

ARKIVET INDUSTRIENS UTREDNINGSSINSTITUT

(THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH)

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Annual Report for 1947.

An Extract from the annual report for 1947

submitted by

The Swedish Institute for Industrial, Economic and Social Research.

1. The shoe investigation. The investigation of the structure of the Swedish boot and shoe industry is now in print and will appear in the beginning of 1948. (It is intended to distribute a short English summary to our foreign contacts).
2. The investigation of the rise, development and decline of new enterprises. The preliminary preparations of the vast primary material received from some 4.000 enterprises is now finished. At present the material is being supplemented in some cases, i.a. in connection with study visits at various industrial districts and interviews with the founders of the enterprises. The investigation is scheduled to be largely completed in the Autumn 1948.
3. Depopulation of forest areas. The special investigation of the manpower problems in the forest and industrial district of the valley of the Klarälven in the province of Värmland is now completed. The purpose of the investigation is not primarily to present concrete proposals concerning the solution of the manpower problems of the forest regions, but rather to try to provide the essential facts on which a reform work can be based. - The investigation will be printed in the near future and is expected to be published during the first half of this year.

4. The investigation of the business cycle sensitivity of the forest industries of Norrland during the inter-war period has now been ready for quite some time but on account of the present long delays in printing it cannot be published until the Spring of 1948.

5. Foreign department. About 20 new contacts with private and official institutions abroad have been established. In order to get better possibilities to follow the economic trends abroad such as they appear from investigations and reports and economic literature in general, a circular was distributed during the Spring to a hundred institutions and editors of such publications in foreign countries, asking them to keep the Institute informed about the publication of new literature, the progress of research in the industrial and economic field etcetera.

During the year about 1.000 foreign pamphlets have been procured for the Library. They have been used at the Institute and also extensively borrowed by other libraries, and some 100 enterprises.

The department has compiled the following reports concerning economic conditions in certain foreign countries:

Socialiserings- och reorganisationsplaner för industrien i Västeuropa.
(Socialization and reorganization plans for the industry of Western Europe);

Sovjetunionens industri (The industry of Soviet Russia);

Tullunionen mellan Belgien, Holland och Luxemburg. (The customs union between Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg);

Statistisk kvalitetskontroll. (Statistical quality control).

Furthermore the department has compiled a bibliography of foreign literature in the economic field issued during the last years.

In order to make the international price movements of the main raw materials wider known in industry circles, the department has multigraphed a survey prepared by the Government Price Control Board, called "P.M. rörande prisläget i utlandet" (Memorandum concerning the price situation abroad).

At present surveys of the national economies of Belgium, France and Switzerland are being prepared.

The department has further distributed the following material: about 2.200 pamphlets, clippings, statistical statements etcetera; about a thousand reports concerning the German industry compiled by Allied Expert Commissions; catalogs of pamphlets procured every other month; information material concerning Swedish economic conditions to the foreign contacts (generally about once a month).

6. The Institute has published its usual survey of profits, dividends, taxes, wages and salaries within big enterprises, which this time refers to the years 1945 and 1946. It was carried out essentially along the traditional principles. It has, however, been supplemented with an investigation of the development of profits during 1947 and, also a study of liquidity trends in the years 1946 and 1947.

Together with the investigation of profits another investigation summarizing the development of investments and production within industry since the pre-war time has been published.

7. In connection with the study of the development of production referred to in the preceding paragraph, the changes in productivity, that is production per man-hour, have been studied. Hitherto it has only been possible to study this production as it is reflected in the figures of the official industrial statistics, which may well cause misleading conclusions. The Institute has contacted various enterprises and trade associations, however, in order to get them interested to make a more detailed statistics of productivity themselves, on which future studies will be based.

8. Monthly industrial statistics. The work to collect monthly figures of industrial production and employment that has been carried on for a long time within the Institute has now resulted in a survey that has been distributed by the Federation of Swedish Industries to all its members. The original purpose was that the survey should appear monthly, but on account of the paper rationing it has been impossible to realize these plans. The compilation will now probably be distributed quarterly. A summary will be published regularly in the "Industria" (the organ of the Swedish Employers' Confederation).

9. A report on Sweden's economic situation in the Autumn 1947 has been made at the request of the Swedish Employers' Confederation. The report is to be submitted to the new Enterprise Councils and has been printed in several thousand copies. Such reports for the Enterprise Councils will be published quarterly,

10. The Director of the Institute in the beginning of the year made a four months' study trip to the United States, where he visited a great number of enterprises, various research organizations and contacted American economists. He also held lectures at Harvard University, Berkeley University and Northwestern University, Chicago. Professor Svenilsson has described his impressions from the trip in a series of articles in the "Dagens Nyheter" and in an article in the "Ekonomisk Tidskrift".

11. Commissions. Dr. Svernilson has been appointed to Chairman of the Government Committee investigating the electrical industries and to a Swedish delegate in the inter-governmental consultations on the extension of economic cooperation between the Scandinavian countries. Dr. Svernilson has also during the year been a member of Sweden's Standardization Commission.

12. The Secretary of the Institute, Mr. Hans Thorelli, left for the United States in September 1946 and stayed there during the entire year of 1947. The main purpose of his stay in the States was the study of American antitrust, cartel, and unfair competition policies. From January 1st, 1948, Mr. Thorelli has returned to the Institute and resumed his position at the foreign department, Mr. Herman Holm having maintained this position in his absence. He will continue to devote part of his time to the problems of competition and monopoly.

13. The following persons have been attached to the Institute or given new positions within it:

Mr. Herman Holm, Secretary of the Institute.

Mr. Erik Ruist, Actuary, formerly a research assistant of the Institute.

Mr. Torsten Carlsson, Research Assistant.

Mr. Jonas Nordenson was attached to the Institute as a Research Assistant on March 1st, 1948, with special regard to the investigation of Sweden's productive needs and resources which was then initiated (See item no. 170).

Mr. Erik Dahmén when Dr. Svernilson was abroad conducted the activities of the Institute as Associate Director of Research. His prime concern, however, is with the investigation of the rise and decline of new enterprises.

14. Lectures. Several of the members of the Institute have held a great number of lectures on economic and industrial problems during the year all around the country.