

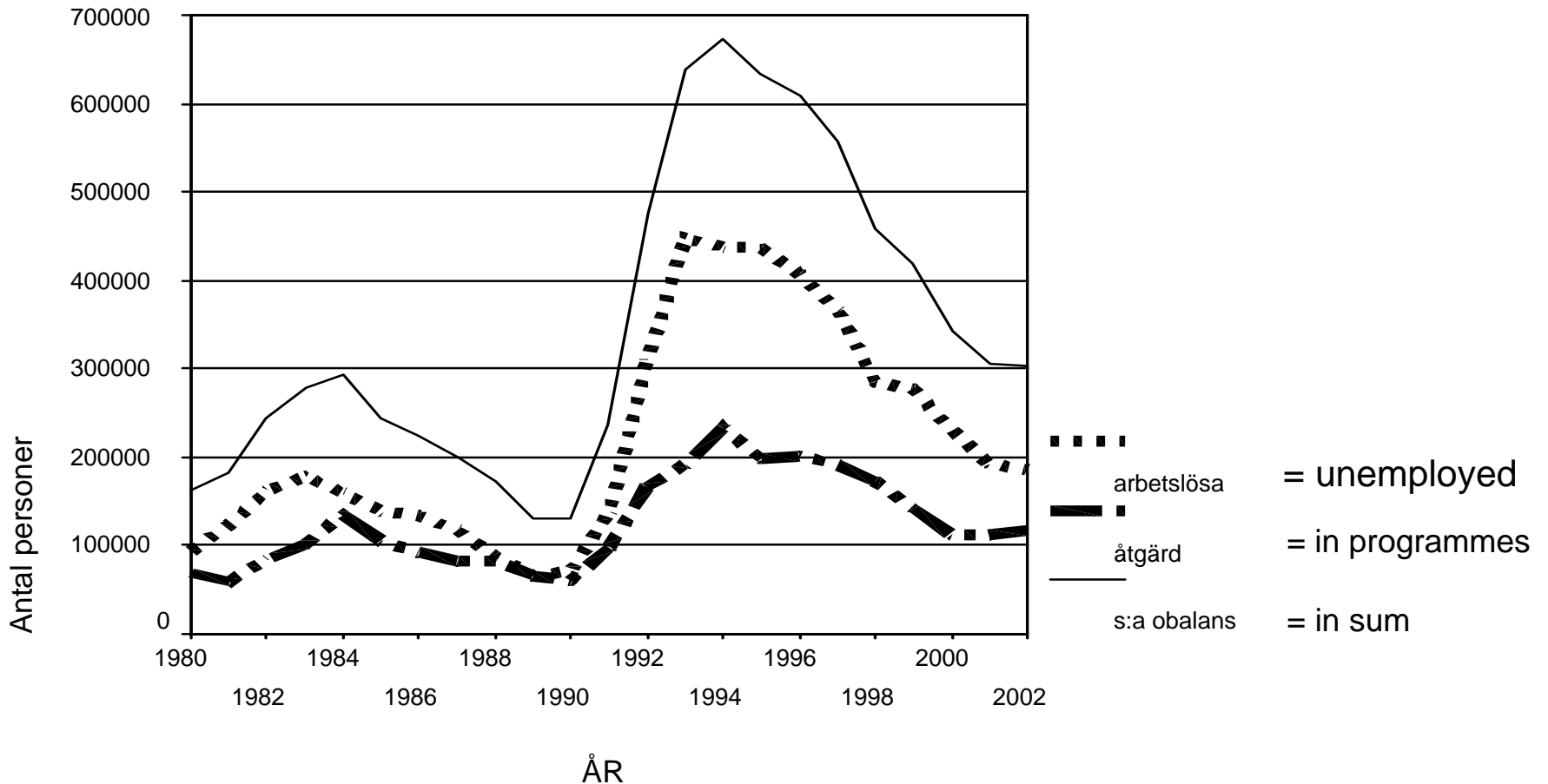
Experiences of Swedish Activation Policies

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Foundation of Swedish Labour Market Policy (LMP) in mid-1900s

- LMP combined with other policies for full employment and economic stability
- Reducing the effects of fluctuation in the economic cycle and facilitating structural change
- Emphasis on active rather than passive measures 75/25
- 1950s – 1980s: 2-3% of work force in ALMP, education, training, removal

Persons unemployed or in labour market programmes 1980 – 2002 in Sweden.



