

Sweden



Sweden has long been proud of its 'safe haven' image, a country where immigrants, particularly those fleeing political persecution, were welcomed and well looked after. Of the 103,000 immigrants entering Sweden in 2012, around half were from Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia. However, in May 2013 Sweden's exceptional, welcoming, image took something of a hammering, when three days of rioting in the less fashionable suburbs of Stockholm revealed a society where social inequalities did exist, where government efforts to reduce youth unemployment appeared to have failed and where, in sharp

contrast to accepted perceptions, poverty did exist.

Summer nights

The May riots were looked upon in disbelief by many Stockholm residents as the police station in the north-eastern district of Jakobsberg was invaded and a handcraft centre was burnt to the ground. A local school was also vandalised. Overall, in Stockholm, the three days of rioting were estimated to have seen over a hundred cars set on fire. Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, already on the political back foot as the ruling coalition trailed in the opinion polls, rather lamely

KEY FACTS

Official name: Konungariket Sverige (The Kingdom of Sweden)

Head of State: King Carl XVI Gustaf (crowned 19 Sep 1973)

Head of government: Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (Moderata) (since 2006; re-elected 19 Sep 2010)

Ruling party: Coalition Alliansen (Alliance), Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderata) (Moderate Coalition Party), with Centerpartiet (Cp) (Centre Party), Folkpartiet Liberalerna (FpL) (Liberal People's Party) and Kristdemokraterna (KD) (Christian Democrats) (since 2006; re-elected 19 Sep 2010)

Area: 448,964 square km

Population: 9.54 million (2012)

Capital: Stockholm

Official language: Swedish

Currency: Swedish krona (SKr) = 100 öre

Exchange rate: SKr6.55 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$55,158 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 1.20% (2012)*

GDP: US\$526.19 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 5.03 million (2012)*

Unemployment: 7.90% (2012)*

Inflation: 0.89% (2012)*

Balance of trade: US\$21.56 billion (2012)*

Annual FDI: US\$12.30 billion (2011)

* estimated figure

remonstrated with the protestors, saying that: 'There are young people who think that they can change society by violence. Let's make it clear that that is not possible, that we can't allow ourselves to be ruled by violence.' Swedes could count themselves lucky that the street protests were not as violent, nor as widespread, as those seen in France and the United Kingdom in recent years. None the less, the violence showed that Sweden's austerity policies affected those who had the least, and especially affected immigrants. The flash point for the rioting, which lasted three days, was the death – apparently at the hands of the police – of a machete carrying 69 year old man in the scruffy Stockholm suburb of Husby. It was rumoured that the police response had been violent, a rumour that sat alongside a general feeling within the immigrant community that the police – who habitually referred to immigrants as *simios* (apes) – were not on their side. Sweden's justice minister, Beatrice Ask, stated that 'We understand how social exclusion is an important cause of many of the problems.' However, over a twenty year period, it was government policies that had aggravated Sweden's inequalities. Of all the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the highest rate of inequality growth was in Sweden. The official Swedish unemployment rate in 2012 was only 5.7 per cent (but by mid-2013 it had crept up to eight per cent); the rate for those in Sweden but not born in the EU was 16.5 per cent. In Stockholm the immigrant community

amounted to 23 per cent of the total; in Malmö the figure was 31 per cent.

Political opportunities drift away

In 2013 Sweden's next general election was only a year away. Disillusionment with the ruling coalition, in power since 2006, was the order of the day. Opinion polls had Mr Reinfeldt's four-party centre-right coalition (Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderata) (Moderate Coalition Party), with Centerpartiet (Cp) (Centre Party), Folkpartiet Liberalerna (FpL) (Liberal People's Party) and Kristdemokraterna (KD) (Christian Democrats)), to be way behind the opposition. If the election had taken place a year earlier, the left leaning Socialdemokratiska (S) (Social Democrats) would probably have romped home as the polls had only 37 per cent backing the coalition, but just over 50 per cent favouring the Social Democrats, the Miljöpartiet de Gröna (MP) (Environmental Party the Greens) and the Vänsterpartiet (V) (Left Party) combined. Mr Reinfeldt's coalition had run out of support, of popularity and, sadly, of ideas. As things stood, it looked likely that two of Mr Reinfeldt's coalition partners, the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats, might not even muster enough votes to qualify for parliamentary representation. Unemployment had been the biggest reason for the Social Democrats' defeat in 2006. Mr Reinfeldt had promised to create employment by cutting both income tax and welfare benefits. In 2013 Swedish unemployment was over 8 per cent, and youth unemployment was higher than in any other Nordic country.

When re-elected in 2010, Mr Reinfeldt could claim some credit for Sweden's booming economy, which in that respect was virtually alone among the European economies. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by an exceptional 6.6 per cent. By 2013 lower demand and the strong krona had restrained Sweden's exports. Growth forecast for 2013 hovered around the 1–1.5 per cent mark.

In its August 2013 assessment of the Swedish economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) considered that Sweden had recovered quickly from the global financial crisis, and in this respect was ahead of much of the rest of Europe. However, in 2012 the Swedish economy had showed signs of slowing down. In the view of the IMF Sweden faced a difficult external environment with growth decelerating to below 1 per cent in 2012 despite continued monetary support and mildly expansionary fiscal policy. Although the economy appeared to have stabilised, the overall growth trend had been one of moderation, partly reflecting cooling activity abroad and Sweden's tight trade and financial links with the rest of the Nordic region and the euro-zone. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate remained high, reflecting cyclical and structural weaknesses. Consumer price inflation had eased markedly below the two per cent target, primarily due to the strong krona amidst 'safe-haven' currency flows, and the external balance remained strongly in surplus.

The IMF considered Sweden's downside risks to stem from financial fragilities and regional knock on effects. Domestically, household debt was high and rising, reflecting tax incentives, easy access to low-amortisation mortgages and very low interest rates. As a consequence, any sudden and sizeable fall in Swedish property prices could have a knock-on effect on consumption and unemployment, with negative repercussions on banks through non-performing loans and funding costs. Owing to the extensive activity of Sweden's very large and concentrated banking sector in Denmark, Finland, and Norway, this could have a sizeable effect across the Nordic region. At the same time, a sudden deterioration of household financial health elsewhere in the region posed a risk to Sweden. A sudden and severe re-intensification of the euro-zone crisis could also have a negative effect on Sweden's banks, as would any large reversal of safe-haven capital flows.

