Differences between Short-term employment (KS) and Employments (ANST)

Short-term employment (KS) has disseminated labour market statistics until the reference period of the fourth quarter of 2023. KS was a sample survey that described levels and changes in the number of employees in the labour market. Information was also available on employee turnover and sick leave. Employments (ANST) is a new register-based statistic that, from the reference period of 2024, replaces KS and disseminates monthly data for the labour market by sex, sector, industry, and region. The purpose of the statistics is to depict the state of the labour market and its development over time. The statistics are used, among other things, for economic forecasts and are part of the European Union's labour market statistics. This statistic has been available since the January 2020 reference period.

The purpose of ANST is to create register-based statistics that correspond as closely as possible to KS, while also providing users with new and more up-to-date information for a deeper understanding of the labour market. However, the transition from KS to ANST has resulted in differences that affect comparability over time. Below is an overview of the most significant differences between KS and ANST.[1]

Transitioning from data collection to administrative data
In KS, data was collected from a selection of employers by SCB on: number of employees, terms of employment, proportion of hires, proportion of separations, and reason for absence from work. ANST consists of two parts. One part is register-based with full coverage based on employer declarations at individual level (PAYE) collected by the Swedish Tax Agency. The other part is a sample survey, Sickness Absence during the Sick Pay Period (SuS), collected from employers. The advantage of mainly using register data is that the accuracy increases, and the statistics can be disseminated for a more detailed distribution.

One difference regarding the sample frame is that KS used the local unit as the sampling object for activities within the business sector. For the general government sector and the non-profit institutions serving

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[1] More information is available in the Quality Report – Short-term employment (KS), 2023 (www.scb.se/am0201) and the Quality Report Employments (ANST), 2024 (www.scb.se/am0211).

households (NPISH) the legal unit (LEU) was used. In ANST, all target characteristics will be aggregated to the LEU and then distributed to its Kind-of-Activity Unit (KAU) for the business sector and Local Kind-of-Activity Unit (LVE) for dissemination by region for the business sector, as well as the general government sector and NPISH.

The number of employees in KS and the number of ongoing employments in ANST continue to have a similar definition, as it is regulated by the EU within Short-term statistics (STS), with quarterly data delivered to Eurostat. However, the change in data source resulted in a break in the time series. To analyze the difference, the data is published using the new method back to the reference period of January 2020.

The use of PAYE by ANST means that previous measures for employee turnover and terms of employment are no longer applicable. Instead, the new measures for flow in employments (modelled employee turnover) and employments by time in employment will be modelled based on current and historical administrative data, rather than being collected from employers. Within KS, data on sick leave, vacation leave, and other absence were also collected. Since this information is not included in PAYE, statistics on vacation leave and other absences will be discontinued and won´t be included in the employment metrics. However, sick leave will continue to be collected within SuS. Please note that this survey replaces Short-term Business Statistics on Sick Pay (KSju). For more details on the key differences between KSju and SuS, please refer to the comparison document available under more information.

Additional information in ANST

The advantage of using register data is that the uncertainty in the estimates is reduced, as no sampling is conducted. This approach also enables the statistics to be disseminated with a more detailed distribution. For instance, the general government sector and the NPISH will be disseminated in the statistical classification of economic activities (NACE). Additionally, flow in employments will be disseminated across all sectors.

In ANST, a model-based variable for worked time is disseminated and broken down into study domains from LEU.

ANST, in contrast to KS, gives greater consideration to structural changes within companies. In KS, the sample was drawn twice a year, while the population in ANST is sourced from the most current version of the Business register (BR). ANST publish monthly data instead of quarterly data, offering a faster indication of changes in the labour

market and making seasonal variations even more apparent than before.

Employments by length of employment

In KS, employers provided the number of employees categorized by terms of employment; permanent employees and temporary employees. A corresponding variable cannot be retrieved from PAYE. Instead, the terms of employment are replaced by a modelled variable based on the length of employment; one for employments lasting six months or less, and one for employments lasting more than six months. Please note that this modelled variable for the length of employment is not comparable to the terms of employment requested in KS.

