



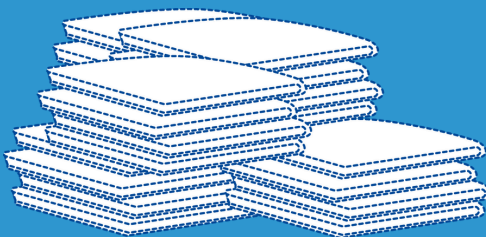
**SVERIGES
TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND**
TEXTILSERVICEFÖRETAGEN

FIFTH SVERIGES TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT ON UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

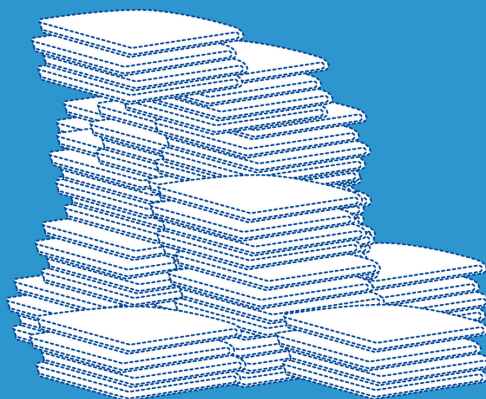
MARCH, 2025



800 TONS
/ DAY



15 000 TONS
/ MONTH



180 000 TONS
/ YEAR



THE EMPLOYEES



THE SWEDISH TEXTILE
SERVICE ASSOCIATION



5 500
PROFESSIONALS



4 497
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

53% WOMEN



47% MEN

56% OF THE WORKFORCE IS BORN
OUTSIDE SWEDEN

THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
REVENUE COMPARED TO THE
WHOLE INDUSTRY

89%

THE



BRAND

VERIFIES THAT OUR MEMBERS, AFTER PASSING THE
AUTHORIZATION PROCESS, MEET ALL OUR REQUIREMENTS
FOR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, GOOD ETHICAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES.

COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT 2025

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The Swedish Textile Service Association – An important part of a sustainable and circular textile industry in Sweden

The Swedish Textile Service Association (Sveriges Tvätteriförbund) is the leading industry association for textile service providers in Sweden, representing around 135 companies within the Swedish textile service industry and almost 90% of the Swedish market. Every single day of the year, the Swedish textile service industry provides services which are fundamental to the society. Consisting of around 5 500 employees in 300 companies with a summarized turnover reaching 6 billion in 2023, the industry also delivers a substantial contribution to the society through employment and payment of taxes.

The launch of the EU strategy for a sustainable and circular textile industry in 2022 has made it clear that there is no longer room for wear and tear in the textile industry. The ambitious goals set out by the strategy are welcomed by the Swedish textile industry, as our business model is inherently circular. Moving toward a rental rather than an ownership model of textiles, allows for textile products to have an extended lifespan. Repair services operated by professionals allows products to remain in the textile value chain for a longer period of time. However, we see great need for advocacy in coming years in order to make our contribution to the EU-strategy even more evident and reducing the risk of creating policies that could have a negative impact on circular achievements already made by the Swedish textile service industry.

We develop

The Swedish Textile Service Association is constantly developing the support to our member organizations. In 2023-2024, the association has engaged in an EU-project with focus on developing the member authorization process in the Sweden and Denmark. The project has resulted in recommendations on development of the authorization processes to further reflect the ambitions of the EU-strategy on a sustainable and circular textile industry. In the project,

educational materials for textile service industry employees was also developed to increase their knowledge of different sustainability topics, such as climate change, non-discrimination and energy efficiency, and the link between these topics and the daily work in their laundry facility.

The two-year project was coordinated by the Swedish Textile Service Association in close collaboration with its Danish counterpart BVT, and financed by the Erasmus+ program. Results are presented in three different languages at [Start - The new Scandinavian Quality Control model](#).

We engage

The Swedish Textile Service Association participates in dialogues with several Swedish authorities with focus on issues such as reduced spreading of micro-plastics to the environment, increased reuse and recycling of textiles and decreased content of hazardous chemicals, such as PFAS, in textiles. The organization is also engaging in dialogue on these topics on an EU-level, through the European umbrella-organization ETSA.

