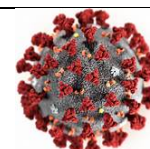


National COVID-19 Science Task Force (NCS-TF)



Type of document: Country comparison

In response to request from:

Date of request: 10/05/2020

Expert groups involved: International, Econ

Date of response: 13/05/2020

Contact person: Matthias Egger, Roman Stocker, Monika Bütler

Comment on planned updates : This is the first update

Sweden and Switzerland compared: containment measures and economic and epidemiologic indicators

Summary of request/problem

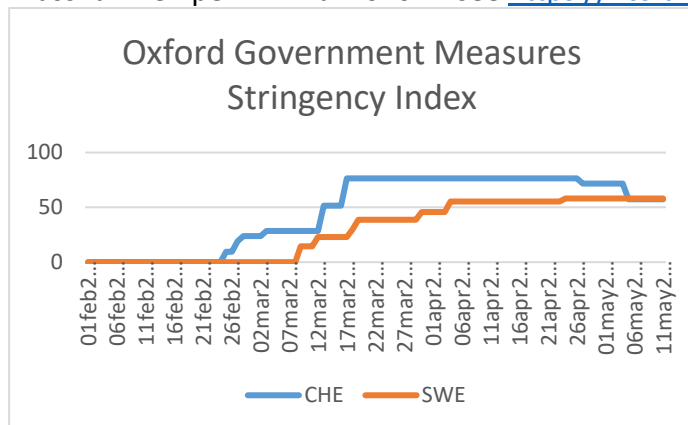
There is a lot of interest in the approach to Covid-19 taken by Sweden. Here we compare the measures taken to control the epidemic in the two countries post May 11, as well as relevant epidemiologic and economic indicators.

Executive summary:

The emphasis in Sweden was on voluntary measures, with a focus on (hand) hygiene, spatial distancing and staying at home in case of symptoms (“everyone is responsible for preventing infection”). The compulsory schools (1st to 9th grade), restaurants, bars and nightclubs and businesses stayed open throughout. Gatherings up to 50 people are allowed. Higher education has switched to online teaching.

The response of Sweden and Switzerland are similarly stringent as of mid-May according to the Oxford Government Stringency Index (see Figure below). The economic indicators show an increase in unemployment in both countries, and a similar projected decline in GDP for 2020. Testing was more widespread in Switzerland than in Sweden.

R_e is estimated to be around 1 in Sweden, and below 1 in Switzerland. The daily number of cases fluctuates around 500 in Sweden but has been declining steadily in Switzerland to below 50 cases. Sweden has recently overtaken Switzerland in the number of reported cases. The number of deaths in Sweden is about double the number in Switzerland, and about 3-times higher in age groups below 60 years. Mortality per million population is about 75% higher in Sweden than in Switzerland. The Swedish situation corresponds to a scenario of a constant, relatively high number of cases and deaths, similar to scenario 2 described in a recent policy brief (“Epidemiologische Szenarien nach Lockerung der Massnahmen per 11. Mai 2020” – see <https://ncs-tf.ch/de/policy-briefs>).



<https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/coronavirus-government-response-tracker>

Main text

Measures adopted in Sweden and Switzerland post May 11

Please note that in both countries distancing and hygiene measures are recommended in all settings. After June 8 (when pools, theatres, cinemas, upper secondary schools, zoos, botanical gardens, mountain transport services will open, and gathering of more than 5 people will be allowed), Switzerland's measures will be practically identical to Sweden's measures now.

Settings	Sweden	Switzerland post-May-11
Source	www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se	www.bag.admin.ch
Schools	Compulsory schools open (schools never closed)	Compulsory schools open
High schools	Online classes	Online classes
Universities	Online classes, research open	Online classes, research open
Cafes, bars, restaurant	Open, restriction on crowding*	Open, max 4 at table
Businesses	Open, work from home where possible	Open, work from home where possible
Gatherings	Up to 50	Up to 5
Night clubs	Open	Closed (open June 8?)
Museums	Open	Open
Classic contact tracing	Yes	Yes
Digital proximity tracing	Not yet	Not yet

* "Crowds of people in queues, at tables or along buffets or bars must be avoided. Visitors must be able to keep at a distance from each other. Restaurants should primarily aim to adapt their routines to minimise the risk of disease transmission. This means that it will no longer be possible to operate across a bar where many people gather closely together waiting to order or be served. If it can be arranged for guests to order and pick up their food at a bar or similar without any risk of crowding, that is permitted. All visitors should be seated when they eat or drink. It is difficult to specify what crowding means since all venues and operations are different. An arm's length could be used as a guidance for how far apart guests should stay.

Establishments that are included in the regulation must take the necessary precautions against crowding. One way of doing this could be to use numbered tickets and let guests wait their turn outside the venue. Tables can be spaced out. Markings on the floor can be used to help queuing guests avoid getting too close to each other." (Source: www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se).