Reforms are under way to address many of these concerns. Financial reforms that

KEY INDICATORS

Sweden

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*9.17	*9.22	*9.38	*9.45	*9.54
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	479.00	405.40	455.80	538.20	*526.19
GDP per capita	US\$	52,181	43,986	48,875	56,956	*55,158
GDP real growth	%	-0.8	-4.8	5.5	4.0	*1.2
Inflation	%	3.3	2.2	1.9	1.4	*0.9
Unemployment	%	6.2	8.3	8.4	8.1	*7.9
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	185,878.0	133,330.0	160,392.0	188,640.0*	184,827.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	167,759.0	120,499.0	149,514.0	175,972.0*	163,264.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	18,119.0	12,831.0	10,879.0	12,668.0	21,563.0
Current account	US\$m	37,279.0	30,232.0	28,744.0	32,248.0	*37,564.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	25,896.0	42,860.0	42,565.0	44,624.0	*45,519.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	25,127.0	38,543.0	37,919.0	39,659.8	*40,294.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	6.29	7.45	7.21	6.38	6.65

* estimated figure

have been introduced include measures to increase capital and liquidity buffers and the introduction of loan-to-value caps and a risk-weight floor for mortgages. However, the banking sector remains heavily dependent on wholesale funding and credit to households continued to expand, with mortgage amortisation low by international standards. Against this background, and given the downside risks, the Sveriges Riksbank (central bank) boosted borrowed currency reserves to ensure ready access to foreign currency liquidity. While the fiscal framework has served Sweden well and had helped reduce general government debt after the banking crisis in the early 1990s, the Swedish authorities are still examining ways in which to strengthen the framework to ensure both its counter-cyclicality and a prudent borrowing capacity adequate for a country like Sweden with a large financial sector.

Differences

In 2012, Sweden, long looked on with envy by many other European countries, maintained itself at a respectable distance from many of the major cross currents of European debate. The principal difference between Sweden and virtually every European state is that Sweden has not been involved in a 'real' war for some 200 years. The resulting period of peace has come to be associated with Sweden's happy freedom from military alliances and the policy of neutrality that characterised Swedish security policy for much of the nineteenth century.

Neutrality and non-alignment have become part of the Swedish identity, a tacit expression of the country's independence and autonomy. The majority of Sweden's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) opponents believe membership in the military alliance would increase the risk of Sweden being dragged unwillingly into military conflicts. In their view NATO is an organisation associated with war and acts of war, not with peace and security-building measures. Opposition to nuclear weapons has also long been part of the Swedish make-up, often giving Sweden a high profile in international disarmament negotiations.

Changes

Since 2006, Sweden has projected an image of a cautious country, administered by a right of centre government but none the less instilled with the received values of a state control system inherited from its social-democrat predecessors. If that was indeed the image, it was – according to an

October 2012 article in the *Svenska Dagbladet* – an erroneous one. In 2012, for some years, Sweden had been a European leader in liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation. A 2012 survey conducted by the right-wing US think-tank, the Heritage Foundation in association with the *Wall Street Journal* placed Sweden 21 in the world, and 10 in Europe, out of the 179 countries surveyed, in terms of deregulation. The Heritage Foundation heaped further praise on Sweden, noting that 'of all the developed countries, it is Sweden that has registered the greatest progress in this category since 1906.' In another study devoted to reforms in the Swedish welfare state, the authors talk of a 'silent revolution' in the case of Swedish liberalisation. In the case of education, Sweden is considered to have the most liberal system on the planet after that of Chile. One Swedish educationalist was quoted by the newspaper as saying that 'in twenty years, we have gone from the most regimented educational system to the most liberal.' The system followed by the Swedish government is that of *friskola* (free schools) (which actually means schools that are free of charge for pupils, managed by the private sector, but financed by the state). Such has been the success of the scheme that the Swedish free schools model has been adopted by the United Kingdom's (UK) Conservative government as a role model. However, in the UK the private companies running the schools are not allowed to make a profit, which is not the case in Sweden. This question has been at the heart of the debate over how the system should operate within Swedish political circles. Proponents of the system maintain that as long as the Swedish state can maintain quality over the way in which the schools are run, and the quality of the teaching, then there are no grounds for debate. Its opponents argue, heatedly, that profits derived from providing basic social services should not accrue to the management companies, but – in a form of indirect taxation, accrue to the country.

Sweden's liberal education policies chime comfortably with the wider policies of its offbeat finance minister, Anders Borg, easily recognisable by the pony-tail and carrying he likes to sport. In 2012 the London *Financial Times* awarded him the accolade of 'Europe's most effective Finance Minister'. Since becoming finance minister he has set out to reduce Swedish levels of government. This was seen as a rejection of the economic policies that had characterised Swedish political thinking

for decades. It was symbolised by what was put forward as a 'permanent tax cut' and labelled by its critics as the 'punk tax cut'. Whatever was thought of it at the time, the policy had resulted in Sweden becoming the fastest growing economy in Europe in 2011 enjoying reduced debt levels and comfortably avoiding any recourse to the European Central Bank. Sweden's debt reduction was paid for by the simple expedient of reduced government expenditure. Interviewed by Fraser Nelson in the London *Spectator*, Mr Borg was quoted: 'If you have a high wealth tax and an inheritance tax, people emigrate because it becomes too costly to own a company. Ownership is a production factor... But it is also problematic if you drive out entrepreneurs from your country, because they are the source of job creation.' Despite initial opposition to tax cuts for lower income brackets, the success of these as an economic stimulus surprised everyone. Growth levels were such that paradoxically the cuts appeared to be self-financing. Thus Mr Borg made international economic history with a self-financing tax cut.

Risk assessment

Politics	Good
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1397 Union of Kalmar united Denmark, Sweden and Norway under a single monarch with Denmark the dominant power.
 1520 The Massacre of Stockholm occurred when the Danish King Kristian II, in an attempt to assert his supremacy, executed resisting Swedish noblemen, which led to a revolt, headed by Gustav Eriksson Vasa.
 1523 King Kristian II was defeated by Vasa, who was crowned Gustav I. Sweden was separated from the Union. Vasa's victory heralded the start of Sweden's ascendancy in Europe.
 1611 Gustav II Adolph (Gustavus Adolphus) became King. He engaged in expansionist policies and attempted to gain control of the Baltic trading routes; this brought him into conflict with neighbouring states.
 1629 Sweden fought to possess Prussia and Pomerania (now part of Germany) in the Thirty Years War.
 1632 Gustav II was killed at the battle of Lutzen (in Saxony, now part of Germany) and was succeeded by his daughter, Kristina.

1654 Kristina abdicated after converting to Catholicism – an act that was unacceptable in Lutheran Sweden.

1700 Start of the Great Nordic War when Russia, Denmark, Norway and Poland formed an alliance against Sweden and its 15-year old King Karl XII in an attempt to retrieve some of their lost lands.

1700–1720 A succession of battles resulted in the loss of all Swedish lands in Germany, the Baltic provinces of Russia and much of Finland. Success against the Danes in Norway allowed Sweden to consolidate into easily defended borders.

1718 The power of the monarchy diminished and was vested in the Council of Aristocrats who depended on parliament for its authority.

1772 King Gustav III began reforms that strengthened the power of the monarchy. These developments resulted in an almost absolute monarchy.

1792 King Gustav III was assassinated by members of the Swedish nobility. Gustav IV Adolf became King.

1808–09 Sweden was defeated by the Russians. Finland, which was then part of Sweden, was ceded to Russia. King Gustav IV Adolf was replaced by Karl XIII in 1809.

1814 Sweden entered a union with Norway.

1905 The emergence of Norwegian nationalism led Norway to declare independence. A parliamentary form of government emerged in Sweden.

