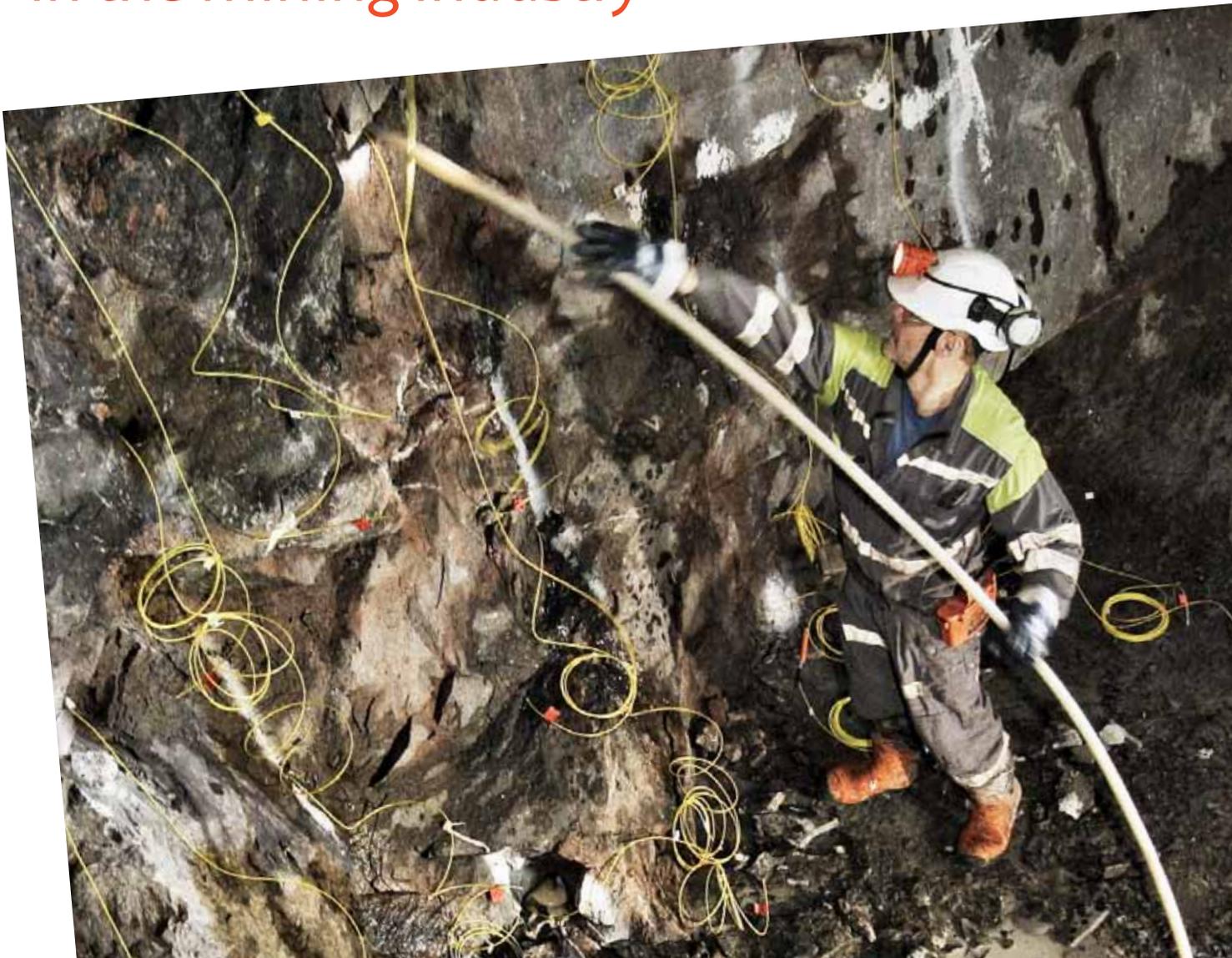


For you who would like to work in the mining industry





More Swedish mines – and more jobs

The Swedish mining industry is employing more and more people. Not since the beginning of the 1990s have mines employed so many people as today. And the production of ore hit last year a new high, for the third year in a row.

Source: The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU).

Sweden has extracted ore and produced metal for more than a thousand years. High-quality ore with a high iron content is found here, as well as rare and sought-after minerals. Sweden is today one of the largest producers of ore and metals in the EU. We are also responsible for a large proportion of the production of copper, zinc and lead, and of precious metals like gold and silver.

The mining industry is in focus because of the industrial development that is taking place, particularly in Asia. The demand for metals and minerals has increased, and consequently the prices of metals have

increased considerably.

Several new mines are about to open in Sweden, and earlier, disused mines are resuming activity. The need for new labour is increasing in pace with the expansion of the industry, and a range of different types of vocational expertise will be needed. One of the great challenges at present and in the future is to find expertise that is in demand. Consequently, it can be appropriate to take part in training or education. A technical/ industrial background of some kind increases your opportunities for finding a work in the mining industry.



