



STATISTICS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A review of available sources
SUMMARY

Preface

SIKA has been instructed by the Government to build up a system for statistics on public transport and community-financed travel. This task means that SIKA is to submit a report, at the latest by 1 March 2004, on the existing statistics that can be included in such a system, and to make recommendations as to how the system can be developed. This work is to take place in collaboration with the transport agencies and the National Public Transport Agency. This report presents an inventory of the existing statistics. The report is to serve as the basis for a memorandum on recommendations on the future development of the statistical system.

Earlier work on the development of a statistical system consisted of the Transport and Communications Research Board (KFB) and the Ministry of Transport and Communications at the end of 1996 inviting the industry to discuss to how statistics could be improved. As a result of this, SIKA and Lund Institute of Technology produced an application to KFB for a grant for a joint project to develop a system for public transport statistics. In a first stage, a study was made of the body of regulations governing public transport, the existing statistics were presented and the result of an inventory of user requirements was presented (SIKA-Report 1998:6). The project's final report contained recommendations on a statistical system (SIKA-Report 2000:2).

This report has been prepared at SIKA by Mats Sonefors (project manager) and Sonya Trad.

A reference group has contributed points of view and advice. The reference group has consisted of representatives of the transport agencies, the National Public Transport Agency, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities, the Swedish Federation of County Councils, Swedish Air Transport Society, the Swedish Bus and Coach Federation, the Swedish Public Transport Association and the Royal Institute of Technology.

Stockholm, March 2004

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Director

Statistics on public transport

At the request of the Government¹, SIKA has made an inventory of the existing statistics on public transport, on the basis of the recommendations on statistical systems made in SIKA- Report 2000:2. According to the priority in the recommendation, the focus of the inventory has been on the variables consumption and services and also finances for the community-financed transport.

The inventory shows briefly that the existing statistics on *general public transport* correspond relatively well to the variables called for in SIKA's recommendations on statistical systems. However, there are a number of problems:

- Statistics on local and regional public transport are produced using such different definitions and methods that comparisons between counties are difficult to make at present.
- Some variables are lacking for interregional transport, but, above all, comparability between modes of transport is deficient since different definitions are used for the same variable. Furthermore, it is difficult to make comparisons of costs per journey and per passenger kilometre between modes of transport for government procured transport.
- Statistics on international public transport are sparse and do not at present provide any overall picture of public transport in Sweden with international destinations.

The existing statistics on *special public transport* are deficient. At present, insufficient information is available to obtain an overall picture. The situation is moreover complicated from a statistical point of view by transport being successively included in general public transport. It is furthermore difficult to follow the geographical division in the recommendation in the presentation of special public transport.

- There are no published statistics on conscript travel.
- The statistics on school transport only contain financial information. The information is of too low quality and has too few variables to correspond to the financial statistics sought for in the recommendation SIKA-Report 2000:2.
- Statistics for the mobility service and medicare travel exist, but there are also questions about the exactness of the information and certain variables are moreover lacking.

Statistics on *tourist and charter traffic* are at present completely lacking.

To overcome the deficiencies mentioned above, SIKA has made recommendations to the Government in a special memorandum for complementing existing statistics and initiating new studies, in order to obtain an overall picture of public transport in Sweden.

¹ See SIKA's official appropriation document 2003



THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS

The Swedish Institute for Transport and Communications Analysis, SIKÅ, is an agency that is responsible to the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications. SIKÅ was established in 1995 and has three main areas of responsibility in the transport and communications sector:

- To carry out studies for the Government
- To develop forecasts and planning methods
- To be the responsible authority for official statistics

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