



Department of Clinical Neuroscience
Division of Insurance Medicine

Sickness absence and disability pension among privately employed white-collar workers

Background

Most studies about sickness absence or disability pension have either been general studies of the entire labour market, or focused on those occupational groups or branches of industry with high sickness absence rates. This means that the scientific knowledge about sickness absence among privately employed white-collar workers is very limited. In order to take effective actions, basic knowledge about sickness absence patterns among different groups of white-collar workers is needed.

We conduct both prospective and cross-sectional cohort studies on all those who were privately employed white-collar workers in 2012 (N=1 283 516), 2018 (N=1 421 813), respectively. Moreover, we conduct further in-depth analyses of a subgroup of those, that is white-collar workers in the trade and retail industry 2012 (N=192 077), generally and with a special focus on the trade and retail industry. The project is based on Swedish register data.

The overall aim of the project is to

- Generate knowledge about sickness absence and disability pension among privately employed white-collar workers.

Regular meetings with representatives from Alecta, PTK, Unionen, the Swedish Trade Federation and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise facilitates collaboration with users of the research outside academia.

Project participants

Kristin Farrants, Ph.D., ass. prof., *PI*
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Financing

Alecta and The Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council

Publications (listed after type of publication)**Published in international scientific journals**

1. Farrants K, Alexanderson K. *Sickness Absence and Disability Pension in the Trade and Retail Industry A Prospective Cohort Study of 192,000 White-Collar Workers in Sweden*. Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine 2022; 64(11): 912-919. DOI: 10.1097/JOM.0000000000002634.
2. Farrants K, Alexanderson K. *Trajectories of sickness absence and disability pension days among 189,321 white-collar workers in the trade and retail industry; a 7-year longitudinal Swedish cohort study*. BMC Public Health 2022;22(1): 1592. DOI: 10.1186/s12889-022-14005-y.
3. Salonen L, Alexanderson K, Farrants K. *Sequence analysis of sickness absence and disability pension days in 2012-2018 among privately employed white-collar workers in Sweden: a prospective cohort study*. BMJ Open 2023; 13(12):e078066. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-078066
4. Farrants K, Alexanderson K. 2020. *Sickness absence among privately employed white-collar workers: a total population study in Sweden*. Scandinavian Journal of Public Health. 49(2):159-167. Doi: 10.1177/1403494820934275.

Publications in Swedish

(ki.se/cns/forsakringsmedicin under ”publikationer > rapporter”)

1. Farrants K, Müller M, Alexanderson K. 2024. Sjukfrånvaro bland privatanställda tjänstemän under covid-19-pandemin. Stockholm, Karolinska Institutet. ISBN: 978-91-8017-294-3.
2. Farrants K, Müller M, Alexanderson K. 2024. Sammanfattning av rapport Sjukfrånvaro bland privatanställda tjänstemän under covid-19-pandemin. Stockholm, Karolinska Institutet. ISBN: 978-91-8017-295-0.
3. Farrants K, Alexanderson K. 2022. Sjukfrånvaro bland tjänstemän i handeln – en femårsuppföljning. Stockholm, Handelsrådet. Forskningsrapport 2022:1. ISBN: 978-91-86508-78-4.
4. Farrants K, Alexanderson K. 2022. Sjukfrånvaro bland privatanställda tjänstemän 2012-2018. Stockholm, Karolinska Institutet. ISBN 978-91-8016-494-8 (p. 1-73)
5. Farrants K, Alexanderson K. 2022. Sammanfattning av rapport Sjukfrånvaro bland privatanställda tjänstemän 2012-2018. ISBN 978-91-8016-495-5. (p. 1-10)
6. Farrants K, Sondén A, Nilsson K, Alexanderson K. 2018. Sjukfrånvaro bland privatanställda tjänstemän. Stockholm, Karolinska Institutet. ISBN 978-91-7676-051-2. (p. 1-100)
7. Farrants K, Sondén A, Nilsson K, Alexanderson K. 2018. Sammanfattning 2017 av rapport om Sjukfrånvaro bland privatanställda tjänstemän. Avdelningen för försäkringsmedicin, Karolinska Institutet. ISBN 978-91-7676-051-2. (p. 1-10)

Abstracts accepted for presentation at scientific conferences

1. K Farrants, K Alexanderson. ‘Sickness absence after workplace injuries and post-traumatic stress among white collar workers in the retail and wholesale industry.’ European Public Health Conference 12-15 Nov 2023, Dublin, Ireland. (European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33 Issue Suppl_2: October 2023, ckad160.1310, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.1310>)

2. K Farrants, K Alexanderson. 'Sickness absence after work injuries and post-traumatic stress among white-collar workers in the retail and wholesale industry.' EUMASS Congress, 28-30 September 2023, Strasbourg, France.
3. K Farrants, K Alexanderson. Sequence analysis of sickness absence and disability pension states among privately employed white-collar workers.' EUMASS Congress, 28-30 September 2023, Strasbourg, France.
4. K Farrants, A Sondén, K Alexanderson. 'Sickness absence among privately employed white-collar workers: a total population study.' European Public Health Conference 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia. (European Journal of Public Health, Volume 28, Issue suppl_4, November 2018, cky213.742, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/cky213.742>)