1920s The Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetarparti (Swedish Social Democratic Party) first came to power. It typically contested elections under the name Arbetarepartiet-Socialdemokraterna (Labour Party-Social Democrats) but was commonly referred to as the Socialdemokraterna (Social Democrats). Except for a brief period during 1936, the Social Democrats stayed in power from 1932 to 1976.

1939–45 Sweden declared its neutrality during the Second World War, although German troops were transported through its territory to Norway. Sweden also supplied Nazi Germany with iron ore until 1943.

1952 Sweden became a founder member of the Nordic Council.

1959 Sweden became a founder member of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) with Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK.

1969–71 Olof Palme (prime minister 1969–76 and 1982–86) introduced constitutional reforms. The bicameral legislature was replaced by a unicameral legislature, elected by proportional representation.

1975 A new constitution was promulgated; it reduced the power of the

monarchy and limited its role to that of figurehead and ceremonial duties.

1976 A centre-right coalition government, the Centerpartiet (Cp) (Centre Party), and Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderata) (Moderate Party) won the parliamentary election.

1978 The coalition government collapsed due to disagreement about economic problems and the building of a controversial nuclear power plant. The former coalition partner, Folkpartiet Liberalerna (FpL) (Liberal People's Party) formed a new government.

1979 The Cp won the parliamentary elections by a one seat majority.

1982 The Socialdemokraterna won the parliamentary elections. Olof Palme became prime minister again.

1986 Palme was assassinated in Stockholm by an unknown gunman.

1991 After parliamentary elections, Moderata formed the government with Carl Bildt as prime minister.

1994 The Socialdemokraterna won the general election. Sweden joined Nato's Partnership for Peace (PfP) military co-operation programme.

1995 Sweden joined the EU.

1996 Carlsson stepped down as the leader of the SSA and prime minister. Göran Persson replaced him.

1998 Following parliamentary elections the SSA formed a minority government. The reduced vote for the Socialdemokraterna was believed to be due to widespread anger at social expenditure cuts.

2002 The Socialdemokraterna won the parliamentary elections and continued to lead a minority government that relied on support from the Vänsterpartiet (V) (Left Party) and the Miljöpartiet de Gröna (MP) (Environmental Party the Greens).

2003 Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was stabbed to death in a Stockholm department store. In a referendum voters narrowly defeated the proposal to join the single European currency.

2004 The man who confessed to killing Anna Lindh was convicted of her murder and sentenced to life imprisonment, overturning a previous ruling which consigned him to a psychiatric hospital.

2006 In parliamentary elections the ruling Socialdemokraterna narrowly lost with 46.2 per cent against the opposition coalition, led by Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderate) (Moderate Coalition Party), which won with 48.1 per cent of the vote (178 seats in the 349 legislative assembly); turnout was 80.4 per cent. Fredrik Reinfeldt (Moderate) became prime minister.

2008 Around 100 countries took part in a conference held outside Stockholm to discuss support and efforts to restore stability

and rebuild a functioning economy in Iraq. De rödgröna (Red-Green) coalition was formed by three political parties.

2009 After 17 years of sanctions imposed against Iraq by the UN, the Swedish airline, Nordic Leisure, flew the first commercial flight between Iraq and Europe, with around 150 passengers, mainly Iraqis.

2010 In parliamentary elections, the ruling Social Democrats won 30.66 per cent of the vote (112 seats out of 349), closely followed by Moderata with 30.06 per cent (107). The right-wing nationalist

Sverigedemokraterna (SD) (Sweden Democrats) won 5.7 per cent and its first seats in parliament (20). A coalition of four centre-right parties, formally called the Alliansen (Alliance), consisting of the Moderata, MP, Cp and KD, retained power although as a minority government; Fredrik Reinfeldt remained as prime minister.

2011 In March Haakan Juholt (S) became leader of the opposition

Socialdemokratiska (S) (Social Democrats). In July two Swedish reporters were arrested in Ethiopia and charged with terrorism, having crossed the border from Somalia in the company of a separatist rebel group. In December they were sentenced to 11 years in prison. On 19 December 2011, the automotive company Saab was declared bankrupt by its chief executive, and ceased operations.

2012 On 21 January, Haakan Juholt (S) resigned as leader, following nine months of increasing criticism and fall in support for his leadership. On 10 September, the two jailed journalists were freed in Ethiopia, following a presidential pardon. On 16 November, the furniture maker and retailer, Ikea, apologised for the use of political prisoners in Communist East Germany and Cuba for almost 30 years from the 1970s. A spokesperson said that at that time Ikea did not have a well organised control system to prevent the use of prisoners and forced labour.

2013

Political structure

Constitution

The constitution consists of four separate documents: the *Regeringsformen* (Instrument of Government) passed in 1974, *Successionsordningen* (Act of Succession) dating from 1810, the *Tryckfrihetsförordningen* (Freedom of the Press Act) of 1949 (originating from 1766), and the *Yttrandefrihetsgrundlagen* (Freedom of Expression Act) of 1991.

There are 288 municipalities throughout the country, each with a popularly elected council. Immigrants, resident for three years, have the right to vote and run for office in local elections.

Universal suffrage is at aged 18. Voter turnout is traditionally high, between 85–90 per cent.

Under proportional representation 310 parliamentary seats are allocated on a constituency basis, in 28 multi-member constituencies; the remaining seats are divided nationally. To win parliamentary representation, a party must poll either 4 per cent overall – to receive a seat from the national allocation – or 12 per cent in any one constituency for a seat from the national remainder.

Form of state

Parliamentary democratic monarchy

The executive

Executive power is exercised by the Regeringen (cabinet) which is led by the prime minister (elected by parliament) and is responsible to parliament. The prime minister appoints members of the cabinet.

National legislature

The unicameral Riksdag (parliament) has 349 members directly elected by proportional representation, for a four-year term. In the event of an early dissolution, the new parliament serves only the remainder of the previous parliament's term.

Legal system

The legal system is divided into the general courts and the general administrative courts. The general courts are composed of a Supreme Court (Högsta domstolen), six Courts of Appeal and 95 District Courts which are responsible for criminal cases involving individuals. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and is composed of 16 judges appointed by the government. The general administrative courts are responsible for cases involving public authorities and individuals.

Last elections

19 September 2010 (parliamentary).

Results: Parliamentary: the

Arbetarepartiet-Socialdemokraterna (Labour Party-Social Democrats, known as Socialdemokratiska (S) (Social Democrats) won 30.66 per cent of the vote (112 seats out of 349), Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderata) (Moderate Party) 30.06 per cent (107), Miljöpartiet de Gröna (MP) (Environmental Party the Greens) 7.34 per cent (25), Folkpartiet Liberalerna (FpL) (Liberal People's Party) 7.06 per cent (24), Centerpartiet (Cp) (Centre Party) 6.56 per cent (23), Sverigedemokraterna (SD) (Sweden Democrats) 5.7 per cent (20), Kristdemokraterna (KD) (Christian Democrats) 5.6 per cent (19), Vänsterpartiet (V) (Left Party) 5.6 per cent (19); turnout was 84.63 per cent.

