Economic Report 2025

Sweden

30 June 2025

Executive Summary

During the review period, the Swedish economy showed cautious signs of recovery in some macroeconomic indicators in the second half of 2024. However, these indicators remain fragile due to the international geopolitical context, including wars in Ukraine, in the Middle East and US tariff policy. They indeed showed signs of decrease in the first quarter of 2025[1]. As a result, the economy is in recession. Foreign trade is expected to remain the driving force behind a more consolidated recovery in the second half of 2025 and in 2026.

Against this cautious backdrop, and considering the country's needs, the Swedish government has demonstrated confidence and committed to major long-term and costly projects. For instance, expenditure on road and rail infrastructure is expected to reach SEK 799 billion (CHF 66.5 billion) between 2022 and 2033[2], while state loans for nuclear expansion could total up to SEK 600 billion (CHF 54.5 billion) by 2045[3]. However, it is mainly the increase in defence expenditure in the years to come (up to 5% of GDP per year) that is putting public finances under stress and defining expenditure priorities. To address this issue, a cross-party agreement was reached on 19 June 2025 to finance defence spending. This expenditure alone is putting the restrictive fiscal policy framework (budget policy) that has been in place successfully since the mid-1990s on hold to a certain extent, for several years. While the debt anchor should remain unchanged at 35% of GDP according to the agreement, the increase in loans to finance military expenditure will indeed cause net lending to deviate from its target for the period 2026–2034. This deviation could result in an increase in debt of up to SEK 300 billion (CHF 26 billion). A return to balanced net lending must be achieved by 2035 at the latest, necessitating the implementation of additional financing measures (i.e. cuts) in other areas[4].

While the bilateral trade in goods between Switzerland and Sweden decreased in 2024, trade in services increased during the same period. With its well-developed economy and large infrastructure projects, Sweden continues to represent an interesting market for Swiss companies.

[1] https://www.government.se/press-releases/2025/06/swedish-economy-remains-in-recession-but-conditions-for-recovery-show-promise/?mtm_campaign=Press+release&mtm_source=Press+release&mtm_medium=email
[2] https://trafikverket.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1638454/FULLTEXT01.pdf
[3] https://www.government.se/press-releases/2025/05/green-light-for-a-new-model-for-financing-and-risk-sharing-for-investments-in-new-nuclear-power/
[4] https://www.government.se/press-releases/2025/06/cross-party-agreement-on-historic-rearmament/

Embassy of Switzerland in the Kingdom of Sweden
Valhallavägen 64, Stockholm
Phone +46 8 676 7900
stockholm@eda.admin.ch
https://www.eda.admin.ch/stockholm

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS 3
2 PRIORITY SECTORS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWISS COMPANIES 4
3 FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY 6
3.1 Host country's policy and priorities 6
3.2 Outlook for Switzerland (potential for discrimination or comparative advantage) 7
4 FOREIGN TRADE 7
4.1 Developments and general outlook 7
4.1.1 Trade in goods 8
4.1.2 Trade in services (if data available) 8
4.2 Bilateral trade 9
4.2.1 Trade in goods 9
4.2.2 Trade in services (Swedish perspective) 9
5 DIRECT INVESTMENTS 10
5.1 Developments and general outlook 10
5.2 Bilateral investment 10
6 ECONOMIC AND TOURISM PROMOTION 11
6.1 Swiss foreign economic promotion instruments 11
6.2 The host country's interest in Switzerland 12
ANNEX 1 – Economic structure 13
ANNEX 2 – Main economic data 14
ANNEX 3 – Trade partners 15
ANNEX 4 – Bilateral trade 16
ANNEX 5 – Main investing countries 17

1 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

For Sweden, 2024 was marked by economic recovery where Q4 made a significant difference boosting the final statistics (+0,8% compared to Q3). Growth during Q1 of 2025 was -0,2% compared to Q4 of 2024[5]. The IMF Art. IV report (April 2025) shows that real GDP growth for the whole year 2024 (year-over-year) was 1% instead of the predicted 0,2% in March 2024. The European Commission's economic forecast still predicted in November 2024 only 0,3% GDP growth. The factor that boosted GDP growth in the end of 2024 was foreign trade, notably the export of goods. The chemical and pharma industries as well as 'other means of transportation' (i.e. production of military combat vehicles) were the driving sectors. The IMF Art. IV forecast (2025) expects Swedish GDP growth for 2025 and 2026 to be 1,9% and 2,2%. CPIF-inflation (Consumer price index with fixed interest rate inflation), a commonly used indicator, stabilised during 2024 around the inflation target of 2% set by the Riksbank (National Bank). Minister of Finance, Elisabeth Svantesson, declared multiple times during the year that the problem of surging inflation of the past two years had been contained. Unemployment remained at a high but stable level in 2024 (8,7% in December), one of the highest in the EU.

These generally positive macro indicators played a central role in the policy interest rate of the Riksbank in 2024. In contrast to the years 2022 and 2023, the policy rate trend in 2024 was decreasing from 4% in May going to 2,5% in December 2024 up to the current rate of 2%[6]. This policy rate decrease stimulated the economic context for Swedish businesses, leading to higher-than-expected exports numbers and economic growth in Q4 and throughout Q1 in 2025. For this reason and due to the economic turbulence caused by the announcement of US tariffs, the Swedish SEK has gained 13% against the USD and 4,9% against the EUR, during the first five months of 2025[7]. Analysts expect the SEK to gain ca. 26% against the USD, from the beginning of 2025 until Q1 of 2026[8]. The current situation is considered very unusual since a strengthening SEK normally affects export levels negatively. Part of the explaining factors is the boost that the Swedish defence industry is giving to Swedish export, in the context of increased European military defence spendings, as well as market currency speculation. Given the unpredictable US economic context, it is unclear whether the upswing of the SEK will be of more permanent character.

On 1 April 2025 the Riksbank decided on a new strategic allocation of the gold and foreign exchange reserves, which includes a few new eurozone countries[9]. The aim is to achieve a balance between contingency preparedness, risk and reward. The Riksbank decided, until further notice, that the foreign reserves will contain following currency assets: the US dollar at 70% (previously 62%), the Euro at 17.5% (previously 22%), the British Pound Sterling unchanged at 5%, the Australian dollar unchanged at 5% and the Norwegian Krone at 2.5% (previously 3%).

