

Insights



A common platform for cooperation
between employers' associations and
trade unions in the field of trade



The **Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council** (Handelsrådet) is a common platform for cooperation between employers' associations and trade unions in the field of trade (retail, wholesale, digital marketplaces).

The parties behind the Council include two employer organisations – the Swedish Trade Federation (Svensk Handel) and the Co-operative Employers' Association (KFO) – together with the national trade unions the Union of commercial employees (Handelsanställdas förbund), Unionen and The Swedish University Graduate Unions (Akademikerförbunden).



Five working committees work together with the Council's office on issues on which the parties have a common perspective, namely research and development, occupational health and safety, professional skills and expertise, retraining and job transition, and international issues.

The Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council is also linked to the Economic Council for Retail and Wholesale, an independent body composed of leading economists who present a report once a year.

The Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council is working to encourage and enable more people to establish themselves and develop within the fields of retail and wholesale.



The objective is to increase the status of the trade and commerce professions, to facilitate opportunities for skills development, and to secure the supply of skills and expertise needed for commercial trade. Further developing and ensuring the quality of trade-directed educational and training activities for those already employed in trade activities is also part of the Council's mission.

The Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council has on-going cooperative activities with several of the leading Swedish universities and is Sweden's largest private funder of research in the field of trade and commerce.

For the purpose of promoting research in Nordic trade, the Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council, together with the Hakon Swenson Foundation and a selected university, arranges the biannual Nordic Retail and Wholesale Conference.

To further its mission to contribute to a safe and healthy working environment in trade, the Swedish Retail



and Wholesale Council contributes with quality assured web-based training and information about current laws and regulations, all provided free of charge, and by initiating research and development projects within the field.

An essential part of the Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council's mission is to disseminate knowledge. The working relationship and joint activities between

the parties are meant to contribute to increased insights and knowledge of the importance of trade among public policy makers, opinion leaders, and the general public. The mission of the Council also includes increasing the transfer of knowledge between the academic community and the business community.

The informational efforts are carried out via various channels, including reports, seminars taking place around the country, workshops, websites, social media, and videos.



The aim of the Council is to develop the circumstances and preconditions for trading enterprises and to contribute to establishing favourable conditions for the employees of companies that are engaged in trade.



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