Next elections

September 2014 (parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition Alliansen (Alliance), Moderata Samlingspartiet (Moderata) (Moderate Coalition Party), with Centerpartiet (Cp) (Centre Party), Folkpartiet Liberalerna (FpL) (Liberal People's Party) and Kristdemokraterna (KD) (Christian Democrats) (since 2006; re-elected 19 Sep 2010)

Main opposition party

Arbetarepartiet-Socialdemokraterna (Labour Party-Social Democrats, known as Socialdemokratiska (S) (Social Democrats)

Population

9.54 million (2012)

Since the 1940s, immigration, mostly from neighbouring Scandinavian countries, has accounted for over 40 per cent of population growth. About 85 per cent of the total population lives in the southern half of the country.

Last census: 31 December 2003:

8,975,670

Population density: 20 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 85 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 0.5 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Native Swedes account for 88 per cent of the population. Around 50 per cent of all foreign nationals are from other Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway).

Sweden has two minority groups of native inhabitants in the north: the Finnish speaking people of the north-east and an estimated 17,000 Sámi (Lapp) people.

Religions

About 90 per cent of the population belong to the Church of Sweden (Lutheran); there are 8 per cent other Protestants and 1 per cent Roman Catholics.

Education

Pre-school classes are offered to any six year old enrolled, the first (and compulsory) school begins at aged seven; both are free of charge and the majority are run by municipalities. In 2001–02 over one million pupils were enrolled (within both); independent schools accounted for 1 per cent of enrolments. The average number of pupils per school was 209, with an average of 108 pupils in independent schools. Many schools are now working with integrated age levels where children of different ages are taught together in the same class. Around three-quarters of all compulsory schools are connected to the Internet. At aged 16 students who have successfully completed their compulsory schooling progress to upper secondary school. Nearly all pupils continue to the upper secondary school.

Each municipality has the right to establish its own upper secondary schools and a national curriculum provides a basis for further studies and basic eligibility for higher education.

Higher education is offered in 13 state-run universities and 23 university colleges. There are also three private universities: Chalmers University of Technology, the University College of Jönköping and the Stockholm School of Economics. Further education for adults (aged 20 years and over) is offered within the public adult education system through municipal adult education.

Literacy rate: 99 per cent, adult rate (2003)

Compulsory years: 7 to 16

Enrolment rate: 107 per cent gross primary enrolment, 140 per cent gross secondary enrolment: of relevant age groups (including repeaters and training for unemployed within the age group) (World Bank 2001).

Pupils per teacher: 12 in primary schools

Health

Sweden has for many years actively worked with health promotion in line with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) European 'Health for All' policy. There is a close collaboration between the government and local and regional providers of public medical and healthcare services.

A governmental body, the National Public Health Committee, is responsible for providing many recommendations to the government, along with wide-ranging consultation, is being used as a basis for the future development of the healthcare system.

The public sector finances health services, through taxation, for the entire population although the Federation of Health Insurance Societies, (established in 1907), helps to promote a national compulsory system of health insurance.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 81 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 1.9 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Birth rate/Death rate: 9.7 births and 10.6 deaths per 1,000 people (2003)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 3 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 3.28 physicians per 1,000 people, 2002 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

The Swedish social insurance system is managed by the state and is compulsory for everyone, providing means-tested and

general benefits. The main goal of the social insurance is to provide protection against loss of income and is composed of sickness insurance, early retirement pensions, occupational injury insurance and old age pensions. The Social Services Act of 1982 regulates the welfare benefit system while the National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen) supervises the overall quality of social service provision.

A Social Insurance Act was introduced in 2001, dividing social insurance into two categories: a domicile-based insurance scheme, which provides guaranteed benefits, and a work-related insurance scheme, which safeguards against loss of income. These insurance systems are available to anyone living or working in Sweden. Social insurance is divided into 50 per cent going into pensions, 25 per cent to sickness and disability benefit and 15 per cent to families with children.

The pension system was reformed in 1998 and is composed of various components, including an income-related pension, a premium pension and a guaranteed pension. The premium pension allows a person to invest their own funds into part of the pension scheme. A state pension is guaranteed to all the population on a low income or without any income.

Main cities

Stockholm (capital, estimated population 1.3 million in 2012), Göteborg (528,237), Malmö (269,549), Uppsala (135,367), Västerås (109,092), Örebro (101,614), Linköping (101,031), Helsingborg (95,886).

Languages spoken

Finnish, Skåne and Sámi are spoken. English, and to a lesser extent German, are also widely spoken.

Official language/s

Swedish

Media

Press

Dailies: In Swedish, the most influential nationals are either owned or run by political parties and trade unions. These include *Aftonbladet* (www.aftonbladet.se) (Social Democratic), *Dagens Nyheter* (www.dn.se) (Liberal, independent), *Expressen* (www.expressen.se) (Liberal), *Göteborgs-Posten* (www.gp.se) (Liberal), *Svenska Dagbladet* (www.svd.se) (Conservative) *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* (www.sydsvenskan.se) and *Aktuellt I Politiken* (www.aip.nu). In Finnish *Ruotsin Suomalainen* (www.ruotsinsuomalainen.com). Regional publications in Swedish, include from Stockholm *Kristdemokraten* (www.kristdemokraten.com) *Metro* (www.metro.se), from GT (www.gt.se),

from Malmö *Kvällsposten* (www.kvp.se) and SVT *Sydnytt* (www.svt.se/sydnytt) and from Uppsala *Upplands Nyheter* (www.upplandsnyheter.se) and *Uppsalanytt* (www.uppsalanytt.se).

Weeklies: Main Sunday newspapers and weekly publications include for men *Café* (www.cafe.se), *Se och Hör* (TV listings), *Aftonbladet* (www.aftonbladet.se) and *Dagens Nyheter* (www.dn.se).

Business: In Swedish, *Affärsvärlden* (www.affarsvarlden.se) is the oldest and most respected business magazine. Other publications include the weekly *Ekonominyheterna* (<http://ekonominyheterna.se>) an affiliate of *Veckans Affärer*, the daily *Dagens Industri* (<http://di.se>) and *Finansstidningen* (owned by the major media organisation Modern Times Group). *Fri Kopenskap* (www.fri-kopenskap.se) and *Privata Affärer* (www.privataaffarer.se) are published in Stockholm.

Periodicals: These include *Galago* (on culture), *Grönköpings Veckoblad* (www.gronkoping.nu) a literary magazine *Moderna*, *Slitz* (www.slitz.se) is a magazine for men. Two major women's magazine include *Amelia* (www.amelia.se), published fortnightly, which is Sweden's most popular and *Vecko Revyn* (www.veckorevyn.com) is a tabloid style publication.

Broadcasting

All broadcasting is overseen by Granskningsnamnden (Swedish Broadcasting Commission). State broadcasting is provided by Sveriges Television and Radio.

Radio: There are four national radio stations provided by Sveriges Radio (www.sr.se), with news broadcasts provided in 14 foreign languages. External services can be accessed via short wave, or on-demand through the internet, which also has archived and live transmissions. There are around commercial 100 radio stations some of which have drawn together to produce near-national networks. The largest stations and networks include Rix FM (www.rixfm.com), NRJ (www.nrj.se), Mix Megapol (www.mixmegapol.com) and Radio Match (www.radiomatch.com).

