and thus also on comparability
- No differences in how apprentices are classified.
- Only minor differences in how persons in labour market programmes are classified.



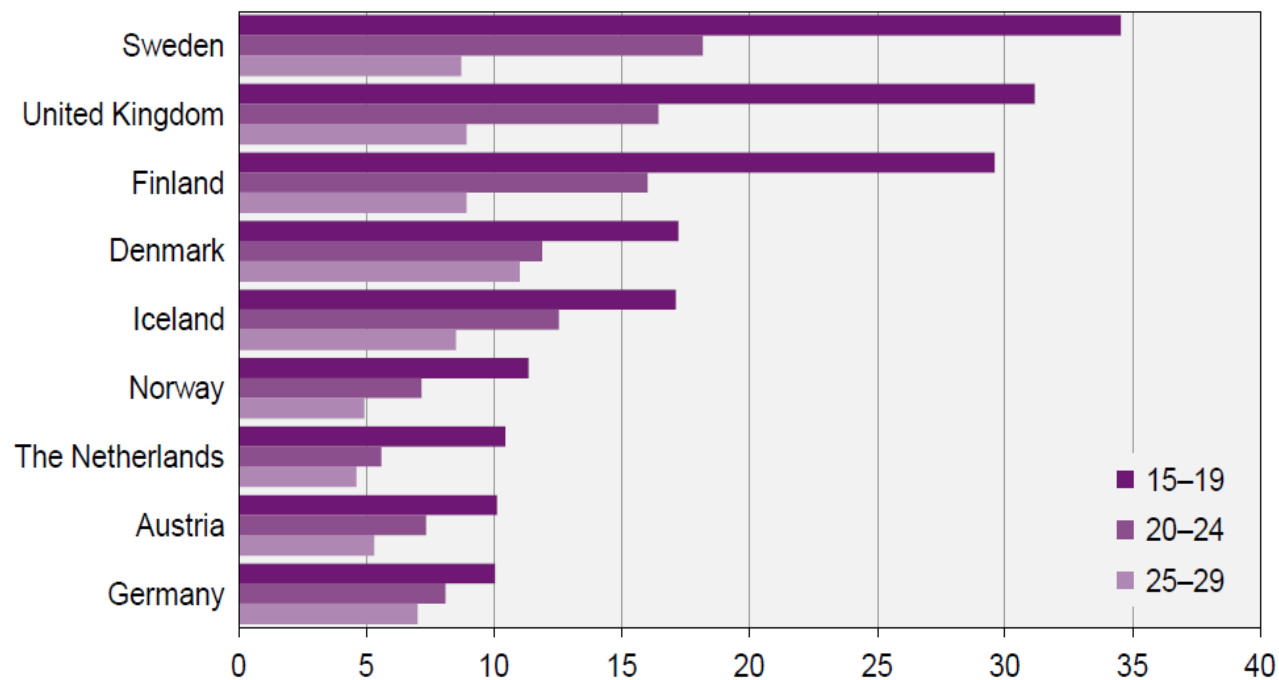
Other differences between countries

- Levels of non-response
- Share of proxy interviews
- No major effect on the estimates due to these factors
- The variance is affected rather than comparability



Why the major differences?

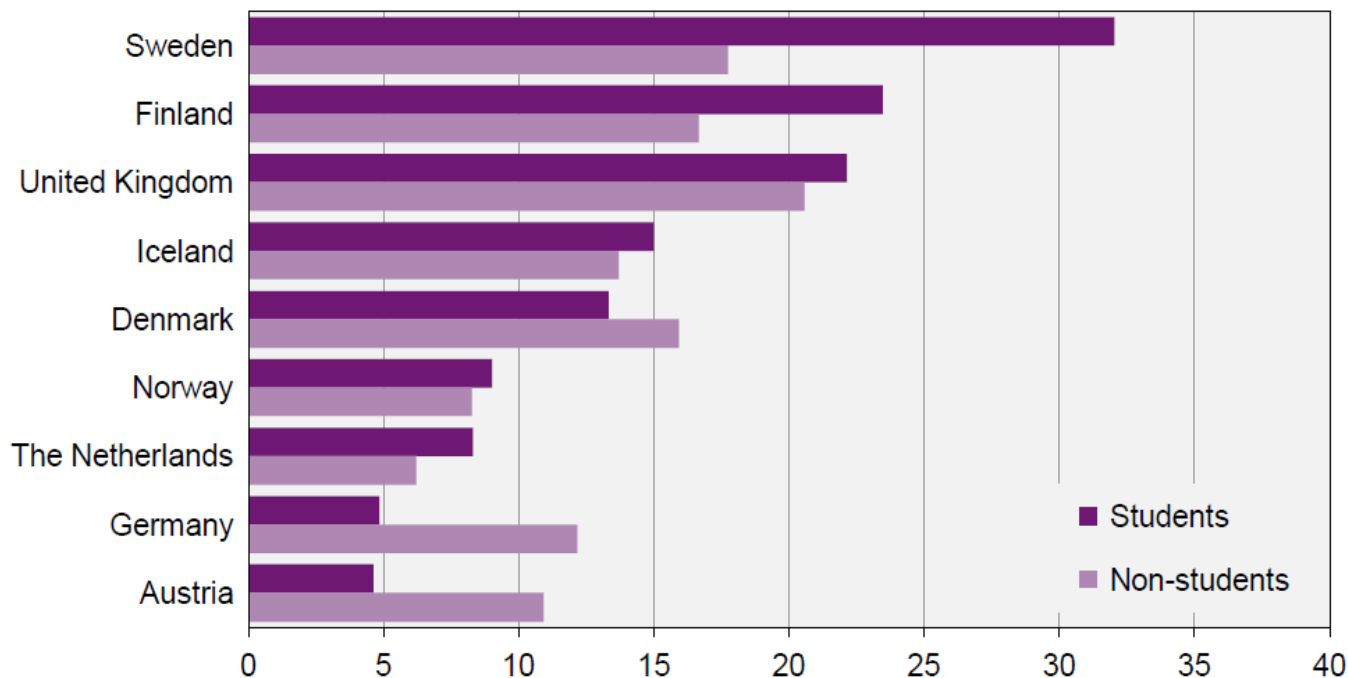
- Unemployment differs most among 15-19 year olds