In November 2024, a parliamentary committee presented a report on a reform of the Swedish fiscal policy framework, to Minister of Finance, E. Svantesson[10]. The fiscal policy framework is a governmental instrument to achieve public finance discipline and currently consists of a 1) budget surplus target, 2) public debt anchor, 3) government expenditure ceiling, and 4) the requirement of local governments to maintain sound financial and budget management[11]. After several rounds of discussions, a cross-party agreement (Government and opposition) reached an agreement on 19 June 2025 on loosening up on the policy framework in order to finance the ongoing and upcoming expenditure in defence. In practice, net lending will deviate from its target for the period 2026-2034, with this deviation entailing up to an indebtedness increase of SEK 300 billion (CHF 26 billion). The return to a balanced net lending must take place by 2035, requiring the introduction of successive financing measures in other fields (i.e. cuts).

[5] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-euro-indicators/w/2-06062025-ap
[6] https://www.riksbank.se/en-gb/press-and-published/notices-and-press-releases/press-releases/2025/policy-rate-is-cut-to-2-per-cent/
[7] According to exchange rate courses for SEK/USD and SEK/EUR on 30 May 2025.
[8] https://sebgroup.com/press/news/2025/why-is-the-swedish-krona-suddenly-so-strong
[9] https://www.riksbank.se/globalassets/media/nyheter--pressmeddelanden/pressmeddelanden/2025/250401/press-release-new-strategic-allocation-of-gold-and-foreign-exchange-reserves-and-unchanged-currency-hedging.pdf
[10] https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2024/11/utredning-foreslar-att-balansmal-infors/
[11] https://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-of-finance/central-government-budget/the-fiscal-policy-framework/

On the topic of productivity, a weakness in Sweden's economy, an investigative Government-assigned committee produced an interim report in April 2024, describing the current state and what can be done to improve it. For the last 25 years Sweden has been facing declining productivity growth[12]. The interim report proposes reforms, such as regulatory simplification, less stringent legislation in the housing market and building sector, speeding up the deliverance of permit processes, increasing socio-economic profitability of transport infrastructure investments. It also advocates measures to lower marginal income tax which should lead to increased willingness among employees to take up more workplace-related education and responsibility on the job[13].

In March 2025 the Parliament passed the Government's bill on a financing model for the development of new nuclear power in Sweden[14]. The new State aid (loan worth in total SEK 600 billion, ca. CHF 54,5 billion) is limited to investments of up to a total installed capacity of approximately 5'000 MW which is equivalent to four large-scale reactors[15]. This has prompted a discussion over the last year how such long-term investments should be financed. The options are either to take it directly out of the state budget and thus redirecting (i.e. reducing) funds from other areas of government spending, or by borrowing it and increasing public debt.

Further on the topic of green transition, the year 2024 was marked by the build-up of the crisis of the electric battery producer Northvolt, which filed for bankruptcy in March 2025, with Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson ruling out the possibility of a nationalisation of Northvolt[16]. In June 2024, the cancelation of a EUR 2 billion order had raised great concern[17] and the company had not been able to produce sufficiently qualitative material itself. In total, 3'000 jobs over the cities of Skellefteå, Västerås and Stockholm are affected by the Northvolt bankruptcy, which is the largest insolvency in Swedish economic history.

On the topic of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, the Swedish Government has identified Artificial Intelligence-literacy in the workplace as a crucial skill to develop economic and administrative efficiency and secure economic growth. In November 2024, the Government received a road map report from a government-appointed 'AI Commission', recommending how to future-proof the efficiency of the Swedish economy and societal AI-literacy[18]. For several years, Sweden has been lagging behind in terms of embracing AI in its economy. Despite the AI Commission's strong recommendation to swiftly commence the implementation of the 75 proposed policy measures, the Government only presented three new measures in the spring budget 2025, together worth SEK 82 million (CHF 7 million): focusing on setting up an 'AI-workshop' for the public sector; archive digitalisation and disinformation counter management[19].

2 PRIORITY SECTORS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWISS COMPANIES

The main sectors of importance in Sweden that may be of relevance and economic interest for Swiss companies are general industry, as well as med-tech, defence[20] and aerospace industries, where a high number of advanced technological companies require both machinery, components, automation systems, as well as advanced services. Since the start of the war in Ukraine in 2022, the whole Swedish defence industry has seen an upswing, with an increase of total turnover of 56% - from SEK 64 billion (CHF 5,37 billion) in 2023 to SEK 98 billion (CHF

[12] https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/selected-issues-papers/Issues/2025/04/14/Tracing-the-Slowdown-of-Labor-Productivity-Growth-Sweden-566202#:~:text=Summary,could%20effectively%20address%20these%20issues.
[13] https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2024/04/produktivitetskommissionen-lamnar-sitt-delbetankande/
[14] https://www.government.se/press-releases/2025/05/green-light-for-a-new-model-for-financing-and-risk-sharing-for-investments-in-new-nuclear-power/
[15] https://www.government.se/government-policy/nuclear-financing/
[16] https://www.di.se/nyheter/kristersson-staten-ska-inte-ga-in-i-northvolt/
[17] https://www.di.se/nyheter/chockbeskedet-northvolt-skrotar-fabriksplanerna-i-borlange/
[18] https://regeringen.se/rapporter/2024/11/ai-kommissionens-fardplan-for-sverige/
[19] https://www.regeringen.se/sveriges-regering/finansdepartementet/statens-budget/
[20] https://soff.se/en/members/

8,23 billion) in 2024[21].

Continued investments in rail and infrastructure[22] open up possibilities for Swiss companies in the sector; Sweden's recent NATO-membership has increased pressure to prioritize the renovation and modernization of critical infrastructure, e.g. several strategic supply (rail) lines between Sweden and Norway[23], as well as a continuation of a euro-gauge rail line from Haparanda in Sweden to Tornio and Kemi in Finland (Finland uses the Russian gauge on their rail lines).

One of the major projects mentioned, the "Oslo – Stockholm 2:55"[24] has advanced, as the global engineering consultant WSP has been awarded the contract of exploring the routing of a part of this line, the Nobel Line between Örebro and Kristinehamn[25].