Television: All Swedish television will be provided by digital signals by 2008. Most homes have cable or satellite reception with dozens of channels on offer. Sveriges Television (svt.se) has 2 major networks and a 24 hour news channel, as well as special interest programmes via satellite TV. There are four commercial TV channels including TV3 (www.tv3.se), TV4 (www.tv4.se), Kanal 5 (<http://kanal5.se>) and ZTV (www.ztv.se).

Other news agencies: TT (Tidnignarnas Telegrambyrå) 105 12 Stockholm, (tel:

692-2600; fax: 692-2855; email: redaktionen@tt.se). TT is a private independent agency.

Economy

Sweden is an advanced economy ranging from primary industries to sophisticated industrial processes to high-end service industries. Its main industries include agriculture, principally timber production of its 41 million hectares of mixed forests. The service industries include tourism and financial services, centred on the Nordic Stock Exchange (OMX), based in Stockholm.

GDP growth was 3.4 per cent in 2007, but in 2008 the economy fell into recession when GDP declined to -0.8 per cent, as the global economic crisis struck and exports of Swedish consumer durables fell. As credit was severely limited and financial wholesale markets closed, investment dried up so that in 2009 the situation deteriorated further with GDP growth at -4.8 per cent. The government, in response and in tandem with other European Union economies, introduced economic expansionist measures by allowing its budget to move from a surplus of 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2008 to a deficit of 4 per cent in 2009.

As Swedish exports are predominately capital goods and consumer durables the economy is vulnerable to international shocks. It was one of the first economies to go into recession, and did not recover until other countries were able to begin spending again. Income, employment and confidence in Sweden were depressed, which slowed private consumption, and further weakened GDP growth.

As global trade recovered in 2010, so too GDP growth rebounded with a high of 5.8 per cent. It fell back in 2011, to an estimated 4 per cent, the weakness due largely to the insecurity caused by the drop in exports.

From 2008–12, measures and reforms to support and limit Sweden's banking system were introduced by the government. They included the requirement of greater capitalisation by banks, setting up credit facilities for banks to offer long-term security on loans, and establishing a new National Debt Office that bought up bank's non-performing loans and issued treasury bills to boost the bond market.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) had been at a record high of US\$38.2 billion in 2008, which fell to a negative -US\$1.9 billion in 2010, before recovering in 2011 with an FDI of US\$12.3 billion. One of Sweden's top brands, Saab, was finally declared bankrupt in December 2011 as its US owner General Motors chose not to fund its continued losses.

External trade

As a member of the European Union, Sweden operates within a community-wide free trade area, with tariffs set as a whole, however it does not belong to the European Monetary Union and retains the krona as its currency. Internationally, the EU has free trade agreements with a number of nations and trading blocs worldwide. Over 50 per cent of all exports are traded with the EU.

Foreign trade accounts for 85 per cent of all trade and exports provide 45 per cent of GDP, of which over 35 per cent is electronic equipment, 14 per cent intermediate capital goods, 8 per cent consumable durables, 8 per cent chemical and fertilisers and 5 per cent food and agricultural products.

Imports

Main imports include machinery, petroleum and derivatives, chemicals, vehicles, iron and steel, foodstuffs, consumer goods and clothing.

Main sources: Germany (17.2 per cent of total in 2012), Norway (8.7 per cent), Denmark (8.4 per cent).

Exports

Major exports include vehicles, automotive and engineering and electronic parts and products, pharmaceuticals, fertilisers, paper products, pulp and timber, iron, steel and electricity.

Main destinations: Norway (10.2 per cent of total in 2012), Germany (9.6 per cent), UK (7.6 per cent).

Agriculture

Although Sweden is one of the biggest countries in Europe, its arable land amounts to only 2.8 million hectares (ha) constituting about 7 per cent of the total land area. Grain is harvested on 45 per cent of arable land. Agriculture contributes 2 per cent of GDP and employs less than 2 per cent of the total work force. Dairy products, grains, sugarbeets and potatoes are produced. There are 1.7 million cows in the country. Over the past decade, cattle herd numbers have fallen while yields have risen.

Most farms are family concerns, in which the work is done by members of the family. Part-time farming, with income supplemented by other employment (eg forestry), has become a common feature. Restructuring and modernisation of equipment have resulted in fewer but larger farms. Farming is concentrated in the southern regions, where livestock farming predominates.

Sweden's adherence to the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has brought some regulation of agriculture. Agricultural support policies have been adjusted to CAP, including production quotas and increased export subsidies. Import

licences are required for certain agricultural commodities. Fundamental reform to the CAP was introduced in 2005. The subsidies paid on farm output, which tended to benefit large farms and encourage overproduction, were replaced by single farm payments not conditional on production. This is expected to reward farms that provide and maintain a healthy environment, food safety and animal welfare standards. The changes are also intended to encourage market conscious production and cut the cost of CAP to the EU taxpayer.

The Swedish market for seafood is typically over 150,000 tonnes annually calculated on the basis of product weight. Estimated output from the domestic seafood processing sector amounts to around 85,000 tonnes per year. About 75 per cent of this amount is for the home market with marinated herring the most important product. Over half of the fishing industry is located in western Sweden. In addition to coastal and deep-sea fishing around the western coast, Sweden has an abundance of natural lakes, which can provide enough fish to meet domestic needs.

Most fish imports are from Norway and Denmark, which together typically account for 75 per cent of total Swedish imports, indicating the importance of the Scandinavian link in its seafood industry. As the EU presses for radical reform to its Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Sweden is expected to support its principles based on the ecosystem approach.

Forest and other wooded land accounts for nearly 75 per cent of the land area, with forest cover estimated at 27.1 million hectares (ha). Approximately 23 million ha of forest area is available for wood supply.

The forest industry and forestry account for more than 4 per cent of Sweden's GDP, 12 per cent of industrial employment and 15 per cent of Sweden's exports. Sweden's pulp and paper industry is the third-largest in Europe after Germany and Finland. About one-third of Sweden's wood pulp and over half its paper and board are exported. Sweden accounts for more than 13 per cent of paper demand in the EU.

Following large scale divestiture, 52 per cent of forest land is owned privately, 24 per cent is owned by the state (primarily through Sveaskog AB) and 24 per cent through commercial companies.

Industry and manufacturing

The powerful industrial sector contributes 29 per cent of GDP and accounts for 75 per cent of all exports. It is a key reason why the Swedish people have one of the highest standards of living in the world. Industrial strength was traditionally based

on extensive reserves of iron, timber and the rivers and lakes that provided cheap energy, although in recent years hi-tech production has increased in significance. With such a small domestic market, industry has always had to look overseas for survival and it has profited from the development of a mature export culture.

The state is gradually decreasing its ownership in firms under its control. The government is committed to ending state subsidies for inefficient industries. As a result of this policy, traditional sectors, such as shipyards and the textile industry, have virtually ceased to exist. In other traditional industries, there has been drastic rationalisation and concentration on narrow segments of the market.