Experiences of Activations Policies in 1990s-2000s in Sweden

- Quantity given greater priority than quality
- Effected the outcomes, i.e. lower degree in employment after an intervention

- Emergence of a two-tiered system:

On national level: schemes and benefits for established unemployed

On local level: activation and assistance for un-established unemployed (youth, immigrants etc)

Distinction between Active Labour Market Policy (ALMP) and Workfare Programmes

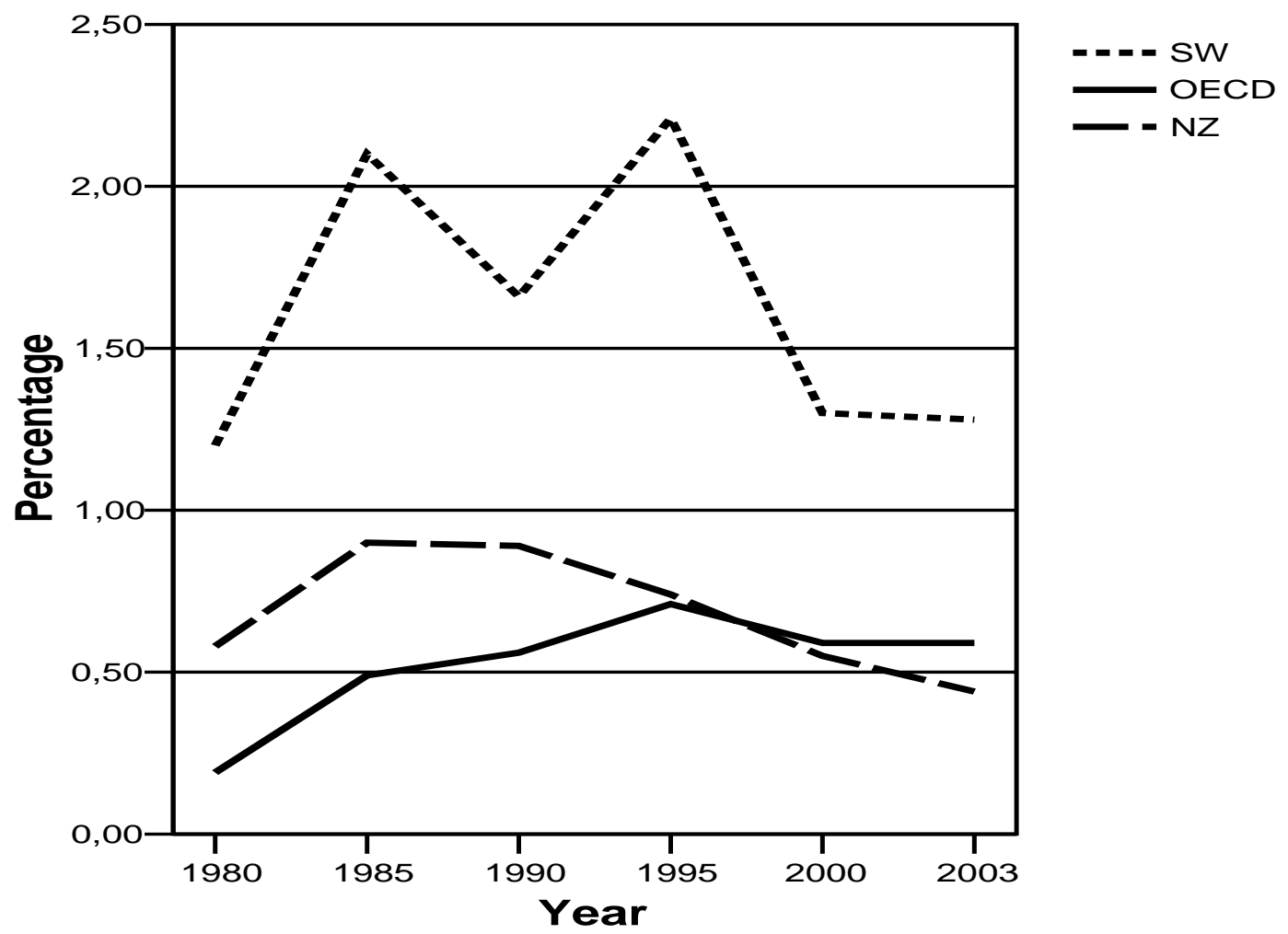
Characteristics	Active Labour Market Policy	Workfare Programmes
Organising level	Central	Local
Affiliation principle	Voluntary	Compulsory
Principle of distribution	Rights-based	Needs-based
Distribution system	Social insurance	Means-tested benefits

Two Interpretations of Workfare

Characteristics	Enabling	Coercing
Type of selectivism	Positive	Negative
Individual rights	Expanding	Restricting
Policy focus	Exclusion	Dependency
Driving forces	Carrot	Stick

Active Labour Market Policy 1980 – 2003 in Sweden, New Zealand and OECD. In Percentage of GDP.