The textile service industry offers jobs for people with disabilities, lesser education or need to practice a new language. In 2023, 56% of the employees in the Swedish textile service industry were born outside of Sweden and 85% of employees has a secondary school education or less. Thus, the industry takes a large responsibility in providing jobs for many individuals who risk having difficulties to establish themselves on the Swedish labour market.

We embrace transparency and competition on equal opportunities. Thus, transparent economic reporting as well as providing good working environments for employees, are important parts of our member authorization process.

Our ethical guidelines take a clear stand against any kind of discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or expression, disabilities or age. Our authorization procedure assures that this is also the policy amongst our member organizations and their suppliers, with an increased focus on the supply chain.

The *Swedish Textile Service Association Sustainability Prize* is each year rewarded an individual that has presented outstanding efforts for enhanced sustainability within the industry. The association also support two Swedish football clubs in their work with youth and for integration.

We welcome the Global Compact commitments

We are happy and proud to reaffirm the Swedish Textile Service Association's commitment to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. We welcome new members who live up to these standards and work on a commercial basis.

This Communication on Engagement (COE) is an opportunity for us to share how we and our members address the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability and corporate responsibility. In this COE, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact into our strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders through our channels of communication.

Sincerely,

Michael Sandin

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE SWEDISH TEXTILE SERVICE ASSOCIATION (SVERIGES
TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND)

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Swedish Textile Service Association (Sveriges Tvätteriförbund) represents textile service companies, dry cleaners and supplier firms. The Swedish Textile Service Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1940 to represent and promote the interests of the Swedish textile service Industry. The Swedish Textile Service Association is an active member of the European Textile Services Association (ETSA).

Textile services offer supply, rental and maintenance of textiles, including but not limited to:

- Workwear and protective clothing for industry and services
- Hotel and restaurant linen
- Surgical and hospital textiles
- Dust mats and mops

The Swedish Textile Service Association continuously rises the standards within the textile service industry, by ensuring that members respect laws and regulations in areas such as taxes, environmental protection, working environment and anti-discrimination. Through this work, the Swedish Textile Service Association promotes not only fair competition within the industry, but also an increased level of sustainability in the industry as a whole.

The Swedish Textile Service Association has developed a framework of ethical guidelines, based on four key-words: *Competence*, *Quality*, *Environment* and *Social engagement*. These are guiding for all member associations and their suppliers.

The Swedish Textile Service Association is a member of the UNGC since 2016. Through this fourth communication on engagement (COE), we are proud to re-confirm that we remain firmly committed to the 10 principles of Global Compact.

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement (COE)

From: March 10, 2023

To: March 1, 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS

Our commitment

The Swedish Textile Service Association is committed to the principles of human rights embodied by UN Global Compact.

Our Ethical rules and Code of Conduct take a strong stand against any kind of discrimination, whether based on gender, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

We strongly believe that education is fundamental for all individuals and engage in activities to support youth through fundamental school, making it possible for them to go further into secondary school, which is an increasingly common requirement for any employment in Sweden. We also engage in projects to develop dedicated educational material to ensure life-long learning amongst employees in our member organizations.

Implementation

It is mandatory for all members of the Swedish Textile Service Association to sign up on the Ethical Guidelines of the association. This is reinsured every year as a part of the yearly member authorization procedure. Members are also yearly reinsuring the use of the Code of Conduct developed by the Swedish Textile Service Association when subcontracting non-member organizations.

The Swedish Textile Service Association has since 2015 engaged as sponsor and partner to MFF (one of Sweden's largest football organizations) and their football-academy, using football – and in later years also other sports, to motivate youth to stay and participate in school.

Measurement of outcomes

According to results from our authorization processes, an increasing number of our members have structured procedures to ensure that the same ethical guidelines that apply to our member companies also are complied with by their suppliers. This means that our strong stand against any kind of discrimination is echoed also amongst a large number of suppliers to our member organizations.

The football-academy has expanded to 18 schools in southern Sweden and is open for both girls and boys. Using sports as motivation for these youth has been very

successful, and these public-school football-academy classes present top level results when compared to other public schools.

LABOUR

Our Commitment

Based on statistics from member organizations, payroll accounts for around 50 % of the laundry and textile services industry's costs. Thus, the industry is labour intensive and important from an employment perspective. In several Swedish municipalities, members of the Swedish Textile Service Association are amongst the most important local employers.