The industrial sector is based largely on indigenous resources (iron ore, timber and water-power). Major industries include motor vehicles, food processing, chemicals, iron and steel, transportation equipment, electrical and electronic equipment and forestry products. Sweden's industrial structure tends to be centred on large, capital-intensive companies, due to the nature of tax, social security and labour market regulations, which do not favour smaller firms. Engineering is Sweden's main industrial sector, accounting for around a third of industrial output and for a similar proportion of exports. The country's main engineering companies include Ericsson, Electrolux, Volvo (owned by Ford), SKF, Saab, Scania and Sandvik. Manufacturing employs approximately 30 per cent of the workforce.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recently named Sweden as one of the leading countries in the Internet and other information technology (IT) markets, along with the US and Finland. In the same month, Sweden topped the International Data Corporation's (IDC) Information Society Index of 55 countries in the IT sector. IT remains an important contributor to the economy. Internet companies in Sweden are managing to survive the burst of the 'dotcom' bubble and the country is at the forefront of the development of mobile telephone Internet technology. Sweden is also beginning to lead the way in the biotechnology sector and has more biotech companies per capita than any other country.

Timber production accounts for just over a fifth of industrial output. Sweden has a large forestry sector supplying raw materials to industry and for export. With 57 per cent of the land area covered in forest, Sweden has the largest timber reserves in Western Europe.

Despite all its strengths, in 2005 a dark cloud formed over Swedish

manufacturing. 10,000 workers were victims of redundancies, out of a total of 700,000. Jobs have been lost to countries with lower labour costs such as Asia and Eastern Europe. Another 5,000-8,000 job losses are expected to be announced next year. Business taxes are considered too high and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has dropped to zero this year.

Tourism

Although Sweden does not offer a typical sun-sea-surf holiday, it can provide many water activities, cultural city events plus rural settings for a relaxed stay. Sweden is also an important destination for the growing meetings, incentives, conference and exhibition (MICE) market for foreign companies.

Sweden has 14 sites included on Unesco's World Heritage List that range from prehistoric, archaeological locations to historic buildings and gardens and natural sites.

Travel and tourism contributed a steady 5.5 per cent of GDP over 2007-11, which is predicted to remain steady for 2012. The industry provided employment to 5.6 per cent of the workforce (260,300 jobs) in the same period. Visitor numbers in 2007 were 5.2 million, which fell steadily to 4.9 million by 2010, although visitor exports in the same period rose from US\$12.2 billion in 2007 to US\$13.3 billion in 2010 and jumped to US\$15.5 billion in 2011. However domestic spending on travel and tourism experienced a five-year decline of -7.8 per cent (2007-11), as it fell from US\$6.6 billion in 2007 to US\$5.8 billion in 2011. Sweden is a popular destination for shopping trips by its neighbours and those accessing health clinics and wellness facilities.

There is a comprehensive public transport service that can move visitors from Sweden's airports and ferry ports around the country in a degree of comfort, coupled with an active private hire car sector.

Mining

The mining sector typically accounts for 9 per cent of GDP and employs 0.5 per cent of the industrial workforce. Sweden is rich in mineral deposits, the most important of which are iron ore, zinc, lead, copper, silver and pyrites. There are also large deposits of uranium, exploitation of which has been held back by environmental and political objections. Swedish companies focus on making high quality speciality iron and steel. Sweden's share of total world iron ore output comes to around 2 per cent, making Sweden one of the largest iron ore exporters in Europe. Sweden's shares of the Western world's production of copper, lead and zinc concentrates amount to 1

per cent, 3.7 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively.

Hydrocarbons

Sweden is poor in hydrocarbon resources and has limited reserves. As a result, oil represents a large proportion of total Swedish imports, 350,110 barrels per day (bpd) in 2007. Swedish refineries have an annual capacity of 434,000bpd. The largest, Scanraff, north of Göteborg, has a capacity of over 200,000bpd. Natural gas is imported in small quantities through a pipeline from Denmark across the Baltic Straits, for use in southern Sweden. In 2006 consumption of natural gas was 934 million cubic metres. Consumption of coal was 3.9 million tonnes in 2007.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity is 33.9 gigawatts (GW), which has remained largely unchanged since 1997. However, consumption has been rising so that Sweden imports electricity from other Nordic countries to make up its shortfall.

In June 2010 parliament approved the replacement of the country's 10 existing nuclear reactors (located at three power plants), which supply half of Sweden's domestic electricity needs, with new nuclear reactors. Hydropower provides 44.5 per cent of energy needs and the remainder is provided by renewable energy sources such as biofuels, geothermal, wave and wind power. Manufacturing and district heating systems are replacing hydrocarbon for renewables.

The state utility is Vattenfall; other providers are majority foreign owned, E.ON Sweden (German) and Fortum Oy (Finnish).

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Stockholmsbörsen (Stockholm Stock Exchange)

Banking and insurance

Liberalisation and increased openness has boosted the competitiveness of the Swedish financial sector. There have been several mergers between banking and insurance firms. There is a predominance of large corporations in the sector. More than 70 per cent of people in this sector are employed by firms with a payroll of more than 200.

Central bank

Sveriges Riksbank

Main financial centre

Stockholm

Time

GMT plus one hour (daylight saving, late March to late October, GMT plus two hours)

Geography

Sweden is situated in northern Europe. It occupies about 66 per cent of the Scandinavian peninsula and is bordered by Finland to the north-east and Norway to the west. Sweden has a long coastline, with the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia to the east and the Skagerrak and Kattegat to the south-west.

Approximately 15 per cent of Sweden lies north of the Arctic Circle. There are thousands of lakes and islands. Around 54 per cent of the country is covered in coniferous forests. Agricultural land is located in the southern plains, where the population is most concentrated. The central region comprises lowlands. The west bordering Norway is mountainous, from which numerous rivers drain into the Gulf of Bothnia; the highest point in Sweden at 2,111m is Mount Kebnekaise.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Because of the Atlantic gulf stream, Sweden has a milder climate than some other regions in the same latitude. The average winter temperature in the north, where there is always snow from December to March, is minus 13 degrees Celsius (C), in central Sweden minus 3 degrees C and in the south minus 1 degree C. In summer average temperatures are 13 degrees C in the north, 18 degrees C in central Sweden and 17 degrees C in the south.

Dress codes

Clothing to suit the climate is vital because of the extremes. Heavy coats, warm boots, gloves and ear protection are required in winter and light clothing in summer.

Swedes can be informal in business attire, but suits are worn at business meetings and for social events in the evening.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, except nationals of countries which are signatories of the Schengen Accords, which includes most EU/EEA member states, who may visit on national IDs.

Visa

Required by all, except nationals of EU countries, Iceland, Norway, North America, Australasia and Japan, for up to three months. For those requiring a visa, a Schengen visa covers all entry needs; for business trips, an invitation from a business contact in Sweden and proof of occupation and travel funds should be included when applying. A Schengen visa application (offered in several languages) can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu/abc/travel/> see 'documents you will need'.

Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import and export of local or foreign currencies.

Customs

Personal items are duty-free. There are no duties levied on alcohol and tobacco between EU member states, providing amounts imported are for personal consumption.

Health (for visitors)

Nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland can access reduced cost and sometimes free medical treatment using a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) while visiting the EEA. Exceptions include nationals of the 10 countries which joined the EU in 2004, whose EHIC is not valid in Switzerland. Applications for the EHIC should be made before travelling.

