SwedPop Documentation

Parish Register and Country Register Documentation

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SwedPop Parish Register

The SwedPop Parish Register ("SwedPop Parish Register v 2.0") is used for geographical references to parishes in the SwedPop database. The register is maintained by the Swedish National Archives. The "Topographical Register at the Swedish National Archives" (TORA) contains basic information about 3914 parishes from the oldest times to the present. The register includes parishes that occur in various archives and are linked to the Swedish National Archives Database.

Each parish has a unique nine-digit code based on Statistics Sweden's codes for administrative units, which has been expanded to handle historical parishes. The place names are indicated with official spelling, but older names and name changes are also registered. Parishes that are not territorial units but have church registers, and towns with former city privileges, are also included.

Parishes formed through mergers and divisions usually constitute separate records. However, name changes alone do not mean that new records are created. Nor are spatial changes, such as demarcations or incorporations of areas within parishes, the basis for the creation of new records.

Official and known years for the formation and/or dissolution of the parishes are stated. The parish register is linked to historical county codes and, where applicable, to georeferenced parishes and towns provided by the National Land Survey (Lantmäteriet).

Explanation of columns in the SwedPop parish register:

Source	URL referencing the Swedish National Archives Database
identifier	Nine-digit parish code used by the Swedish National Archives
prefLabel	Preferred name for parish (or city)
altLabel	Short form of parish or city name
altLabel2	Long form of parish or city name
type	Type of record 1 – Country 4 – Parish (Church or civil (cadastral) parish) 5 – Municipality (Rural and urban municipalities and towns)
startDate	Start date for parish (blank = Unknown start date)
endDate	End date for parish (blank = Unknown end date)
alternativename	Alternative names for a parish
countycodehistorical	Historical county code (corresponding to the year 1950)
parishcode	Parish code used by the Swedish National Heritage Board and Lantmäteriet
province	Swedish historical province used by Lantmäteriet ("Landskap" in Swedish)
wiki_url1	URL referencing a Wikipedia-article (for the secular parish)
wiki_url2	URL referencing a Wikipedia-article (for the church parish)
creator	Project responsible for updating the parish record
created	Date when the parish record was updated

List of Historical Swedish Counties

The variable "countycodehistorical" in the SwedPop Parish Register is a historical county code referencing the counties existing in the year 1950. The reason for choosing the year 1950, instead of the current situation in 2025, is to make the county variable more useful for historical research since most of the data in the SwedPop database concerns the 19th century and early 20th century. It makes it possible to distinguish between the City of Stockholm and Stockholm County (the area surrounding the city). In the year 1968 the city of Stockholm was incorporated into Stockholm County but before that year there was always a distinction being made between the city and the surrounding countryside.

List of historical county codes used in the SwedPop Parish Register:

Historical County Code	County Name	Comment
010000000	Stockholms län	After 1968-01-01
010000001	Stockholms stad	Before 1968-01-01
020000000	Stockholms län	Before 1968-01-01
030000000	Uppsala län	
040000000	Södermanlands län	
050000000	Östergötlands län	
060000000	Jönköpings län	
070000000	Kronobergs län	
080000000	Kalmar län	
090000000	Gotlands län	
100000000	Blekinge län	
110000000	Kristianstads län	After 1997-01-01 Skåne län
120000001	Malmöhus län	After 1997-01-01 Skåne län
130000000	Hallands län	
140000001	Göteborgs och Bohus län	After 1998-01-01 Västra Götalands län
150000000	Älvsborgs län	After 1998-01-01 Västra Götalands län
160000000	Skaraborgs län	After 1998-01-01 Västra Götalands län
170000000	Värmlands län	
180000000	Örebro län	
190000000	Västmanlands län	
200000000	Kopparbergs län	After 1997-01-01 Dalarnas län
210000000	Gävleborgs län	
220000000	Västernorrlands län	
230000000	Jämtlands län	
240000000	Västerbottens län	
250000000	Norrbottens län	

SwedPop Country Register

The SwedPop Country Register ("SwedPop Country Codes v 1.0") is used for geographical references to countries in the SwedPop database. The register is maintained by the Swedish National Archives. The SwedPop Country Register is derived from, and compatible with, the country register used by IPUMS at University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, USA. The last five digits in the nine-digit SwedPop country code corresponds to the five digit country code used by IPUMS. The explanation below is extracted from the IPUMS website.

The first digit of the five-digit IPUMS country code corresponds to continents and the second to subcontinental regions. The first digit is fully comparable; the second is largely so. The third and fourth digits are to be read together and identify countries alphabetically by English name within subcontinents. The final digit, which is used sparingly, preserves detail for specific countries. Typically, earlier samples for a given country have less detail than later ones.

Some countries get individual codes and others are grouped under the "not specified" ("n.s.") categories coded at the end of the numbering system for their region (codes ending in "999"). The "not specified" categories within each continent or subcontinent are relative to the country's availability in each census, which can differ greatly.

With minor exceptions, the country code follows the geographical groupings designed by the United Nations. Some places that get their own distinct country code in the UN system are (infrequently) coded together in IPUMS-International to increase compatibility across samples (e.g., Korea rather than North Korea and South Korea). The final digit of the country code retains the full geographic information to distinguish between these combined categories within countries.

In addition to the differing availability of country codes, users should be aware of historical changes in the boundaries of countries and the creation of new countries over time. Essentially, users must ask themselves where a person who responded with a given country of birth would have been coded in a census, given the available categories specified in that sample.

Explanation of columns in the SwedPop Country Register:

identifier	Nine digit country code used by the Swedish National Archives
prefLabel	Preferred name for country (English name)
altLabel	Swedish name for country
altLabel2	Alternative country codes (internet country-code:ISO-code/Alpha_2/Alpha_3)