Source: OECD 2006

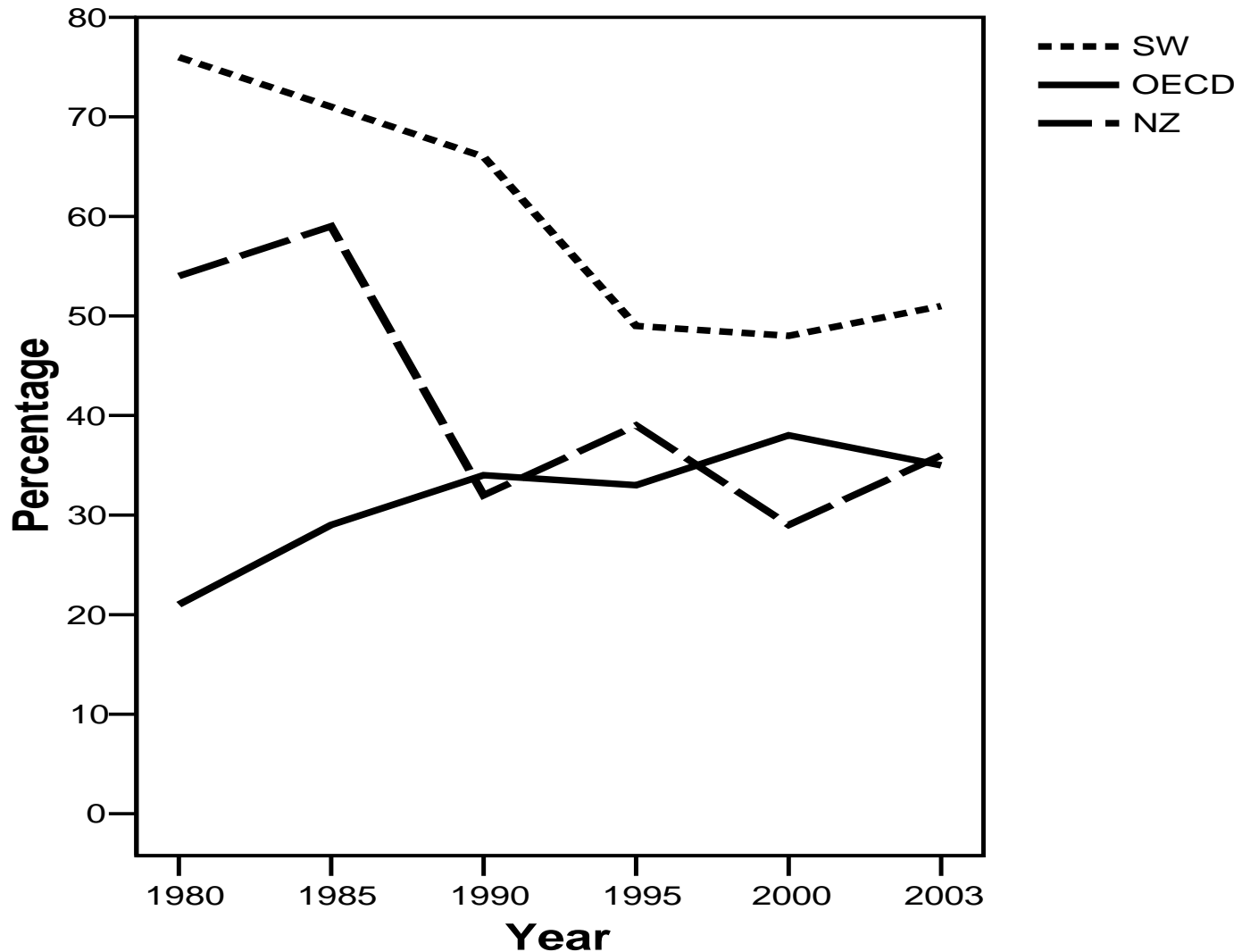


Active Labour Market Expenditures 1980 – 2003

Sweden, New Zealand and OECD.

In Percentage of Total Labour Market Expenditures.

Source: OECD 2006



Conclusions

- Poor evidence for success for coercive "top-down" activation policies –
Tough Policies
- Instead findings indicate the importance of individualised "bottom-up" strategies built on voluntary commitments –
Soft Policies

Paradox of Employment Commitment

Findings from a comparative study of OECD-countries:

“...more generous welfare regimes appear not only reduce inequality and poverty more efficiently than welfare regimes with lower flat-rate or targeted benefits – but also to generate stronger commitment to take part in paid work.”

Esser 2005:36

Social Expenditure in Sweden, New Zealand and OECD 1980 -2003.

In Percentage of GDP.

Source: OECD Factbook 2006