Mandatory precautions

Vaccination certificates not required unless travelling from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Up-to-date tetanus and polio immunisations are recommended.

Hotels

There is no official rating system in operation. There is a shortage of accommodation in major cities so reservations should be made well in advance.

Public holidays (national)**Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 6 Jan (Epiphany), 1 May (Labour Day), 6 June (National Day), 24–26 Dec (Christmas).

Variable dates

Good Friday, Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, Midsummer Holiday (fourth Sat in Jun), All Saints' Day (first Sat in Nov).

Working hours**Banking**

Mon–Fri: 0930–1500 (larger branches open longer).

Business

Mon–Fri: 0830–1700 (often closed one hour earlier in summer).

Government

Mon–Fri 0900–1700.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0900–1800 (closed 1400 or 1600 on Sat).

Telecommunications**Mobile/cell phones**

There are 3G, 900 and 1800 GSM (including WAP, GPRS, SMS and MMS) services throughout the country.

Electricity supply

220V AC

Social customs/useful tips

Swedes appreciate punctuality. A gift of flowers is usual when visiting a business

partner's home for the first time. Guests should not start drinking before their hosts have proposed their health.

Think twice before refusing to go to a sauna with a host, since such an invitation is seen as a gesture of confidence and friendship by your host. Business meetings are sometimes conducted in saunas.

Security

Sweden has very low rates of violent crime, but some districts in the major cities should be avoided, particularly at night and particularly by women. Car burglaries and drugs-related crimes are increasing.

Getting there**Air**

National airline: Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS).

International airport/s: Stockholm-Arlanda (ARN), 45km north of capital; Stockholm-Västerås (VST), 5km east of Västerås; Göteborg-Landvetter (GOT), 25km east of Göteborg; Malmö-Sturup (MMX), 30km east of Malmö.

Airport tax: None

Surface

Road: Sweden can be reached by road from Denmark via the Øresund tunnel and bridge link between Copenhagen and Malmö. There is also road access from Norway and Finland.

Rail: Statens Järnvägar (SJ) (State Railways) is the major rail company in Sweden. It runs international high-speed trains between either Stockholm/Göteborg-Copenhagen (Denmark) – journey time five hours/3.30 hours; Stockholm-Oslo – journey time 4.45 hours. These services offer business class accommodation. Overnight trains with sleeping coaches are available between Berlin (Germany) and Malmö.

Water: There are ferry links with ports in northern and eastern Europe.

Getting about**National transport**

Air: There are daily flights connecting all main towns, some by SAS and others by small local airlines.

Road: Sweden has a well-developed and maintained road network totalling about 420,000km, two-thirds of which are privately-managed, including unpaved forestry roads. Most private roads are open to the public. At least 95 per cent of traffic is carried by the national and municipal roads. There are around 20,000km of motorways.

Dipped headlights during the day are mandatory. The roads are snow-bound or icy during the winter months, when appropriate tyres are a requirement.

Buses: Efficient bus service, mainly controlled by the Statens Järnvägar (SJ) (State

Railways). Services integrated with rail service.

Rail: There are good, reliable rail links between most major cities and towns, especially in the south. Seats on express services must be booked in advance.

Water: There is an extensive ferry network in and around Sweden.

City transport

Taxis: Available in all major towns. If you order a taxi in advance there is an extra charge. Some taxi companies offer flat rates for travel within urban areas, and others have special fares for women travelling alone at night.

Gratuities for taxis are around 10 per cent.

Buses, trams & metro: All rail, bus and tram services have a unified ticketing system. Books of 20 travel coupons are available for purchase at Press Agency news-stands.

A city transfer service links Arland and Västerås airports with Stockholm city centre, with a journey time of about 40 minutes. The journey time from Västerås airport is around 75 minutes.

Trams run in the southern parts of Bromma and Lidingö.

Metro: The *Tunnelbana* serves many districts of Stockholm, with 100 stations marked by a blue T sign. The extended rail service includes outlying suburbs.

Car hire

Available at all airports and in most towns and cities.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Sweden is +46, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Gävle	26	Malmö	40
Göteborg	31	Norrköping	11
Helsingborg	42	Oxelösund	155
Jönköping	36	Stockholm	8
Karlskrona	455	Sundsvall	60
Karlstad	54	Umeå	90
Luleå	920	Uppsala	18

Useful telephone numbers

Police, fire and ambulance: 112

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Sweden, 3 Jakobs Torg, PO Box 16050, 10321 Stockholm (tel: 5061-2610; fax: 5061-2910; e-mail: amcham@chamber.se).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

British Swedish Chamber of Commerce, 3 Jakobs Torg, PO Box 16050, 10321 Stockholm (tel: 5061-2617; fax: 5061-2915; e-mail: bsscc@chamber.se).

Central Sweden Chamber of Commerce, 1 Linnévägen, PO Box 296, 80104 Gävle (tel: 662-080; fax: 662-099; e-mail: chamber@mhk.cci.se).

East Sweden Chamber of Commerce, 3 Nya Rådstugugatan, 60224 Norrköping (tel: 28-5030; fax: 13-7719; e-mail: info@east.cci.se).

Jönköping Chamber of Commerce, 11 Elmiavägen, 55454 Jönköping (tel: 301-430; fax: 129-579; e-mail: jnci@jn.wtc.se).

Mid Sweden Chamber of Commerce, 26 Kyrkogatan, 85232 Sundsvall (tel: 171-880; fax: 618-640; e-mail: sdl@mid-chamber.cci.se).

Southern Sweden Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2 Skeppsbron, 21120 Malmö (tel: 690-2400; fax: 690-2490; e-mail: info@handelskammaaren.com).

Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, 9 Västra Trädgårdsgatan, PO Box 16050, 10321 Stockholm (tel: 5551-0000; fax: 5663-1635; e-mail: info@chamber.se).

Swedish Chambers of Commerce, 9 Västra Trädgårdsgatan, PO Box 16050, 10321 Stockholm (tel: 5551-0036; fax: 5663-1637; e-mail: info@chamber.se).

Uppsala Chamber of Commerce, Uppsala Science Park, 75183 Uppsala (tel: 502-950; fax: 554-458; e-mail: info@ uppsala.chamber.se).

Wermland Chamber of Commerce, 6 Södra Kyrkogatan, 65224 Karlstad (tel: 221-480; fax: 221-490; e-mail: info@wermland.cci.se).

Western Sweden Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 18 Mössens Gata, PO Box 5253, 40225 Göteborg (tel: 835-900; fax: 835-936; e-mail: info@handelskammaren.net).

Banking

Götabanken, Sveavägen 14, 10377 Stockholm (tel: 790-4000) and Hamngatan 16, 40509 Gothenburg (tel: 625-000).

Handelsbanken, 20540 Malmö (tel: 245-000; fax: 236-134).

Nordea, Västra Trädgårdsgatan 17, 5 tr, 10571 Stockholm (tel: 614-8558; fax: 614-7530).

Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, Kungsträdgårdsgatan 8, 10640 Stockholm (tel: 763-5000; fax: 242-394).

Svenska Bankforeningen (Swedish bankers' association), Regeringsgatan 42, Box 7603, 10394 Stockholm (tel: 243-300).