A second large project, the 270km North Bothnia line[26] between Umeå and Luleå is into an active procurement phase[27] where construction is underway on the section Umeå-Dåva, and construction planning has started for Dåva-Skellefteå.

The North Bothnia line project includes construction of 550 kilometers of road, including both public and service roads, and approximately 250 bridges. Travel centers are planned in Skellefteå, Piteå and Luleå, and regional train stations in Sävar, Robertsfors, Bureå and Byske.

The Swedish military industry, predominantly SAAB, SAAB Bofors Dynamics and BAE Systems Hägglunds, and their suppliers, receives constant new orders due to the rearmament decisions of many European countries, in the context of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. An additional factor is the unreliability of the United States' security guarantees towards Europe. The value of Swedish arms exports in 2024 spiked at SEK 29 billion (CHF 2,5 billion), its highest point in 25 years and a 63% increase of the total export value in 2023[28]. The delivery of a fourth surveillance aircraft, the GlobalEye AEW&C, radar and combat management system by Saab to the United Arab Emirates, worth ca. SEK 6 billion (CHF 0,5 billion), was the highest valued delivery in 2024. The same year, Denmark signed a deal for the purchase of 115 CV 90 infantry fighting vehicles from BAE Systems, worth SEK 25 billion (CHF 2,1 billion). These examples as well as positive export perspectives for JAS Gripen aircrafts to Thailand, Colombia, Hungary and Peru, may lead to increased orders for Swiss companies providing components to these various military products.

The Swedish Government's decision to develop new nuclear power (see above) has contributed to an upswing in research about small-scale nuclear reactors, so-called 'small modular reactors' (SMR's). In Sweden, the company Blykalla (in Swedish: *lead cool*), is the first to have launched the construction of a test reactor, on the site of the nuclear power plant in Oskarshamn. Blykalla plans to begin serial production of their first lead-cooled SMR by 2030[29]. These developments may be of interest to Swiss companies in the field of electrification, construction and industrial technology.

In another field, the updated national Life Science strategy[30] by the Swedish Government continues the tradition of opening up Swedish health data for foreign companies. Swiss companies with digital health competences might thus continue to see and interest in the high degree of digitalisation and the publicly financed healthcare system in Sweden.

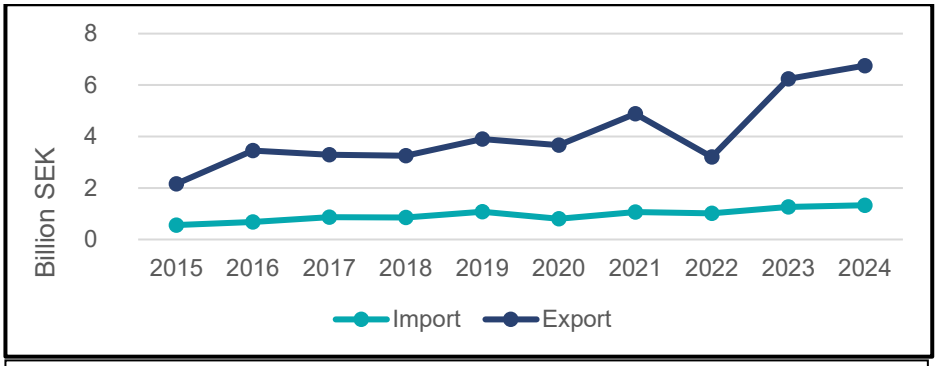
[21] https://soff.se/2025/05/21/branschstatistik-2024-marknaden-okade-med-55-fortsatt-tillvaxt-att-vanta/
[22] https://www.eurailpress.de/nachrichten/infrastruktur-ausruestung/detail/news/schweden-weiterbau-norrbotniabanan-und-weitere-projekte-beschlossen.html
[23] https://www.svd.se/a/LlJX6P/de-viktiga-delarna-maste-sverige-rusta-upp-som-natomedlem
[24] https://www.oslo-sthlm.se/
[25] https://www.jarnvagsnyheter.se/20240916/16596/wsp-vinner-uppdraget-att-utreda-nobelbanans-strackning
[26] https://norrbotniabanan.se/
[27] https://bransch.trafikverket.se/en/startpage/projects/Railway-construction-projects/north-bothnia-line/
[28] https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/a2470e782c3a4192b8e8e0625a0c21e6/strategisk-exportkontroll-2024--krigsmateriel-och-produkter-med-dubbla-anvandningsomraden-skr.-202425114.pdf
[29] https://www.blykalla.com/post/blykalla-and-newcleo-to-partner-on-r-d-for-lead-cooled-smrs#:~:text=The%20company%20plans%20to%20achieve,by%200.5%20gigatons%20each%20year.
[30] https://www.government.se/contentassets/79e61ed6d1334ebba5a1a8bd5bb295f3/a-concerted-effort-for-excellence-long-term-competitiveness-and-increased-patient-benefit/

3 FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY

3.1 Host country's policy and priorities

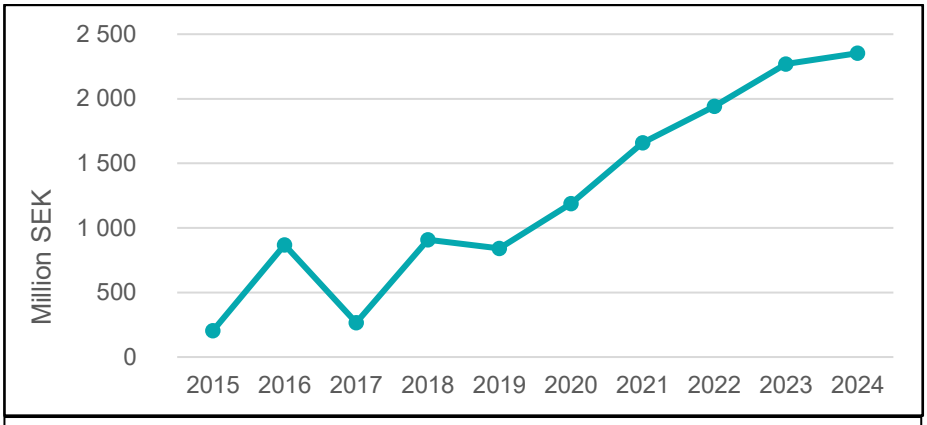
In February 2025, the Join Sweden Summit, the Swedish Government's international investment conference, took place in Stockholm[31]. The summit was aimed at strengthening Sweden's attractiveness to investors, allowing exchange of knowledge, network, and exploring investment possibilities in Sweden. Around 300 attendees were international guests representing 250 companies from 28 countries. Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Benjamin Dousa highlighted the need for foreign investment to increase competitiveness: "Sweden needs foreign investment to create more jobs in Sweden. Some 800'000 people work for foreign-owned companies in Sweden today, and new foreign-owned startups and expansions in Sweden are expected to provide a further 3'000 jobs within the next two years."