In addition, many of the jobs created in our industry are ideally suited for entry-level positions. This provides great opportunities for those who, for whatever reason, find themselves far from the labour market. We consider diversity to be a strength and our industry employs the young, those with shorter educations, and newly arrived.

Implementation

The Swedish Textile Service Association is engaged in issues related to labour from several different aspects:

- Increasing the number of employees within the industry as a whole.
- Ensuring sound working conditions for all employees in the Swedish textile service industry.
- Creating possibilities for individuals with difficulties to enter the labour market.
- Eliminating undeclared employments.
- Promoting initiatives that assure sound working conditions up-streams, in the production of textiles.
- Promoting continuous learning and development of skills amongst employees within in the industry.
- Assuring a welcoming environment for all employees, independent of who they are (see non-discrimination above).

Some examples of how the Swedish Textile Service Associations work in relation to these:

It is mandatory for all members of the Swedish Textile Service Association to report any work-related illness or accidents to the Swedish Work Environment Authority. If controls by the same authority have resulted in any demerits, measures must have been taken to make needed adjustments prior to authorization.

Many of our member organizations have a close collaboration with the Swedish Public Employment Service, with the mission to decrease unemployment. Several member organizations provide trainee-programs – in some cases mixed with lessons in Swedish.

The association participates in a group in collaboration with the Swedish Tax Agency, with the aim of reducing undeclared employments and other forms of economic crimes.

Through collaboration with several other national business organizations and the European Textile Services Association (ETSA), members of the Swedish Textile Service Association to get access to the e-learning platform *E-Washboard – Improving E-learning in the textile care sector*. The program is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The aim of the programme is that employees can develop their knowledge within different aspects of the textile service industry in their own phase in a modularly constructed e-learning environment.

In a recently finalized two-year EU-financed project, educational materials for textile service industry employees was also developed to increase their knowledge of different sustainability topics, such as climate change, non-discrimination and energy efficiency, and the link between these topics and the daily work in their laundry facility. Results are presented in three different languages at [Start - The new Scandinavian Quality Control model](#).

Measurement of outcomes

The number of cases of work-related illness and accidents, as reported to the Swedish Work Environment Authority, is followed up and reported yearly in the Swedish Textile Service Association´s sustainability report.

In 2023, 56% of the employees in the Swedish textile service industry were born outside of Sweden and 85% of employees has a secondary school education or less. Thus, the industry takes a large responsibility in providing jobs for many individuals who risk having difficulties to establish themselves on the Swedish labour market.

ENVIRONMENT

Our Commitment

The Swedish Textile Service Association strives for a constant reduction of negative environmental impacts from the professional textile service industry. The safety measures ensured by annual member authorization procedure should vastly decrease the risk of emissions of hazardous chemicals to the environment.

Environmental engagement amongst member organizations should be credited and good examples spread in order to inspire others.

The association should participate actively in shaping of new legislation with great impact on the possibilities for the industry to improve their environmental performance and in activities where new possibilities for an ever-greener professional textile service are investigated and developed.

The association should contribute to environmentally sound decisions amongst stakeholders, by supporting development of information presenting the environmental impacts from the sector.

The association should engage in dialogue with authorities on relevant environmental themes and provide information when possible.

The association should participate in development projects that can push the industry towards increased environmental sustainability and circularity.

Implementation

The yearly member authorization procedure aims at ensuring the compliance of environmental laws, regulations and recommendations. Irregularities are followed up upon, and continuous non-compliance result in exclusion from the Swedish

Textile Service Association. This process also includes the follow-up of subcontractors, using a Code of Conduct, developed by the Swedish Textile Service Association. The authorization procedure is constantly developed in order to reflect new laws and regulations.

Data collected in the authorization procedure and other statistics collected by Swedish authorities is annually presented and analysed in the Swedish Textile Service Association Sustainability report. The report is publicly available through the organization's webpage ([Knowledge - Swedish Textile Service Association](#)).

The Swedish Textile Service Association has during the reporting period developed recommendations for member organizations to adapt to new EU and Swedish regulation on sorting and recovering of textile waste.

