



Agreement on social security between Sweden and Japan enters into force on 1 June

On 1 June, the agreement on social security between Sweden and Japan enters into force. The agreement coordinates the Swedish and Japanese public old-age and survivor's pensions systems, and sickness and activity compensation.

“I am very pleased that the agreement on social security between Sweden and Japan is now entering into force. The agreement will increase security for Swedes who live and work in Japan, and be important for Swedish companies,” says Minister for Social Security Ardalan Shekarabi.

The social security agreement between Japan and Sweden now entering into force means that it will be easier for Swedes working in Japan to qualify for a Japanese pension, and they will also be able to receive Japanese pension payments if they move back to Sweden. From a Swedish perspective, the agreement is particularly important for Swedes who work in Japan for less than 10 years.

For Swedish companies doing business in Japan, the agreement means less red tape. Moving between the two countries will also be easier when a posted employee is covered by the home country's social security system and the employer pays the social security contributions required by the agreement in the home country.

Under the agreement, posted employees and their accompanying family members are covered by the home country's legislation for up to five years for the current old-age and survivor's pensions, and sickness and activity compensation. It is easier for family members when the whole family is covered by the same social insurance system.

Sweden and Japan have been negotiating a social security agreement for several years. The agreement was signed on 11 April 2019 and adopted by the Riksdag on 27 October 2021. The agreement enters into force on 1 June 2022.

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Agreement on social security between Sweden and Japan enters into force

On Monday 28 March, an exchange of notes took place between Swedish Minister for Social Security Ardalan Shekarabi and Japanese Ambassador to Sweden Noke Masaki to enable the social security agreement between Sweden and Japan to enter into force on 1 June 2022. The agreement, adopted by the parliaments of both countries, coordinates the Swedish and Japanese public old-age and survivor's pension systems, and sickness and activity compensation.

“Japan is an important country for Sweden. This social security agreement, which primarily covers pensions, reinforces the already exceptionally strong trade ties and excellent relations between Japan and Sweden. The agreement will be important for employees who move between the two countries and for Swedish companies, and consequently for jobs and growth,” says Minister for Social Security Ardalan Shekarabi.

The social security agreement between Japan and Sweden will make it easier for Swedes working in Japan to qualify for a Japanese pension and they will also be able to receive Japanese pension payments in Sweden if they move back to Sweden to settle permanently. From a Swedish perspective, the agreement will be particularly important for Swedes who work in Japan for less than 10 years. Until this agreement enters into force, an employee has to have worked in Japan for at least 10 years to receive Japanese pension payments in Sweden.

For Swedish companies doing business with Japan, the agreement means less red tape. Moving between the two countries will also be easier when a

posted employee is covered by the home country's social security system and the employer pays the social security contributions encompassed by the agreement in the home country. Japan is Sweden's second largest trading partner in Asia and the fourth largest export market outside the EU.

Under the agreement, posted employees and their accompanying family members are covered by the home country's legislation for up to five years for the current old-age and survivor's pension, and sickness and activity compensation. It is easier for family members when the whole family is covered by the same social insurance system.

Sweden and Japan have been negotiating a social security agreement for several years. The agreement was signed on 11 April 2019 and adopted by the Riksdag on 27 October 2021.

Published 29 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

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Published 30 November 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden's new Government

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg

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Medical certificate requirement during sick pay period to be suspended

The Government is proposing to temporarily suspend the medical certificate requirement from the eighth calendar day of a sick pay period.

“The Government is prepared to take the measures necessary to reduce the pressure on health and medical care services and to stop the spread of infection in society. The Government expects that temporarily suspending the requirement of a medical certificate during the sick pay period is a measure that will do exactly that,” says Minister for Social Security Ardalan Shekarabi.

At present, to be entitled to sick pay an employee is required to submit a medical certificate from the eighth calendar day of a sick pay period. Reduced working capacity is then verified by means of a certificate from a doctor or dentist. In the event of an outbreak of a disease that poses an extensive threat to public health, the Government considers there is cause to temporarily suspend the requirement of a medical certificate so as to reduce the burden on health and medical care services.

The Government will shortly present a legislative proposal for the Riksdag to consider.

The proposal is a policy agreement reached between the Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Swedish Green Party.



Sickness benefit qualifying day temporarily discontinued

(New version) Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Government has announced that the sickness benefit standard deduction will temporarily be abolished in that the central government will pay sickness benefit for the first day of sickness. The ultimate aim of this measure is to reduce the spread of infection in society. The new regulation is in effect from 11 March until 11 May 2020.

“To reduce the risk of spreading infection, it is important that those who are sick do not go to work. In the current situation, it is reasonable for central government to take financial responsibility for the first day of sickness to help individuals,” says Minister for Social Security Ardalan Shekarabi.

This measure means that an employee can apply for central government reimbursement for the first day of sickness after the fact. The application is made retroactively to the Swedish Social Insurance Agency. The employer deducts the standard deduction as normal.

Self-employed persons will also receive compensation for a qualifying day. The full details of this proposal will be made clear in the additional amending budget that the Government will adopt in the near future.

This is a policy agreement reached between the Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Swedish Green Party.