Flow in employments

In KS, information on the number of hires and separations was collected to estimate employee turnover. In ANST, instead, the variables for flow in employments will be modelled using current and historical data based on PAYE. The following variables will be disseminated; started employments, resumed employments, terminated employments, and re-terminated employments. In addition to KS, these variables are also available for the general government sector and NPISH.

Started employments mean that the employee has received a PAYE from a distinct legal unit for the current month and the previous six months. If the employee has received a PAYE from the same legal unit within the last six months, it is classified as resumed employments. Similarly, terminated employments and re-terminated employments are modelled. Terminated employments mean that the employee has not received a PAYE from the legal unit for the current month but has received one from the same legal unit for the previous six months. If the employee is also missing a PAYE for one of the former six months from the same legal unit, the employment is a re-terminated employment.

The reasoning for adding resumed employments and re-terminated employments is that they can offer insights into on-demand employments in industries characterized by shorter employment duration.

Numerical description

As mentioned, there are differences between KS and ANST, which affect comparability over time. Below is a numerical description of employments/employees, length of employment/terms of employment,

started employments/hires and terminated employments/separations for the reference period 2020 to 2023. The data used for ANST are monthly data and quarterly for KS.

Administrative data indicates a higher level of ongoing employments compared to the estimated number of employees within KS. A similar trend over time is observed for both ANST and KS, and this trend remains consistent even when comparing based on sex and sector.

Number of ongoing employments for ANST and the number of employees for KS
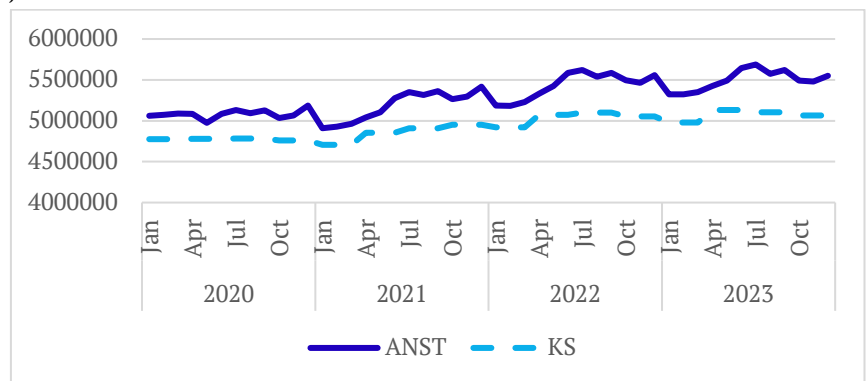

Overall, KS had more permanent employees than employments lasting more than six months in ANST. When examining differences by sex, men show the largest differences, while women are more aligned. When comparing by sector, the business sector shows a trend similar to the overall economy. However, the general government sector and NPISH have more employments in ANST than were estimated in KS.

Number of ongoing employments where the length of employment is more than six months for ANST and the number of permanent employees for KS
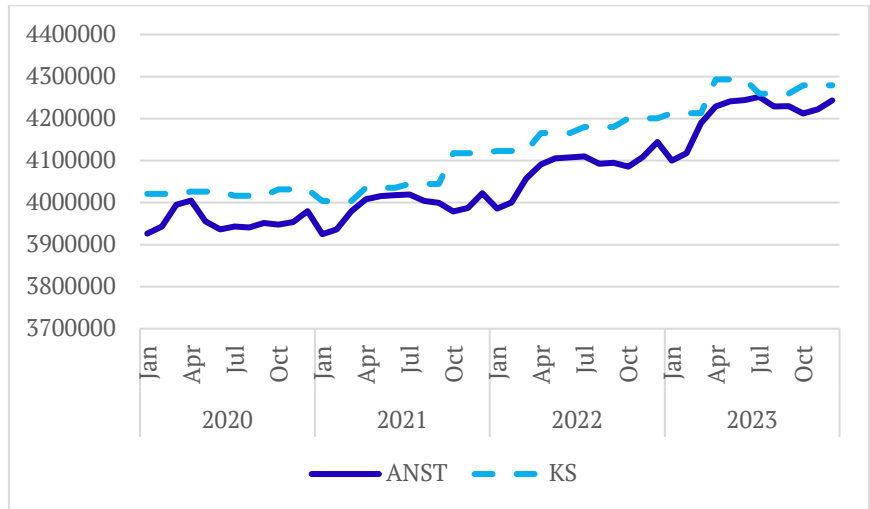
There were more employments where the length of employment is six months or less in ANST compared to the number of temporary employees in KS, and this trend holds even when broken down by sex. Similar patterns are observed in the business sector and NPISH, while small deviations are noted in the general government sector.

