

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Robbery
Country:	Sweden
Year:	/

Main policy page:	/
Relevant legislation:	<p>Robbery is regulated under Chapter 8 Section 5 in the Swedish Penal Code.</p> <p>If a person steals from another by means of violence or by a threat implying or appearing to the threatened person to imply an imminent danger, or who, after committing a theft and being caught in the act, resists by such violence or threat a person who attempts to recover the stolen property, imprisonment for at least one and at most six year shall be imposed for robbery. The same shall apply to a person who by such violence or threat forces another to commit or omit to commit some act so that gain results to the accused and loss to the person so forced or to someone he represents. Causing helplessness or a similar state of incapacitation shall be regarded as equivalent to violence.</p> <p>If the conduct under the first, paragraph, having regard to the violence, threat or other circumstances, is of a less serious nature the sentence shall not be for robbery but for such other crime as the conduct entails.</p> <p>Gross robbery is regulated under Chapter 8 Section 6 in the Swedish Penal Code.</p> <p>If the crime under Section 5 is regarded as gross, imprisonment for at least four and at most ten years shall be imposed for <i>gross robbery</i>.</p> <p>In assessing whether the crime is gross, special consideration shall be given to whether the violence was dangerous to life or whether the accused caused serious bodily injury or a severe illness or otherwise exhibited considerable brutality or ruthlessly took advantage of the victim's defenceless or exposed situation.</p> <p>According to the Swedish Penal Code an attempt or preparation or conspiracy to commit robbery or gross robbery and also failure to reveal robbery or gross robbery shall be punished under the provisions of Chapter 23.</p>
Trends:	<p>Robbery is an offence that has increased steeply in Sweden during the 1990:s, only to stabilize at a historically high level. This can be seen from Swedish crime statistics. In 2009, the number of police reported robberies was 9 570 which is an increase by seven percent compared to the figure for 2008. Reported robberies against the person decreased by eight percent to 6 730 compared to 2008. A total of 1 541 robberies of</p>

shops and stores were reported in 2009, which constitutes an increase of 15 percent compared to the number in 2008. The trend in reported robberies of shops and stores has been on the increase since the beginning of the 1980s. According to previous surveys, networks of young criminals and offenders with serious drug abuse problems commit a substantial proportion of these robberies.

Although the general levels of robberies first raised and then remained flat for many years, there has been a decrease in robberies against banks and post offices since the mid-1990s. Factors that may have contributed to the decrease include strengthening of technical security measures, smaller amounts of cash in the banks and post offices and generally fewer offices. The decrease has not been compensated by an increase in robberies against money transports, even if there has been a substantial increase in robberies of this type in the late 1990s (with 58 reported offences in 2009). But, it is possible that there has been a movement towards robberies against shops and stores, in particular jewelry and watch shops. In 2008 the levels of robberies against bank and post offices suddenly raised and reached its highest level for many years. However, the number decreased in 2009 (with 77 robberies against bank and post offices, compared to 155 in 2008) and is now close to the average number during the last ten years.

About one percent of the population reports that they have been victimized by robberies every year. According to the latest Swedish crime survey, there is however a small decrease compared to 2008. According to previous surveys, certain groups are exposed to a higher extent, for instance urban youth, taxi drivers and personnel at convenience stores and jewelry shops.

Despite the steep rise in robberies in the early 1990s, police and public prosecutors have been able to maintain the clear-up levels over time. This shows that robberies continue to be of high priority to the police and the criminal justice system. Preventive measures on several levels are necessary. Situational and technical prevention is important. Social prevention is vital in a longer perspective, particularly where robberies among young people are concerned.

Contacts:

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