

The Nobel Prize

The Nobel Prize is the first international award given yearly since 1901 for achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.



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Nobel Prize Facts

1901 – 2004

Total Science Prizes –	505
Physics:	172
Chemistry:	151
Physiology or Medicine:	182

Prizes are not awarded every year:

 1940 – 1942: no prizes in any category were awarded

Prize may be shared by up to three people

Prize cannot be awarded posthumously

Men:Women: 494:11

Mother-daughter winners: Curies (chemistry)

Father-son: Siegbahn, Bohr, Bragg, Thomson (physics)

Husband-wife: Curie (physics), Cori (physiology)

Uncle-nephew: Chandrasakhar (physics)

Brothers: Tinbergens (physiology, economics)

Double winner/physics: Bardeen

Double winner/chemistry: Sanger

Double winner/different disciplines: Curie (physics, chemistry), Pauling (chemistry, peace)

Country	Physics	Chemistry	Medicine
U.S.	66	47	90
Germany	27	26	18
Britain	21	23	20
France	11	7	9
USSR	6	1	2
Netherlands	6	2	3
Switzerland	4	5	--
Sweden	4	4	7
Austria	4	2	4
Canada	3	3	--
Denmark	3	1	6
Argentina	--	1	1
Belgium	--	1	2
Czechoslovakia	--	1	--
Italy	3	1	2
Japan	3	1	--
Finland	--	1	--
India	1	--	--
Mexico	--	1	--
Norway	--	1	--
Pakistan	1	--	--
South Africa	--	1	--
Australia	--	--	1
Hungary	--	--	1
Portugal	--	--	1
Spain	--	--	1