Sweden's strategy to support Ukraine involves a multifaceted approach, including significant economic assistance and trade promotion[32]. New initiatives to support Ukraine have also appeared in the food retail sector to get Ukrainian products in Swedish shops and promote them towards Swedish consumers[33]. In the first half of 2024, Business Sweden opened a trade office opened in Kyiv to guide Swedish businesses. Since 1 April 2024, Swedish businesses associated with the Swedish Export Credit Agency can apply for export credit guarantees for business activities in Ukraine[34]. The results of these efforts for the Swedish economy are so far modest, in terms of volume of exchanges[35] and foreign direct investments[36], as the positive trend was already visible before the outbreak of war in 2022 and their regular increase since then is not significant enough to be attributed to the efforts of the government.



Graph 1 | **Swedish trade in goods with the Ukraine**. *Total, Billion SEK. Source: Statistics Sweden*

[31] https://www.government.se/articles/2025/02/business-leaders-from-28-countries-take-part-in-join-sweden-summit-the-governments-investment-conference/
[32] https://www.government.se/government-policy/swedens-support-to-ukraine/swedish-business-sectors-role-in-ukraines-economic-recovery/
[33] https://www.government.se/press-releases/2025/05/swedish-initiative-to-get-ukrainian-products-in-swedish-shops/
[34] https://www.government.se/government-policy/swedens-support-to-ukraine/swedish-business-sectors-role-in-ukraines-economic-recovery/
[35] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__HA__HA0201__HA0201A/OImpExpLandTotAr/
[36] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__FM__FM0001__FM0001D/FM0001T04b/



Graph 2 | **Swedish FDI into Ukraine**. *Net transaction, Million SEK. Source: Statistics Sweden*

Regarding Russia, bilateral trade has constantly been on a relatively low level in the past years. Imports from Russia to Sweden have often exceeded Swedish exports to Russia, with imports going down to virtually zero in 2023 (SEK 401 million, ca. CHF 34,86 mln) and 2024 (SEK 429 million, ca CHF 40 mln) and exports reaching less than SEK 10 billion (CHF 0,84 billion) both in 2023 and 2024[37]. Regarding Russian FDI's in Sweden, the trend is consistent: very low throughout the period 2015-2024, while Swedish FDI's in Russia show an opposite pattern: until 2018 FDI's are positive but remain on a low level. Between 2018 and 2024, FDI's remain negative except 2021. Like many companies from other EU-countries, Swedish businesses - with some exceptions - have stopped their exports to Russia and/or dismantled their subsidiary companies on the Russian territory[38].

3.2 Outlook for Switzerland (potential for discrimination or comparative advantage)

(for general comments, see previous reports, which remain valid)
Sweden has supported Ukraine for SEK 92,8 billion (CHF 7,79 billion) since the beginning of the war: SEK 80 billion (CHF 6,72 billion) in military support[39] and SEK 12,8 billion (CHF 1,07 billion) in non-military (civilian and humanitarian) support[40]. A comparison between the Swiss[41] and Swedish[42] economic support strategies to Ukraine shows a matching focus on energy infrastructure and energy efficiency; water treatment and water infrastructure; health and med tech; reconstruction of hospitals and civil and public buildings.

4 FOREIGN TRADE

4.1 Developments and general outlook

US President Trump's tariffs threats have created a lot of uncertainty among Swedish businesses and consumers, which lead to a prevailing 'wait-and-see' sentiment during Q1 of 2025. Business Sweden found in its Export Managers' Index (EMI) for Q2 of 2025[43] that economic outlook confidence levels among Swedish exporters of goods and services have dropped significantly. Sweden's foreign trade focuses in the first place on Europe, the EU27 and the Nordics. In terms of trade in goods, the main European trade partner countries are Germany (1), Norway (2), the Netherlands (3), Denmark (4) and Finland (6). The United States is Sweden's 5th largest trade partner. The United Kingdom (8) and China (9) are in the top 10 of the largest trade partners. The United Kingdom, despite Brexit, remains a significant (6th)

[37] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__HA__HA0201__HA0201A/OImpExpLandTotAr/
[38] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__FM__FM0001__FM0001D/FM0001T04b/
[39] https://www.government.se/government-policy/swedens-support-to-ukraine/military-support-to-ukraine/
[40] https://www.government.se/government-policy/swedens-support-to-ukraine/humanitarian-and-civilian-support-to-ukraine/
[41] https://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/en/support-ukraine
[42] https://www.government.se/government-policy/swedens-support-to-ukraine/swedish-business-sectors-role-in-ukraines-economic-recovery/
[43] Export Managers' Index (EMI) for Q2 of 2025

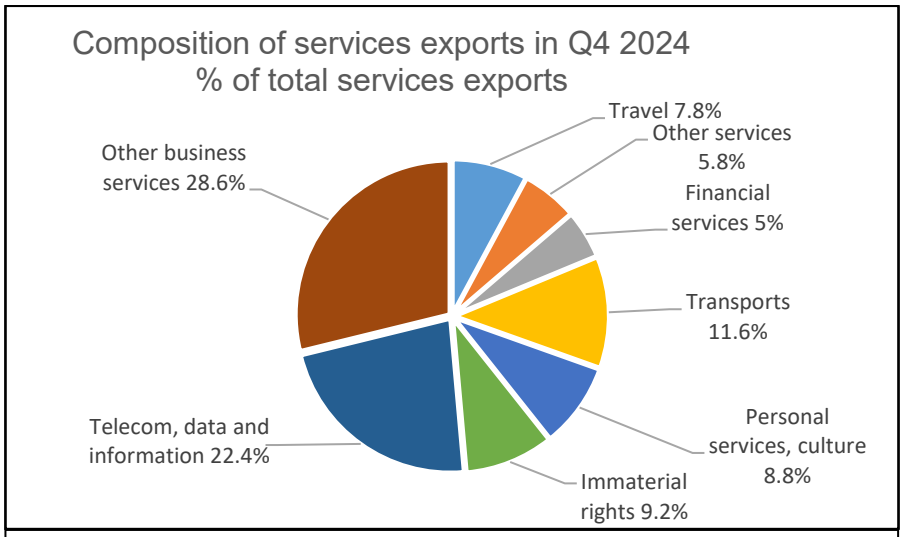
export market. The United States is one of the most important export markets (3rd) for Sweden, while in 2024 China has improved its position as an import market, becoming the 5th largest for Sweden (7th in 2023).