Number of ongoing employments where the length of employment is six months or less for ANST and the number of temporary employees for KS
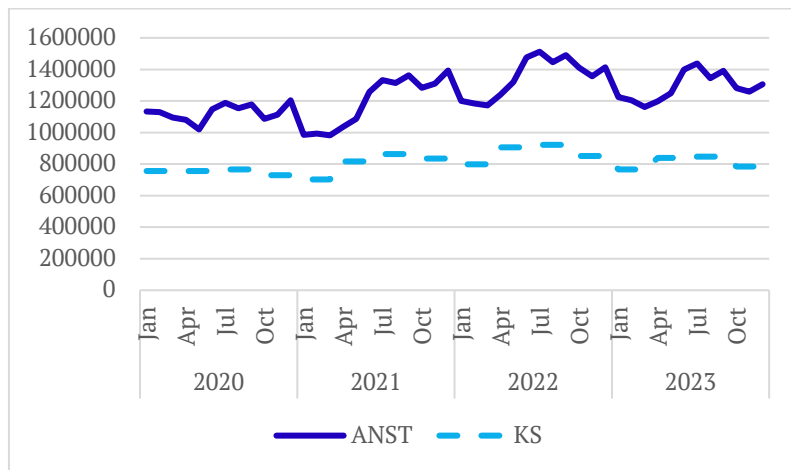
The estimated number of hires in KS is higher than the number of started employments in ANST. Both surveys exhibit a similar trend, with seasonal variations being particularly noticeable in ANST.

Number of started employments for ANST and the number of hires for KS
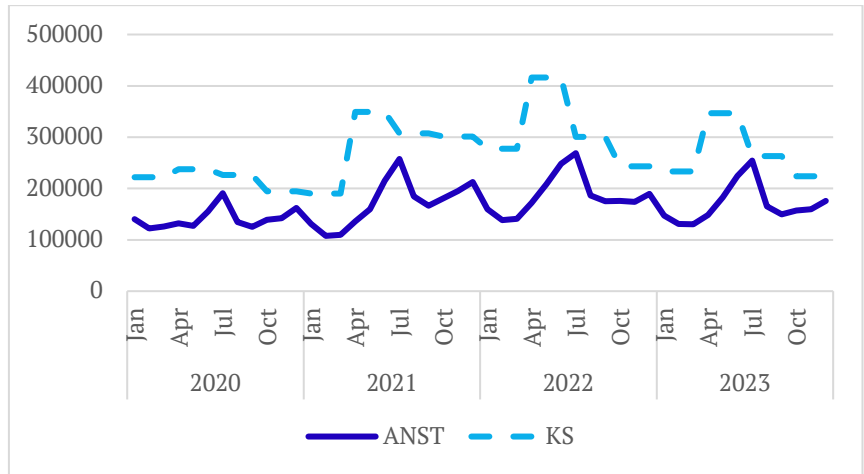
A similar pattern can be seen for the terminated employments in ANST and the separations for KS, with only minor deviations noted.

Number of terminated employments for ANST and the number of separations for KS