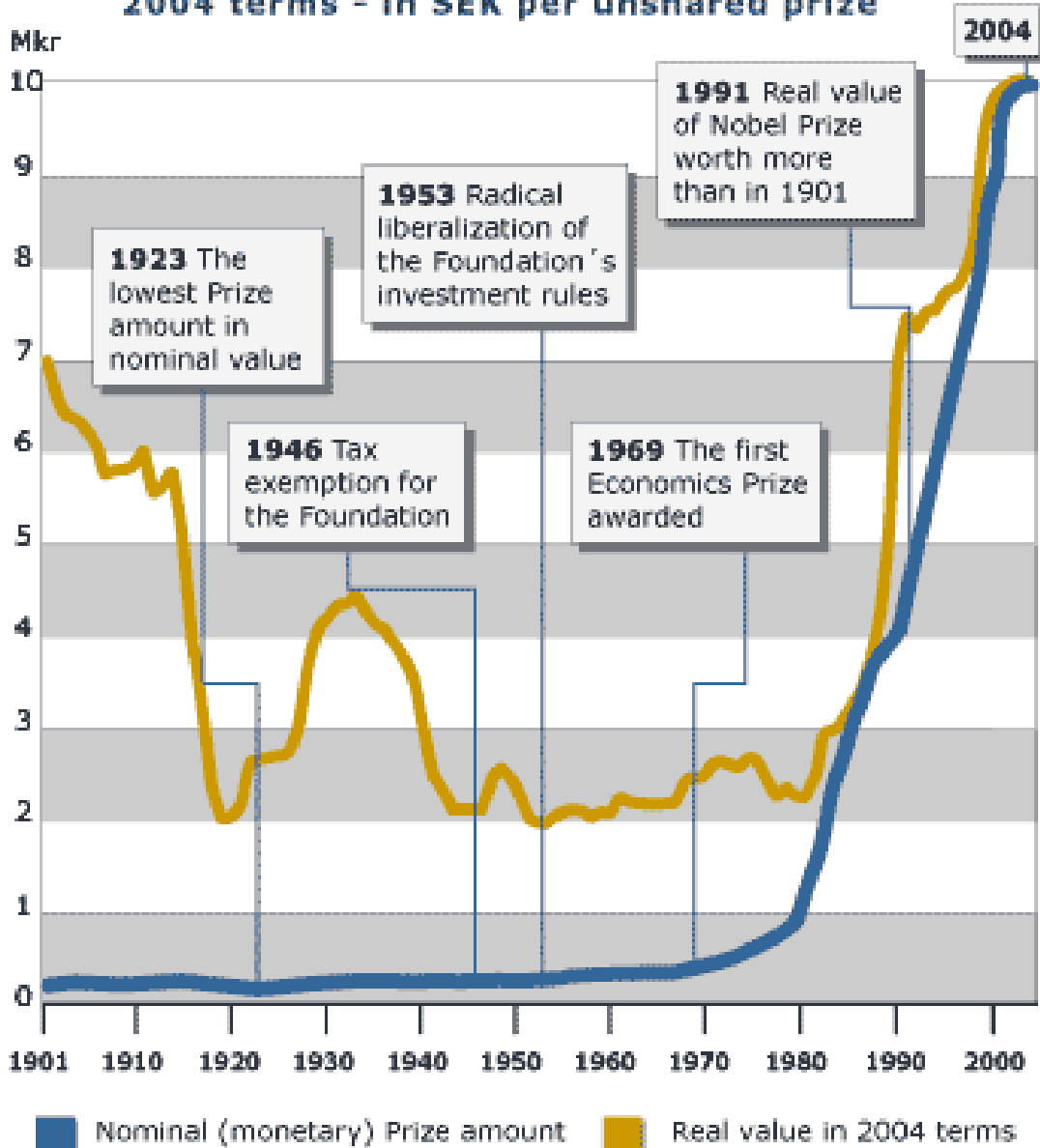
The Nobel Foundation



The Nobel Foundation is a private institution established in 1900 based on the will of Alfred Nobel.

The Foundation manages the assets made available through the will for the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace. It represents the Nobel institutions externally and administers informational activities and arrangements surrounding the presentation of the Nobel Prize. The Foundation also administers Nobel symposia in the different prize areas.

Diagram comparing the nominal (monetary) Prize amount since 1901 with its real value in 2004 terms - in SEK per unshared prize



Prize Awarding Institutions

Physics and Chemistry – The Royal Swedish Academy



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is an independent, non-governmental organization founded in 1739. The major aims of the Academy are to promote research in mathematics and the natural sciences.

The Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry have been awarded by the Academy since 1901 and the Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel since 1968.

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

By the terms of Alfred Nobel's will the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet since 1901.

The Karolinska Institutet was established in the 19th century to train Army Surgeons, and by the end of this century it had become a leading medical university.



The Nobel Committee consists of 5 regular members plus a secretary and 10 associate members.

Nomination and Selection of the Nobel Laureates

1. The respective committees send individual invitations to thousands of scientists, members of academies and university professors in numerous countries, asking them to nominate candidates for the Nobel Prizes for the coming year. Nominators are chosen in such a way that as many countries and universities as possible will be represented.
2. Nominations must reach the respective Nobel Committees before February 1 of the year for which the nomination is being made.
3. The nominations received by each committee are then evaluated with the help of specially appointed experts. When the committees have made their selection among the nominated candidates and have presented their recommendations to the prize awarding institutions, a vote is taken for the final choice of Laureates.
4. Prize winners are announced immediately after the vote in October each year.

Physics and Chemistry

Invitations to nominate are sent to:

1. Swedish and foreign members of the Academy of Sciences
2. Members of the Nobel Committees for Physics and Chemistry
3. Scientists who have been awarded the Prize by the Academy of Sciences
4. Permanent and assistant professors in the sciences of Physics and Chemistry at the universities and institutes of technology of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway, and Karolinska Institutet
5. Holders of corresponding chairs in at least six universities or university colleges selected by the Academy of Sciences with a view to ensuring the appropriate distribution over the different countries and their seats of learnings
6. Other scientists from whom the Academy may see fit to invite proposals

The prizes are awarded at the Prize Award Ceremony at the Concert Hall in Stockholm, Sweden, on December 10 (the Anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death).



At the Prize Awarding Ceremony in Stockholm, the King of Sweden hands each Laureate a diploma and a medal. The Ceremony is followed by a banquet at the Stockholm City Hall (Stockholms Stadshus) for about 1,300 people, including 250 students. With a few exceptions, the Nobel Banquet has taken place at the City Hall since 1930. In addition to the Nobel Laureates and their families, Their Majesties the King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family of Sweden are guests of honour at both the Prize Award Ceremony and the Banquet.



Physiology or Medicine



The medal of the **Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute** represents the Genius of Medicine holding an open book in her lap, collecting the water pouring out from a rock in order to quench a sick girl's thirst.

The inscription reads:

***Inventas vitam juvat
excoluisse per artes***

loosely translated "And they who bettered life on earth by new found mastery."

Chemistry Physics



The medal of **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** represents Nature in the forms of a goddess resembling Isis, emerging from the clouds and holding in her arms a cornucopia. The veil which covers her cold and austere face is held up by the Genius of Science.

The inscription reads:

***Inventas vitam juvat
excoluisse per artes***

loosely translated "And they who bettered life on earth by new found mastery."