Sweden

Introduction

Sweden is a country located in Northern Europe bordering the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, Kattegat, and Skagerrak. Neighboring countries include Finland,Norway, and Sweden

boasts a strategic location along Danish Straits linking Baltic and North Seas. The geography of Sweden is mostly flat with mountains in the west. The government system is a constitutional monarchy. The chief of state is the King and the head of government is the Prime Minister. Sweden has a mixed economic system in which there is a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Sweden is a member of the European Union (EU).

Location: Northern Europe
Capital City: Stockholm (+1 GMT)
Chief of State: King Carl XVI Gustaf
Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt
Currency: Swedish kronor (SEK)
Major Languages: Swedish (official), small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities
Primary Religions: Lutheran 87%, other (includes Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist) 13%
Calling Code: 46
Voltage: 230

Key Websites

Main Government Page:	sweden.gov.se
Commerce Ministry:	sweden.gov.se
Export Promotion Agency:	kommers.se
Investment Promotion Agency:	business-sweden.se

Key Economic Facts

Budget Expenditures:	$.28 trillion (2011)
Budget revenues:	$.28 trillion (2011)
Debt - external:	$1.02 trillion (2011)
Distribution Of Family Income - GINI Index:	23.00% (2005)
Exports:	$189.10 billion (2011)
GDP per capita, PPP:	$41,299.76 (2011)
GDP, PPP:	$.39 trillion (2011)
Imports:	$176.10 billion (2011)
Industrial production growth rate:	6.80% (2011)
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	3.00% (2011)
Labor force:	5.02 million (2011)
Population:	9.10 million (2012)
Unemployment rate:	7.50% (2011)

GDP Composition %

Rankings

Index	Rank
Freedom of the Press	1/197
Global Competitiveness Report	4/144
Global Enabling Trade Report	4/132
Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI)	21/38
Index of Economic Freedom	18/177
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	13/155
Inward FDI Potential Index	8/141
KOF Index of Globalization	7/187
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	1/142
Open Budget Index	4/100

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A1 - The political and economic situation is very good. A quality business environment has a positive influence on corporate payment behaviour. Corporate default probability is very low on average.

Business Climate rating: A1 - The business environment is very good. Corporate financial information is available and reliable. Debt collection is efficient. Institutional quality is very good. Intercompany transactions run smoothly in environments rated A1.

Strengths

- Open, diversified and competitive economy
- Specialisation in high tech products and green economy
- Solid public sector finances
- Political consensus on Scandinavian model
- Programme to cut tax burden
- Resilient banking sector
- High household net worth

Weaknesses

- High youth unemployment
- Aging population
- High household debt

U.S. Embassy

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