4.1.1 Trade in goods

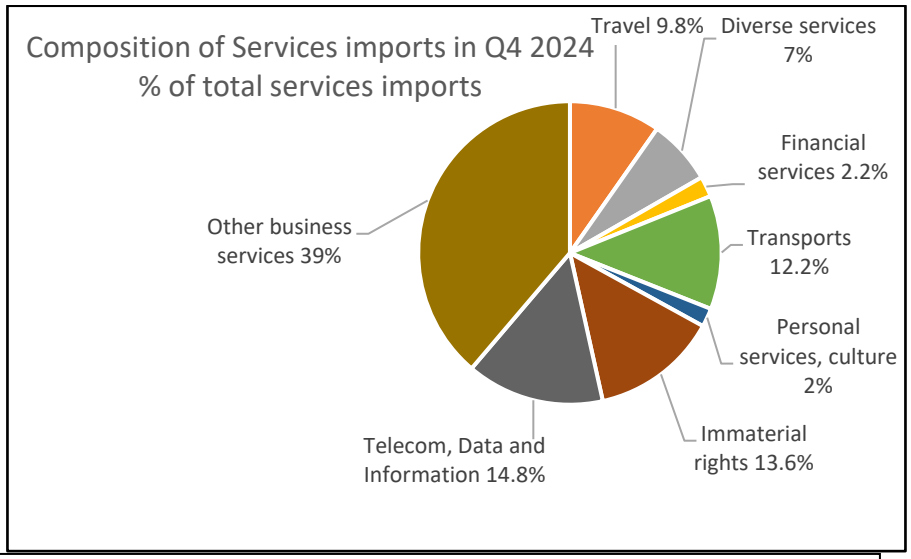
Sweden imports mainly cars and components for the domestic car industry, food, crude oil, equipment for the telecom industry and iron and steel. It exports mainly cars, trucks and other transport equipment, machines, pharmaceutical products, wood and paper, as well as iron. For further information on trade in goods, see Annex 3.

4.1.2 Trade in services (if data available)

Trade in services continued to grow as from Q4 of 2024. Services exports increased +12,5% and services imports increased +7% compared to the same quarter last year (current prices). The value of Sweden's services exports amounted to SEK 338 billion in Q4 of 2024, while services imports amounted to SEK 354 billion.



Graph 4 | **Swedish export of services by category** Q4 2024
Sources: Kommerskollegium / Statistics Sweden (SCB)

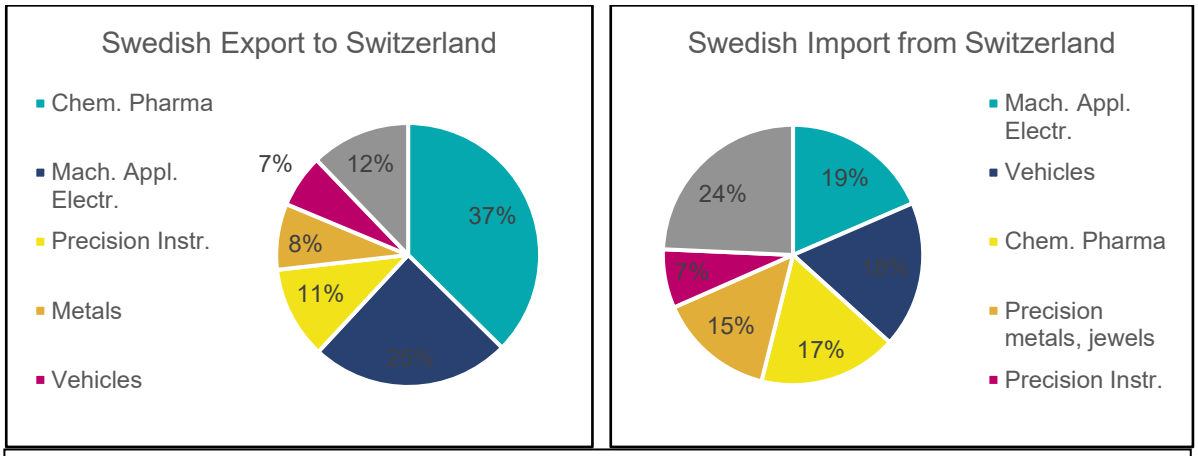


Graph 5 | **Swedish import of services by category** Q4 2024
Sources: Kommerskollegium / Statistics Sweden (SCB)

4.2 Bilateral trade

4.2.1 Trade in goods

Swedish-Swiss trade in goods showed a decrease of 7,6% in 2024, where Swedish exports to Switzerland decreased by 11,8% (3.0% excluding gold) to CHF 1,57 billion and imports decreased by 3,5% (-4.4% excluding gold) to CHF 1,74 billion from the previous year (see Annex 4 for the figures). The main product categories remain unchanged from previous years:

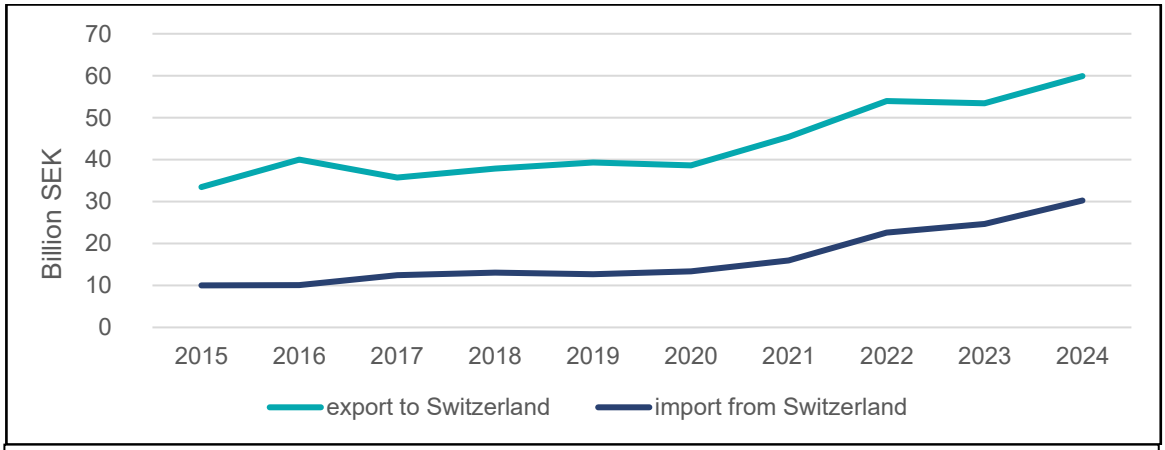


Graph 5 | **Swedish trade in goods with Switzerland per nature of goods**.
Source: EZV

It is worth considering, that the SEK has depreciated against the Swiss Franc by 25,8% since 2017 (see Annex 4). This affects the statistics directly and may certainly have had an effect on the value of the trade in goods, if not the volumes.

4.2.2 Trade in services (Swedish perspective)

Swedish export of services to Switzerland increased by 12%, to SEK 60 billion (CHF 5,1 billion) in 2024, and import increased by over 22%, to over SEK 30 billion. The most common types of services are *Other Business Services* (eg. Consulting, industrial services), *ICT* and *Immaterial Rights*[44].



Graph 6 | **Development of Swedish – Swiss bilateral trade in services** (BSEK) 2015 - 2024. Source: Statistics Sweden

[44] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__HA__HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/

It is worth noticing that Swiss statistics (provided by SNB [45]) differ vastly from the Swedish statistics, due to use of different data compilation methods and practices by the countries. The Balanced Trade in Services Database (BATIS) from the OECD[46] gives figures more in line with the Swedish statistics. The BATIS contains balanced values based on a statistical model. In the BATIS, exports of services from Sweden to Switzerland amount to USD 3.1 billion and imports of services to Sweden from amount to USD 1.9 billion in 2023.

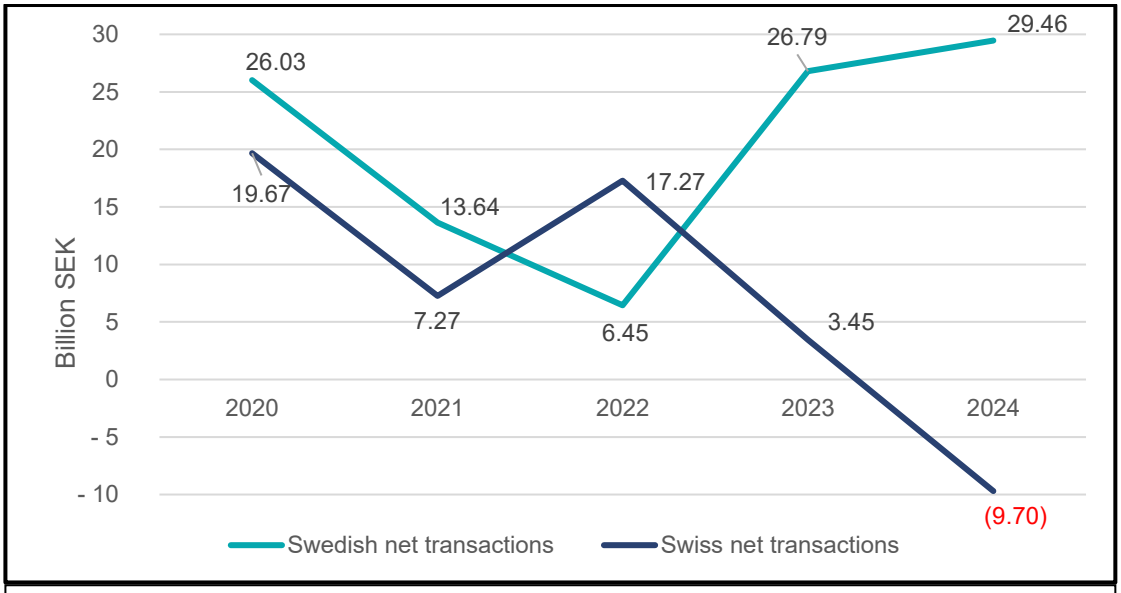
5 DIRECT INVESTMENTS

5.1 Developments and general outlook

Foreign direct investment assets in Sweden increased by SEK 213 billion at the end of 2023 compared with 2022 and amounted to SEK 4'464 billion (CHF388,17 billion)[47]. In terms of foreign direct investment assets in Sweden, Luxembourg keeps its pole position before the United Kingdom as the largest holder country. Luxembourg's assets in Sweden amounted to SEK 893 billion at the end of 2022, while the United Kingdom's assets amounted to SEK 692 billion. The largest foreign assets in Sweden are noted in the industry groups 'financial and insurance activities' and 'legal, professional, scientific and technical activities'.

5.2 Bilateral investment

Both Sweden and Switzerland have well-functioning and similar local markets, and the investment climates are favorable. Main arguments used when promoting Switzerland among interested Swedish investors are the availability of talent, the closeness to European markets, the excellent infrastructure, access to leading multinationals across the industry sectors.



Graph 7: | **Development of Swedish – Swiss FDI net flows** (BSEK) 2020-2024.
Source: Statistics Sweden

Swiss direct investment stock in Sweden amounted to SEK 98 billion in 2023[48] (CHF 8,3 billion), earning Switzerland the 10th place among the largest investors in Sweden. Some 380 Swiss

[45] https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMTE0MmMxMWQtMjU2NS00Yzg5LWIyOWEtNDFlOGJmNjg3YTJmIiwidCI6IjZjNGI0ZWU0LWMxNmYtNGQyZC05NGQ4LTU5ZTE3ODUyYTkzZiJ9
[46] https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=BATIS_EBOPS2010
[47] (SCB) Statistics Sweden published in December 2024. FDI Data until 2023 included
[48] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__FM__FM0001__FM0001D/FM0001T04b/

owned companies employ over 25'000 people in Sweden, placing Switzerland in 10th place with Norway, USA and Germany being the top three foreign employers[49].