Source: Eurostat, LFS.

Why the major differences?

- ...and among persons in regular education



Sources: Eurostat, LFS, own processing.

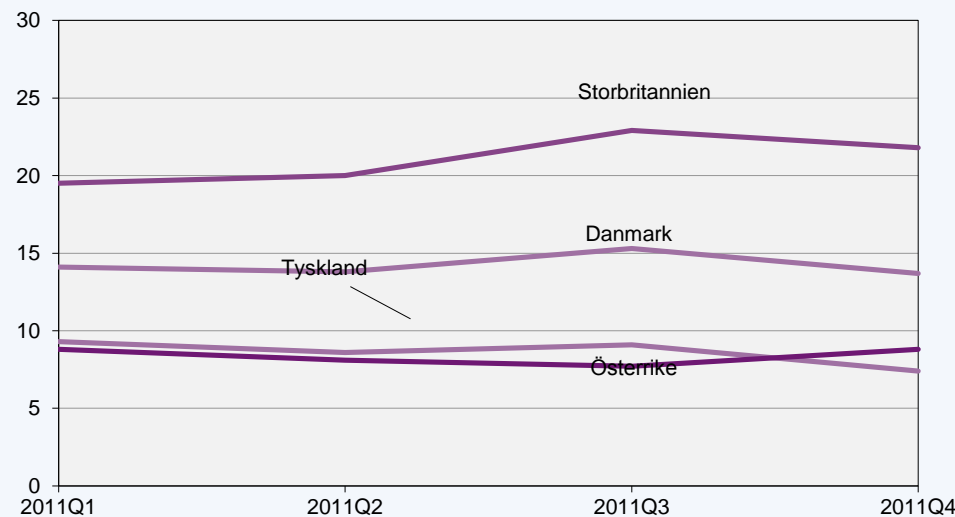
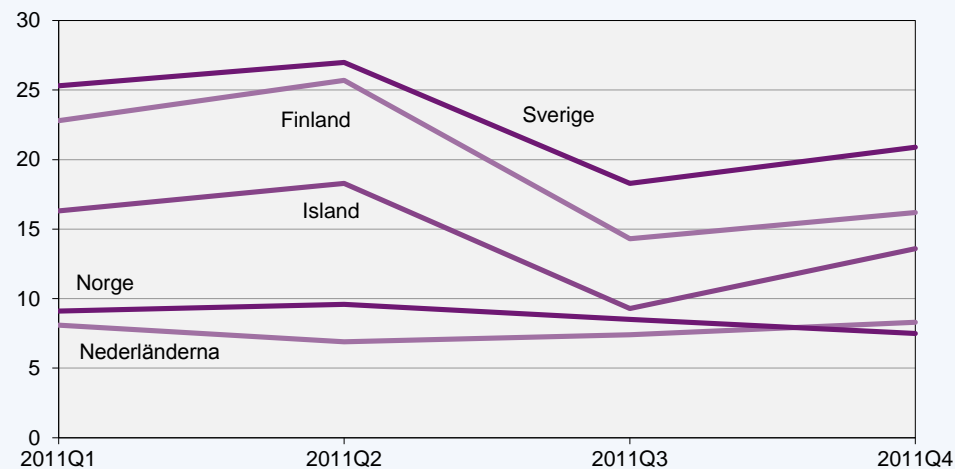
Educational system: Apprentices

- Classified in the same way in all the countries. Thus no effect on comparability
- Instead, the presence of apprentices and differences regarding whether they receive a wage or not explain in part the difference in youth unemployment between countries

Percentage of employed students and of total employees aged 15–24, who were classified as employed because they were apprentices, 2011 *. Percent

	DE	AT	DK	NL	IS	NO	UK	FI	SE**
Share of apprentices of employed students	68.5	56.0	36.4	22.7	17.7	18.9	24.7	7.2	-
Share of apprentices of total employed	34.7	24.1	23.9	15.5	10.4	9.7	7.6	3.5	-

Educational system: Student financial aid



Summary

- The comparability of statistics on youth unemployment is very good
- There is a correlation between countries with low youth unemployment and extensive apprenticeship systems and student financial aid also during summer
- Many youths are students, and a large portion of these are not part of the labour force. Thus, other measures should be considered if one wish to understand the labour market for youth



The unemployment rates does not tell all

- LFS provides a number of different measures to nuance the picture of the labour market
 - Arbetslöshetstidens längd
 - How much work youth seek
 - How much employed youth work
 - Permanent or temporary employment



Thank you!

anna.broman@scb.se

