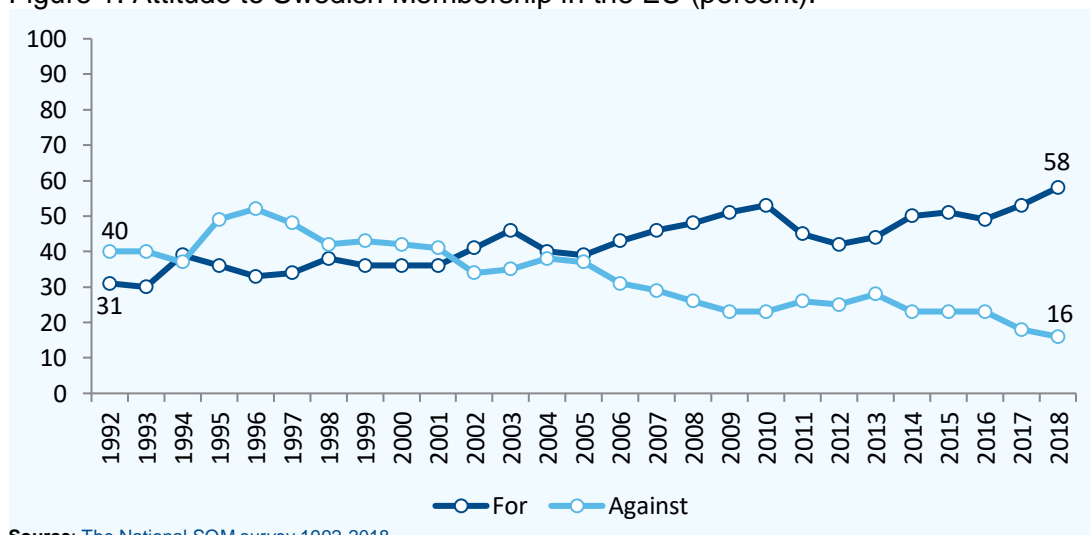


Record high support for the EU in Sweden

The attitude that Swedes have toward membership in the EU has changed over time. In the early 1990s, the majority was against membership. In 1994, public opinion, as well as the outcome of the referendum, was evenly divided between those who were against and those who were for. During the years 1995-1996, when Sweden had just joined the EU, the resistance to membership was at its height. At that time, around half responded that they were essentially opposed to membership, compared to about 30 percent who were in favour. On the other hand, from the beginning of the 21st century, the proportion of Swedes who support EU membership has increased, in addition to some short-term downturns, for example between 2011-2013, when the effects of the economic/euro crisis became more apparent. In the most recent survey from 2018, the amount of Swedes in support of EU membership is record-breaking. There are several reasons why the attitude towards the EU has become more positive, including, among other things, an increase in knowledge about the EU and that more people perceive being in the EU as advantageous. The increase in support since 2016 can be explained by the unclear outcomes of. However, it is worth mentioning that attitudes toward the EU differ greatly among different groups (Berg & Bové 2016). Stay tuned for future fact sheets to find out the different groups' attitudes!

Figure 1: Attitude to Swedish Membership in the EU (percent).



Source: [The National SOM survey 1992-2018](#)

Comments: The question posed is: 'What is your opinion of the Swedish membership of the EU?' The response alternatives are: 'Generally for Swedish membership of the EU; generally opposed Swedish membership of the EU; have no specific opinion (not shown in the figure).' The percentages are based on those who have answered the survey question.

Referenser

Berg, Linda & Bové, Klara (2016) "Identifikation med Europa och inställning till EU", in Ohlsson, J., Ekengren Oscarsson, H. och Maria Solevid (ed) Ekvilibrium. University of Gothenburg: SOM-institute.