Economic indicators

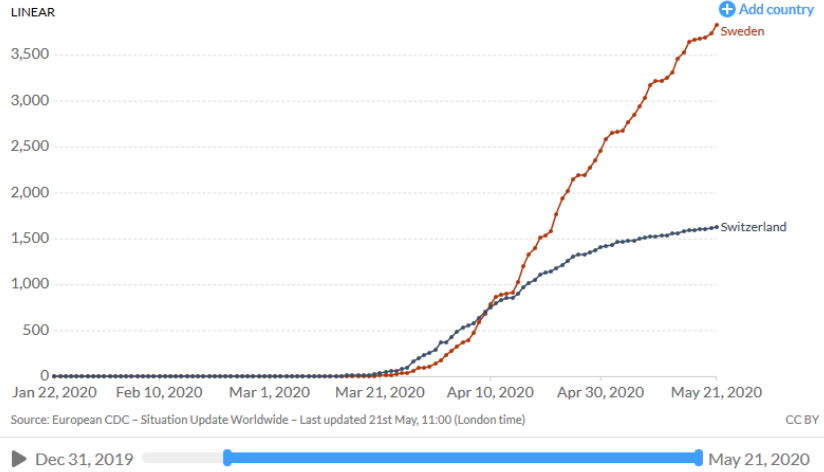
	Sweden	Switzerland
Unemployment Rate March 2020	7.2 % (Compared to March 2019: +0.5pp) Source	2.9 % (Compared to March 2019: + 0.5 pp) Source
Nominal GDP Projections	2020: -7.0% (2019=1.2) 2021: 4.8% Source (April, 2020)	2020: -6.7 % 2021: 5.2 % Source
Unemployment Rate Projections	2020: 10.2 % (2019 = 6.8) 2021: 11.0 % Source (April, 2020)	2020: 3.9 % (2019=2.3%) 2021: 4.1 % Source (April, 2020)
Projection Exports (Annual Percentage Change)	2020: -4.0 % 2021: 4.1 % Source	2020: -10.7 % 2021: 9.6 % Source
IMF World Outlook (Source, April 2020)		
IMF Real GDP Projection 2020 (Annual Percentage Change)	-6.8 (2019 = 1.2)	-6.0 (2019 = 0.9)
IMF Unemployment Projection Compared to 2019 (PP)	+ 3.3 pp	+0.4 pp
IMF Unemployment Rate Projection 2020	10.1 %	2.7 %
IMF Projection CA Balance (Percent to GDP) 2020	2.2 (2019 = 3.9)	7.2 (2019 = 12.2)

Epidemiologic indicators

	Sweden	Switzerland
Re (Source ETHZ)	0.96 (95% CI 0.92-1.02)	0.77 (95% CI 0.63-0.93)
	11.5.2020	10.5.2020
No. of cases, cumulative (Source Our world in data), 21.5.2020	31523	30575
	<p>Total confirmed COVID-19 cases The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.</p> <p>LINEAR</p> <p>30,000 25,000 20,000 15,000 10,000 5,000 0</p> <p>Jan 22, 2020 Feb 10, 2020 Mar 1, 2020 Mar 21, 2020 Apr 10, 2020 Apr 30, 2020 May 21, 2020</p> <p>Source: European CDC - Situation Update Worldwide - Last updated 21st May, 11:00 (London time) CC BY</p> <p>► Dec 31, 2019 May 21, 2020</p>	
No. of cases, daily (Source Our world in data, ECDC) 21.5.2020	<p>Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.</p> <p>LINEAR</p> <p>1,200 1,000 800 600 400 200 0</p> <p>Dec 31, 2019 Jan 21, 2020 Mar 1, 2020 Mar 21, 2020 Apr 30, 2020 May 21, 2020</p> <p>Source: European CDC - Situation Update Worldwide - Last updated 21st May, 11:00 (London time) CC BY</p> <p>► Dec 31, 2019 May 21, 2020</p>	
Mortality rate per 1 Mio (Source worldometer, ECDC) 21.5.2020	380	219
No. of deaths, cumulative (Source Our world in data, ECDC) 21.5.2020	3831	1629

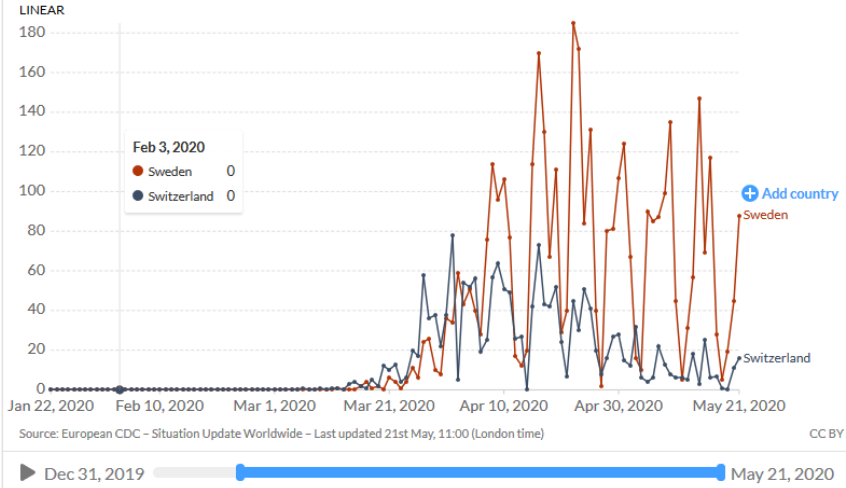
Total confirmed COVID-19 deaths

Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.