The Swedish Textile Service Association plays an important role in spreading good examples of environmental efforts amongst member organizations, through newsletters, yearly chronical and sustainability report as well as member meetings (twice every year).

Measurement of outcomes

Progress in this area is accompanied through results in the yearly authorization procedure for members. Based on results from the reporting period, the following can be ascertained:

- According to results from the latest authorization process amongst member organizations, members of the Swedish Textile Service Association have already engaged strongly in circular flows of textile materials. Just over 1,650 tons of textiles are sorted annually at Swedish member companies' facilities. Of these, almost 1,150 tons of textiles are already being used in circular processes through reuse or recycling. The flows that do not go to reuse or material recycling are often those where there are currently no techniques for separation of mixed materials or for removing impregnating agents needed in protective clothing, and entrance mats, which in terms of weight consist mostly of rubber. Several member companies also engage in research and development projects to develop new technologies for fiber-to-fiber recycling and reuse of textiles.
- Member organizations have good knowledge of how to correctly manage chemicals and waste in their premises, thus reducing risks for environmental damage.

- More and more member organizations have a close collaboration with textile recyclers, charity organizations or up-cycling designer for reuse and recycling of their textile waste.
- More and more member organizations invest in renewable energy production through solar panels on their premises or use of renewable fuels in laundry processes and transports.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Our Commitment

The Swedish Textile Service Association strongly believes that the professional textile service industry will be best served by market conditions characterised by healthy competition and takes a clear stand against any form of corruption.

The ethical guidelines of the Swedish Textile Service Association requires that members pay taxes and fees, have finances in order, and that accounting are done according to generally accepted principles. Each member organization must ensure that they are aware of the principles in the ethical guidelines, and this is controlled yearly through the yearly authorization procedure for members.

Implementation

All new member organizations must present approved tax declarations and annuals prior to authorization as member of the Swedish Textile Service Association. Approved tax declarations and annuals are also a requirement in order to maintain authorization.

The annual member authorization procedure also ensures that all member organizations fulfil required level of personnel ledger, and any remarks from the Swedish Tax Agency on the personnel ledger must be corrected prior to membership and re-authorization.

Another requirement checked in the member authorization procedure is that private consumers always are given a machine-stamped receipt stating the corporate identity number and VAT.

