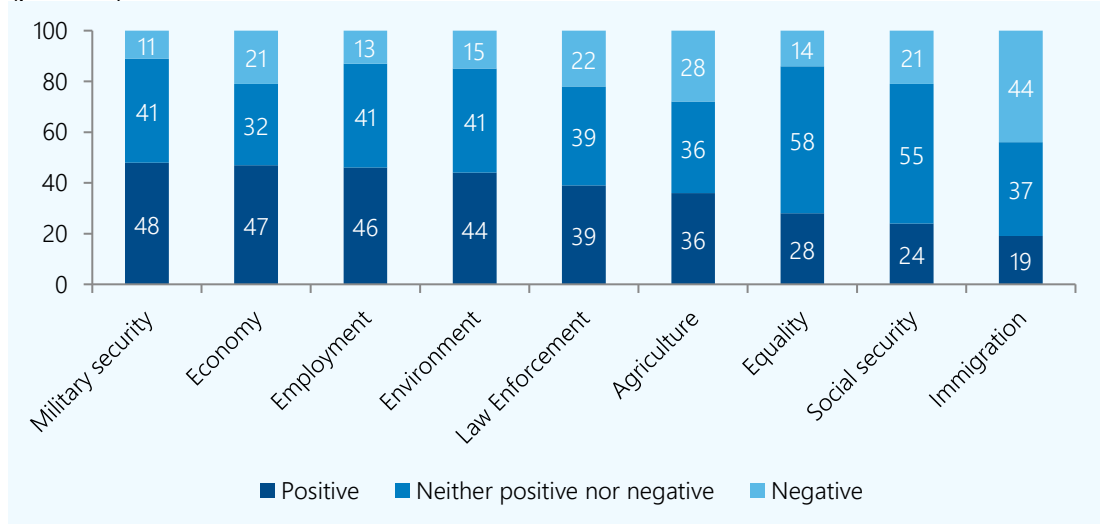


Swedes' views on how the EU affects different policy areas

Over the years, the EU has gained an increasing influence over a number of different policy areas that affect Sweden. As illustrated by Fact Sheet 9, the Swedes have never been as positive towards the EU as they are now. However, their views of how the EU affects Sweden differ greatly based on the various policy areas. Over the years, areas like research and company conditions have generally been seen positively. On the other hand, when it comes to national independence, immigration and social security, a high proportion of Swedes have said that the EU's influence has negatively impacted Sweden. One issue that the Swedes have changed their perception of over time is the environment. During the first years that Sweden was a member of the EU, this policy area was viewed negatively, but since the early 2000s, more positive attitudes have prevailed (Berg & Bové 2016). As the figure below shows, almost half of the Swedish respondents believe that the EU has had a positive impact on Sweden when it comes to military security and the economy. Nonetheless, we can see that many Swedes believe that the EU has a negative impact on Sweden when it comes to immigration and social security.

Figure 1. Assessments of how the EU affects Sweden in the following policy areas (percent).



Source: SOM Institute, [Den nationella SOM-undersökningen 2018](#)

Comment: The figure shows how respondents answered the question "How do you think membership in the EU affects Sweden in the following areas?": "Environment", "Economy", "Employment", "Agriculture", "Law Enforcement", "Military Security", "Gender equality between men and women", "Social security" and "Immigration" with the answer alternatives "Very positive" and "Fairly positive" (coded as "Positive"), "Neither positive nor negative", "Fairly negative" and "Very negative" (Coded as "Negative"). The answer option "No opinion" has been coded as "Missing". The percentage base consists of those who have answered the question.

References

Berg, Linda & Bové, Klara (2016) *Svenskarnas attityder till EU har stabiliserats. Analys av SOM-institutets undersökning 2015*. Stockholm: SIEPS - Svenska institutet för Europapolitiska studier.