Svenska Handelsbanken, Kungsträdgårdsgatan 2, 10670 Stockholm (tel: 701-1000; fax: 611-5071).

Svenska Sparbanksforeningen (Swedish savings banks' association), Drottninggatan 29, Box 16426, 10327 Stockholm (tel: 572-000).

SwedBank, Brunkebergstorg 8, 10534 Stockholm (tel: 790-1000).

Central bank

Sveriges Riksbank, Brunkebergstorg 11, SE-103 37 Stockholm (tel: 787-0000; fax: 210-531; e-mail: registratorn@riksbank.se).

Stock exchange

Stockholmsbörsen (Stockholm Stock Exchange), www.omxnordicexchange.com

NGN-Borsen (Nordic Growth Market) (NGM), www.ngm.se

Travel information

Kungliga Automobil Klubben (KAK), Blasieholmshamnen 6, 11148 Stockholm (tel: 678-0055; fax: 678-0068; e-mail: info@kak.se).

SJ AB (State Railways), 105 50 Stockholm (tel: 762 20 00; fax: 762 24 24; website: www.sj.se); on-line booking at www.swedenbooking.com).

Svenska Turistforeningen (Swedish Tourist Association), Stureplan 4, PO Box 25, 10120 Stockholm (tel: 463-2100; fax: 678-1958; info@stffurist.se).

Svensk Turism AB, Kammakargatan 39, Box 1158, 11181 Stockholm (tel: 762-7400; e-mail: info@svenskturism.se).

Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), Frösundaviks Allé 1, 19587 Stockholm (tel: 797-0000; fax: 797-1603).

National tourist organisation offices

VisitSweden (The Swedish Travel and Tourism Council), Sveavögen 21, Box 3030, 103 61 Stockholm (tel: 789-1000; fax: 789-1031; e-mail: reception@visitsweden.com).

Ministries

All ministries in Sweden have the same address: S-10333 Stockholm (tel: 405-1000; fax: 723-1171).

Invest in Sweden Agency, S-10338 Stockholm (tel: 676-8876/0; fax: 676-8888).

National Board of Forestry, S-55183 Jönköping (tel: 155-600; fax: 190-740).

National Board of Trade, Box 1209, S-11182 Stockholm (tel: 791-0500; fax: 200-324).

National Electrical Safety Board, Box 1371, S-11193 Stockholm (tel: 453-9700; fax: 453-9710).

National Maritime Administration, S-60178 Norrköping (tel: 191-000; fax: 101-949).

National Post and Telecom Agency, Box 5398, S-10249 Stockholm (tel: 678-5500; fax: 678-5505).

Statistics Sweden, Karlavägen 100, S-11581 Stockholm (tel: 783-4000; fax: 661-5261).

Swedish Board of Agriculture, S-55182 Jönköping (tel: 155-000; fax: 190-546).

Swedish Board of Customs, Box 2267, S-10317 Stockholm (tel: 789-7300; fax: 208-012).

Swedish Civil Aviation Administration, S-60179 Norrköping (tel: 192-000; fax: 192-575).

Swedish Board for Investment and Technical Support, BITS, Box 7837, S-10398 Stockholm (tel: 678-5000; fax: 678-5050).

Swedish National Board of Fisheries, Lilla Bommen 6, S-40126 Göteborg (tel: 630-300; fax: 156-577).

Swedish National Board for Industrial and Technical Development (NUTEK), S-11786 Stockholm (tel: 681-9100; fax: 196-826).

Swedish National Road Administration, S-78187 Borlänge (tel: 75-000; fax: 84-640).

Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate, S-10658 Stockholm (tel: 698-8400; fax: 661-9086).

Swedish Patent Office, Box 5055, S-10242 Stockholm (tel: 782-2500; fax: 666-0286).

Swedish Standards Institution, Box 3295, S-10366 Stockholm (tel: 613-5200; fax: 411-7035).

Swedish Trade Council, PO Box 5513, S-11485 Stockholm (tel: 783-8500; fax: 662-9093).

Other useful addresses

British Embassy, Skarpögatan 6-8, Box 27819, 11593 Stockholm (tel: 671-9000; fax: 662-9989 (commercial section)).

Federation of Commercial Agents of Sweden, Hantverkargatan 46, 11221 Stockholm (tel: 540-975).

Federation of Commercial Agents of Sweden, Western Division, Box 36059, 40013 Göteborg (tel: 192-045).

Federation of Swedish Industries, Storgatan 19, 11485 Stockholm (tel: 783-8000; fax: 662-3595).

Federation of Swedish Wholesalers and Importers, Grevgatan 34, Box 5512, 11485 Stockholm (tel: 635-280).

Handels Arbetsgivareorg (HAO) (commercial employers' confederation), Box 1720, 11187 Stockholm (tel: 762-7700).

Kungl Automobil Klubben (KAK) (Royal Automobile Club), S. Blasieholmshamnen 6, S-11148 Stockholm (tel: 678-0055; fax: 678-0068).

Motormännens Riksförbund (Automobile Association), Sturegatan 32, PO Box 5855, 10248 Stockholm 5 (tel: 782-3800; fax: 666-0371).

SACO/SR (confederation of professional associations), Box 2206, 10315 Stockholm (tel: 225-200).

Sollentunamassan (organisers of trade fairs), Box 174, 19123 Sollentuna (tel: 925-900; fax: 929-774).

Stockholmsbörsen, SE-10578 Stockholm (tel: 405-6000; fax: 405-6001).

Stockholm Technical Fair (Stockholmsmassan AB), Alvsjö, 12580 Stockholm (tel: 749-4100; fax: 992-044).

Svenska Arbetsgivareforeningen (employers' confederation), Sodra Blasieholmshamnen 4A, 10-330 Stockholm (tel: 762-6000; fax: 762-6290).

Sveriges Exportråd (Swedish Trade Council), PO Box 5513, 11485 Stockholm (tel: 783-8500; fax: 663-6706).

Swedish Embassy (USA), Suite 900, 1501 M Street, NW, Washington DC 20005 (tel: (+1-202) 467-2600; fax: (+1-202) 467-2699; e-mail: ambassaden.washington@foreign.ministry.se).

Swedish Institute, Box 7434, 10391 Stockholm (tel: 789-2000).

Swedish Trade Fair Foundation (Svenska Massan), Skanegatan 26, Box 5222, 40224 Göteborg (tel: 109-100; fax: 160-330).

TCO (central organisation of salaried employees), Box 5252, 10245 Stockholm (tel: 782-9100).

Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå (news agency), Kungsholmstorg 5, 10512 Stockholm (tel: 132-600; fax: 515-377).

Other news agencies: TT (Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå) 105 12 Stockholm, (tel: 692-2600; fax: 692-2855; email: redaktionen@tt.se). TT is a private independent agency.

Internet sites

Export directory: www.swedishtrade.se/sed

Government of Sweden: www.sweden.gov.se

Invest in Sweden Agency: www.isa.se/

Statistics Sweden: www.scb.se/eng/index.asp

Swedish Statistics network: www.svenskstatistik.net

Virtual Sweden: www.sweden.se

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