Swedish direct investment stock in Switzerland amounted to SEK 166 billion in 2023[50] (CHF 14 billion). 360 Swedish companies employed some 17'000 persons in Switzerland.

6 ECONOMIC AND TOURISM PROMOTION

Sweden remains Switzerland's most important trading partner in the Nordic countries. Economic and trade, and tourism promotion is done in close collaboration with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) and Switzerland Tourism (ST).

Since 2015 all Trade and Investment Promotion in the Nordic countries is led and coordinated through Swiss Business Hub Nordics (Trade Point until May 2024), which is based at the Embassy of Switzerland in Sweden. The team consists of two full-time positions.

Switzerland Tourism's office is based in Stockholm and covers all Nordic countries. The team consists of 3 full-time and 1 part-time positions.

6.1 Swiss foreign economic promotion instruments

The Swiss Business Hub Nordics cooperates closely with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Sweden[51] and the Swedish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland[52], as well as with the Danish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce[53] and the Chamber of Commerce Finland-Switzerland[54]. The Head of the Swiss Business Hub is adjunct Board Member in all the three Swiss chambers in Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

The main events that the Swiss Business Hub supported or organized in 2024 were a Swiss participation at Tech BBQ[55] in Copenhagen, in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy in Denmark and Swissnex, as well as the Swiss participation at the start-up conference SLUSH-24[56] in Helsinki, Finland. Innosuisse supported 23 Swiss start-ups to attend the event, a Swiss pavilion was designed by PRS.

SLUSH will remain the main joint effort by Team Switzerland (Embassy, PRS, Innosuisse, Swissnex, Swiss Business Hub Nordics) in the Nordic Countries. Furthermore, the SBH supported a delegation of Swiss Game developers led by Pro Helvetia during their visit to Nordic Game Conference[57] in Malmö, Sweden. The Embassy and the SBH have supported Pro Helvetia at game development related conferences since 2016.

With 444'000 overnight stays in 2024, the Nordics ranks 13 as origin of tourists[58]. About 42% of the Nordic guests visiting Switzerland originate from Sweden, with the winter share slightly dominating. The most popular regions visited were Zürich, Geneva, Valais and Bern. Switzerland Tourism drives a multi-focus segmented marketing geared towards both active holidays and business meetings.

Swiss tourists logged 2024 some 412'000 overnight stays in Sweden[59], excluding private rentals, AirBnB. This was a slight decrease over the previous year (417'000 in 2023).

[49] https://www.tillvaxtanalys.se/download/18.3a5e58b7189d31eb54d7c5d3/1692630326751/Statistik_2023_05%20Utl%C3%A4ndska%20f%C3%B6retag.pdf
[50] https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START__FM__FM0001__FM0001D/FM0001T06/
[51] https://swisscham.se/
[52] https://swecham.ch/
[53] https://dshk.ch/
[54] https://handelskammer-fin.ch/
[55] https://techbbq.dk/
[56] https://slush.org/
[57] https://nordicgame.com/
[58] https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/tourism.html
[59] https://tillvaxtdata.tillvaxtverket.se/statistikportal_eng#page=72b01aa0-1d4a-425c-8684-dbce0319b39e

6.2 The host country's interest in Switzerland

Sweden and Switzerland share a common interest in several areas, including innovation and research, new technologies and sustainable tourism. The Embassy in Sweden therefore pays close attention to these topics and participates in or organizes several events on them.

There are several cooperation and exchange programs between Swiss and Swedish universities and research institutes. Of the Swiss ones, ETHZ and EPFL are the biggest recipients (and senders) of students from (to) Sweden.

Since 2013, the Swiss-Swedish Innovation Initiative (SWII), an industrial R&D partnering program, helps realizing high-technology projects between Switzerland and Sweden. Over 54 R&D consortia & projects to a value of EUR 78 million have been realized. Altogether, projects include 180 Swiss and Swedish project partners, there among 84 SME companies[60].

The Swiss Nordic Bio[61], a similar cooperation by Vinnova and Innosuisse within biotech, health tech and pharma (drug development, drug delivery, biomaterials, medical device, diagnostics, contract manufacturing, etc.), gathers small, early-stage companies as well as global, commercial corporations in Switzerland for matchmaking.

Furthermore, an MoU between Innosuisse and Vinnova was signed in June 2021, and renewed in April 2025, to foster the cooperation between the innovation agencies of the two countries. The Embassy of Switzerland is currently in contact with the relevant Swedish authorities on a possible MoU in the field of science and research.

[60] https://www.swii.org/index.php/about-the-initiative/initaitive-at-a-glance
[61] https://www.swissnordicbio.com/

ANNEX 1 – Economic structure

Economic structure of the host country

	2018	2023 (most recent year)
Distribution of GDP		
Primary sector	**1.28 %**	**0.99 %**
Manufacturing sector	**22.19 %**	**23.25 %**
Services	**64.99 %**	**65.22 %**
- of which public services	**n/a**	**n/a**

Distribution of employment		
Primary sector	**1.73 %**	**1.77 %**
Manufacturing sector	**18.18 %**	**17.29 %**
Services	**80.09 %**	**80.94 %**
- of which public services	**n/a**	**n/a**

Source(s):

Distribution of GDP: (Data release: January 2025): Statista

https://www.statista.com/statistics/375611/sweden-gdp-distribution-across-economic-sectors

Distribution of employment: (Data release: January 2025): Statista

https://www.statista.com/statistics/375648/employment-by-economic-sector-in-sweden

ANNEX 2 – Main economic data

Host country's main economic data

	2023	2024	2025 projections
GDP (USD bn)*	**585.49**	**610.12**	**620.30**
GDP per capita (USD)* (thousand)	**55.49**	**57.63**	**58.10**
Growth rate (% of GDP)**	**-0.1%**	**1.0%**	**1.9%**
Inflation rate (%)**	**5.9%**	**2.0%**	**2.1%**
Unemployment rate (%)**	**7.7%**	**8.4%**	**8.2%**
Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
Current account balance (% of GDP)**	**7.0%**	**7.4%**	**6.8%**
General Government gross debt (% of GDP)**	**31.5%**	**32.6%**	**33.7%**
Debt-service ratio (% of exports)	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
Reserves (months of imports)**	**2.4%**	**2.5%**	**2.6%**

* Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook (April 2025)
World Economic Outlook Database April 2025

** Source: IMF, Article IV Consultation (April 2025)
Article IV Report April 2025

ANNEX 3 – Trade partners

Trade partners of the host country **Year: 2024**

Rank	Country	Exports *from the host country* (EUR million)	Share	Change [62]	Rank	Country	Imports *to the host country* (EUR million)	Share	Change [10]
1	Germany	1 846.0	10.2%	-3.9%	1	Germany	2 841.6	16.2%	-5.1%
2	Norway	1 763.7	9.7%	2.9%	2	Netherlands	1 936.1	11.1%	-1.5%
3	USA	1 631.6	9.0%	-1.0%	3	Norway	1 755.0	10.0%	-9.9%
4	Denmark	1 232.7	6.8%	-4.6%	4	Denmark	1 161.8	6.6%	1.5%
5	Finland	1 215.2	6.7%	-4.0%	5	China	893.2	5.1%	7.1%
6	UK & NI	967.6	5.3%	-3.1%	6	Finland	889.7	5.1%	3.5%
7	Netherlands	948.3	5.2%	-4.6%	7	Belgium	837.2	4.8%	-9.9%
21	*Switzerland*	*166.2*	*0.9%*	*-6.3%*	*22*	*Switzerland*	*140.0*	*0.8%*	*-17.8%*
	EU 27	11 511.8**	63.6%**	-15,3%**		EU 27	11 720.8**	66.1%**	-2.9%**
	Total	18 100.6	100%	-1.3%		Total	17 521.4	100%	-2.3%

Source(s):

Export/Import: Sweden's most important trade partners 2024:
https://www.kommerskollegium.se/handelsstatistik/varuhandel/sveriges-viktigaste-handelspartner/

*: Data from National Board of Trade (*Kommerskollegium*) has been converted from SEK to EUR (Average 2024 SEK/EUR used conversion rate: SEK 11,43 = EUR 1). SEK billions have become EUR millions

**: Own calculations

[62] Change from the previous year in %

ANNEX 4 – Bilateral trade

Bilateral trade between Switzerland and Sweden

	Export (CHF million)	*Change (%)*	**Import** (CHF million)	*Change (%)*	**Balance** (CHF million)	**Volume** (CHF million)
2020	1'628	-3.6	1'460	-8.8	168	2'893
2021	1'861	14.3	1'508	3.3	353	2'795
2022	1'812	-2.6	1'561	3.5	251	3'188
2023	1'800	-0.7	1'777	13.8	23	3'139
2024	**1'737**	**-3.5**	**1'568**	**-11.8**	**169**	**3'159**
(Total 1)*	**1'703**	***-4.4***	**1'337**	***-3.0***	**366**	**3'040**
2025 Q1 (I-III)**	**483**	**4.4**	**349**	**6.9**	**134**	**832**

*) 'Economic' total (total 1): not including gold bars and other precious metals, currencies, previous stones and gems, works of art and antiques

**) Preliminary data, change (%) from the previous year

Exports	**2023** (% of total)	**2024** (% of total)
1. Products of the Chemical & Pharmaceutical Industry	35.2	37.4
2. Machines, Appliances, Electronics	24.3	24.5
3. Precision Instruments, clocks, watches, jewellery	12.0	11.3
4. Metals	8.3	8.1

Imports	**2023** (% of total)	**2024** (% of total)
1. Machines, Appliances, Electronics	24.4	18.5
2. Vehicles	20.8	18.2
3. Products of the Chemical & Pharmaceutical Industry	17.8	17.2
4. Precious Metals, Jewels (including Gold)	8.1	14.5

Source: Federal Office for Customs and Border Security – Swiss Impex: https://www.gate.ezv.admin.ch/swissimpex/public/bereiche/waren/query.xhtml

Swedish Krona to other currencies

	1 CHF			**1 EUR**			**1 USD**		
	SEK_{Min}	SEK_{Mid}	SEK_{Max}	SEK_{Min}	SEK_{Mid}	SEK_{Max}	SEK_{Min}	SEK_{Mid}	SEK_{Max}
2017	8.79	8.91	9.01	9.42	9.59	9.78	8.46	8.86	9.15
2018	8.32	8.88	9.43	9.76	10.26	10.70	7.84	8.69	9.19
2019	9.02	9.52	9.97	10.19	10.59	10.91	8.87	9.46	9.93
2020	9.25	9.80	10.63	10.04	10.49	11.23	8.19	9.20	10.44
2021	9.11	9.38	9.94	9.88	10.14	10.34	8.19	8.58	9.16
2022	9.77	10.59	11.54	10.23	10.63	11.14	8.91	10.12	11.43
2023	11.07	11.82	12.51	11.02	11.48	11.94	9.93	10.61	11.20
2024	11.57	12.00	12.49	11.15	11.43	11.77	10.09	10.56	11.10

Source: Sveriges Riksbank – Swedish National Bank, https://www.riksbank.se/en-gb/statistics/interest-rates-and-exchange-rates/search-interest-rates-and-exchange-rates/

ANNEX 5 – Main investing countries

Main investing countries in the host country **Year: 2023**

Rank	Country	Direct investment (BSEK)	Share	Variation (stock)	Inflows over past year (BSEK)
1	Luxembourg	893	20.0 %	+ 5.4 %	54.3
2	UK & NI	692	15.5 %	+ 12.3 %	55.2
3	Netherlands	557	12.5 %	+ 5.5 %	68.2
4	USA	374	8.4 %	+ 10.0 %	34.9
5	Germany	348	7.8 %	+ 6.7 %	11.7
6	Norway	337	7.5 %	- 4.0 %	-0.1
7	Finland	324	7.3 %	+ 22.3 %	42.2
8	Denmark	199	4.5 %	- 7.9 %	-0.9
9	Ireland	119	2.7 %	- 4.0 %	-4.2
10	**Switzerland**	**98**	**2.2 %**	**- 4.9 %**	**3.4**
…	EU 27	2693	60.3 %	+ 4.2 %	126.8
	Total	4464	100%	+ 5.0 %	265.0

Source(s):

*: Most recent data for category “Direct investment” only available until 2023