Professions in the mining industry

There are more than 200 different professions in the mining industry.

For example:

- Supervisor
- Miner
- Computer technician
- Economist
- Electrician
- Driver
- Researcher
- Geologist
- Chemist
- Laboratory worker
- Machine operator
- Mechanic
- Metallurgist
- Environmental coordinator
- Environmental technician
- Process engineer
- Process operator
- Service technician
- System engineer
- Maintenance engineer
- Maintenance repairer

Descriptions of some professional roles

Miner is a collective name for various professional groups in the mining industry. The drill operator has the task of drilling holes in the rock, which are then filled with explosives. The explosives technician fills the drill holes with explosives and arranges for the charges to detonate in the right order. The scaler checks whether there are any loose rock fragments in the walls or the ceiling, and the mining roof bolter removes loose fragments and support the rock to avoid a fall. In large mines, the miners are often specialised to carry out a particular task, and in small mines it is common to work on several tasks.

The technological development has considerably changed the work and the working environment of the miner. In some mines, some aspects of mining work can be managed by operators sitting at computers that are a number of kilometres from the underground shafts.

A machine operator can often operate several different types of machines, such as an excavator,

a loader and a dumper truck. Many also have a driving licence for lorries.

A mechanic's main task is to maintain heavy vehicles, such as trucks and loaders. The demand for competence and knowledge in electronics and computers has increased. In many sectors, a mechanic is expected to be an “all-rounder”, who can service and repair mechanical, pneumatic, hydraulic and electronic equipment.

A maintenance engineer works with the development of maintenance of different types and with projects involving service and production.

A project leader/project engineer leads different projects. This could involve an extension that is to be made, or a machine that is to be replaced. The educational background is usually a Bachelor of Science in Engineering or a Master of Science in Engineering.

A **process operator** works using computers and TV-screens at an ore processing plant. The machines that crush, grind and process the ore are controlled and monitored from the control room. The profession involves working both in the control room and out in the plant where the production takes place. The members of the team take turns working in the control room and out in the plant.

A **geologist** surveys and maps the bedrock. A geologist can also work for mining and exploration companies, conducting surveys to find mineralisations that could lead to mining. At mining companies, another important task can be to map mines and plan production.

If you would like to read more about the different professions in the mining industry, you can visit the “Inspireras av gruvyrken” (Be inspired by the mining professions) site at arbetsformedlingen.se, under Yrken A-Ö (Occupations A-Ö).



Stefan Backman, maintenance repairer. Photo: Andrew Sundin

Educational and training routes

Some examples of educational and training programmes that directly or indirectly relate to the mining industry:

Upper secondary school programmes

- The building and construction programme
- The electricity and energy programme
- The vehicle and transport programme
- The industrial technology programme
- The HVAC and property management programme.

At some upper secondary schools, there are also special programmes that are oriented towards mining. These programmes are usually run in close cooperation with mining companies and provide the students with the opportunity to receive sufficient work experience.

Higher vocational education

- Miner/mine technician
- Plant engineer
- Process technician

Higher vocational education programmes are run in close cooperation with companies and organisations that have a demand for labour. The programmes are post-upper secondary and give the right to receive student aid from the CSN organisation. www.yrkeshogskolan.se

University programmes

Several universities offer programmes leading to, for example, a Master of Science in Engineering or a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

There are programmes that directly relate to the mining industry at, among other institutions, Luleå University of Technology and Bergsskolan – the Swedish School of Mining and Metallurgy in Filipstad. www.studera.nu



Labour market training

- Miner and process technician
- Professional driver training/lorries type CE
- Machine operator
- Electrician
- Industrial technical training
- Vehicle mechanic

As a registered jobseeker at Arbetsförmedling-

en, you can in certain cases participate in labour market training. This is a short training programme that is intended to make it easier for you to quickly find a job. It is your local employment office that decides whether you are to participate in labour market training. The period of training is individual and depends both on your professional and educational background and on the type of training. www.arbetsformedlingen.se

Where can you find available jobs?

- On Platsbanken in the mining towns: Kiruna, Gällivare, Pajala, Skellefteå, Lycksele, Norsjö, Östhammar, Askersund and Lindesberg, among other places
- Other recruitment sites
- On the homepages of the companies
- In county and local newspapers
- At recruitment meetings
- Through your own contacts



IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION

You can reach Arbetsförmedlingen Gruvnäring (Arbetsförmedlingen – the Mining Industry) at e mail: gruvnaring@arbetsformedlingen.se
Internet: www.arbetsformedlingen.se/gruvnaring

On the website, you find more information about the mining industry, as well as contact details and links to a number of employers and entrepreneurs.

You can order Arbetsförmedlingen's information material in alternative formats at arbetsformedlingen.se/alternativaformat