Daily confirmed COVID-19 deaths

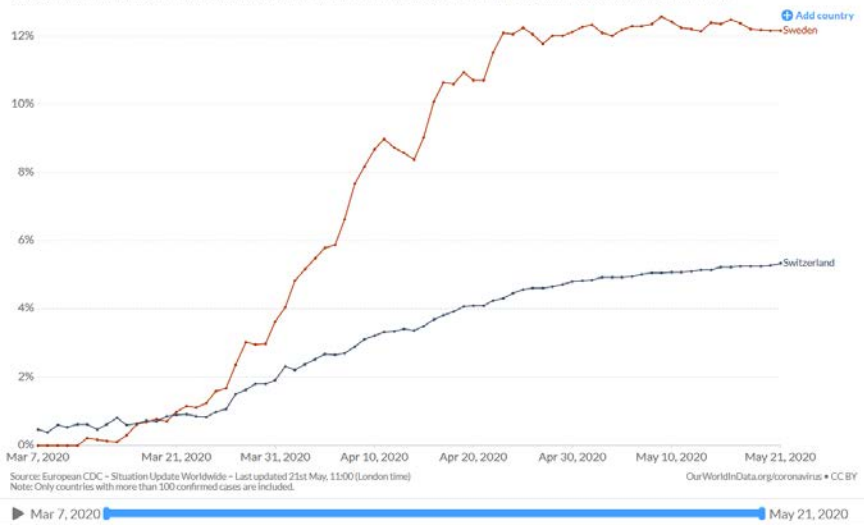
Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.



Case fatality rate
(Source Our world in data, ECDC)
21.5.2020

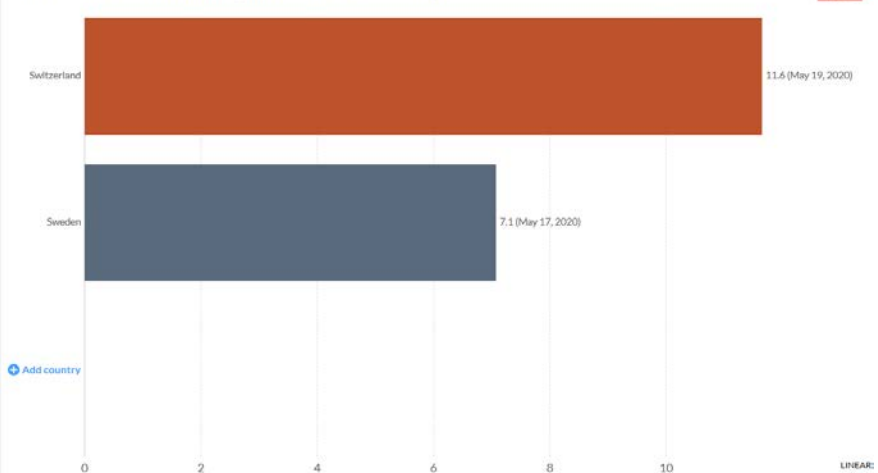
Case fatality rate of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is the ratio between confirmed deaths and confirmed cases. During an outbreak of a pandemic the CFR is a poor measure of the mortality risk of the disease. We explain this in detail at OurWorldInData.org/Coronavirus



No of tests per confirmed case
 (Source: Our world in data, ECDC)
 19/17.5.2020

Number of COVID-19 tests per confirmed case, May 19, 2020

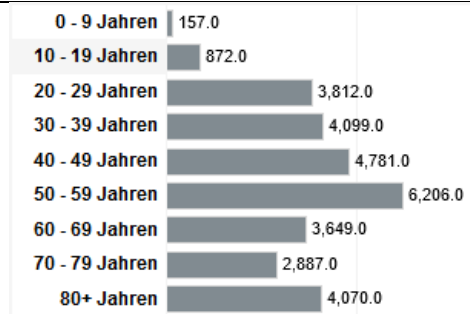
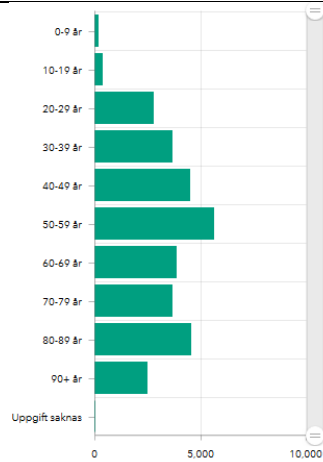


Tests per 1 Mio population
 (Source: worldometer)

20798

41826

Age distribution of cases
 (Sources: [Folkhälsomyndigheten](#), [BAG](#))
 21.5.2020



Age distribution of deaths
 (Sources: [Folkhälsomyndigheten](#), [BAG](#))
 21.5.2020