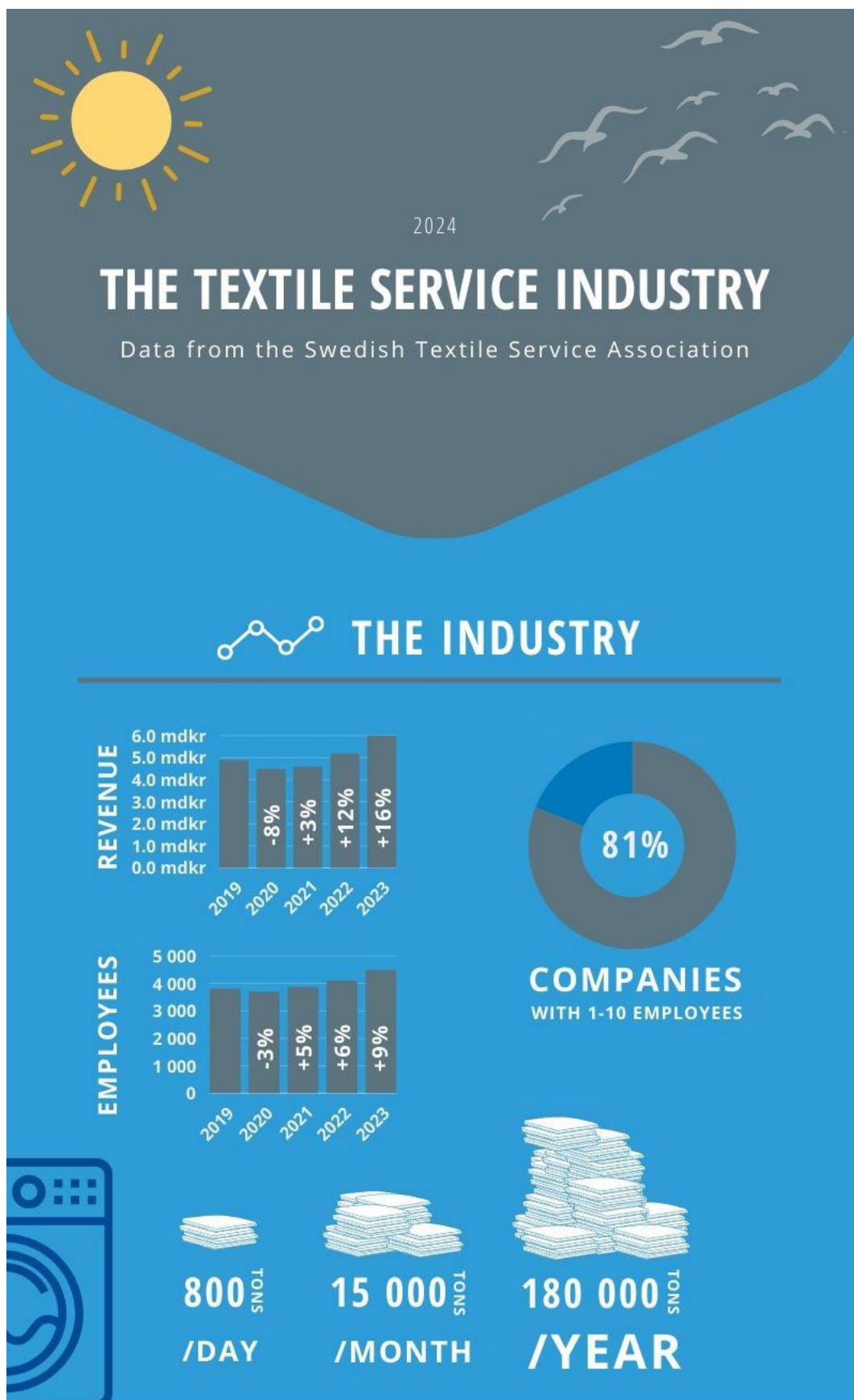
The Swedish Textile Service Association participates in a group organized by the Swedish Tax Agency, with the aim of reducing undeclared employments and other forms of economic crimes.

Measurement of outcomes

The level of corruption is in general low in Sweden. The Swedish Institution against bribery (Institutet Mot Mutor, IMM) investigates and disposes all known cases of bribery in Sweden yearly. IMM has not reported any cases of bribes with connections to the textile service industry in any of their yearly reports during the reporting period ([Rättsfallsbank - Institutet Mot Mutor - IMM : Institutet Mot Mutor – IMM](#)).

Also the Swedish police force delivers yearly reports on corruption in Sweden. According to the national anticorruption-group within the police force, no cases of corruption with connections to the laundry service were detected in Sweden during the reporting period ([Årsrapport för Nationella Anti-korruptionsgruppen](#)).

INFOGRAPHICS





THE EMPLOYEES



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PROFESSIONALS



4 497
FULL-TIME
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53% WOMEN



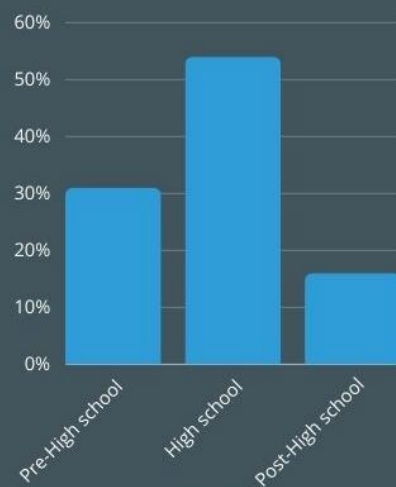
47% MEN



OF THE WORKFORCE IS BORN
OUTSIDE SWEDEN

More jobs for the
young, newly arrived
and those with
shorter education.

LEVELS OF EDUCATION





THE SWEDISH TEXTILE SERVICE ASSOCIATION

137 
MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

FOUNDED
1940

THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
REVENUE COMPARED TO THE
WHOLE INDUSTRY.

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VERIFIES THAT OUR MEMBERS, AFTER PASSING THE
AUTHORIZATION PROCESS, MEET ALL OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR
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DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT US AT
INFO@TVATTERIFORBUNDET.SE OR READ MORE AT OUR WEBSITE.

WWW.TVATTERIFORBUNDET.SE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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