



---

# Economic Report 2024

## Sweden

30 June 2024

---

### **Executive Summary**

During the period under review, the economic impact of the war in Ukraine has continued to weigh on the Swedish economy. While inflation has fallen continuously and is currently at the target level of 2%, economic activity is recovering slowly, with negative growth in 2023, low growth expected for 2024, and the unemployment rate forecast to remain high (8.4% expected by the end of 2024).

The Swedish public actors have played their part in stabilising the economy. The Swedish National Bank (Riksbank) has been instrumental in fighting the inflation and stopping the depreciation of the Swedish currency (SEK). On the one hand, it has raised the interest rate and lowered it slowly, in line with the inflation dynamics. On the other hand, the Riksbank has decided to strengthen the SEK by reducing its exposure to foreign currencies.

For its part, the Swedish government's priority is to keep the public debt around 32% of the GDP, as sane State finances are seen as the precondition for any larger recovery. In addition, the Government is working on measures in order to stimulate the economy and increase the productivity<sup>1</sup>. In Sweden, as elsewhere, productivity is seen as crucial to economic development and Sweden has experienced weak productivity growth for several years. To reverse this trend, the Swedish government appointed a Productivity Commission in 2023. The Commission submitted its interim report in April 2024 with proposals to strengthen productivity in both the private and public sectors. The final report is due in October 2025<sup>2</sup>.

Sweden remains one of the most innovative countries in the world. The start-up ecosystem is considered to be one of the three best in the world, and the country has one of the highest number of unicorns per capita in the world. Four major geographical and thematic clusters structure Sweden's economic and innovation landscape: life sciences, the green transition and the electrification of transport, smart cities and artificial intelligence.

In this context, Sweden remains a very interesting economic partner for Switzerland and a medium-scale lab for cooperation in innovative fields. To this end, the upgrade of the Trade Point Nordics into a Swiss Business Hub Nordics and the extension of its mandate are an important step in helping to increase the exchange of goods and services and Swedish direct investment in Switzerland, especially in the field of innovation and new technologies.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.government.se/articles/2024/04/the-2024-spring-budget-in-five-minutes/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2024/04/produktivitetskommissionen-lamnar-sitt-delbetankande/>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>PRIORITY SECTORS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWISS COMPANIES</b> .....	4
<b>3</b>	<b>FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY</b> .....	4
3.1	<b>Host country's policy and priorities</b> .....	4
3.2	<b>Outlook for Switzerland (potential for discrimination or comparative advantage)</b> .....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b> .....	5
4.1	<b>Developments and general outlook</b> .....	5
4.1.1	<i>Trade in goods</i> .....	6
4.1.2	<i>Trade in services (if data available)</i> .....	7
4.2	<b>Bilateral trade</b> .....	8
4.2.1	<i>Trade in goods</i> .....	8
4.2.2	<i>Trade in services (if data available)</i> .....	9
<b>5</b>	<b>DIRECT INVESTMENTS</b> .....	10
5.1	<b>Developments and general outlook</b> .....	10
5.2	<b>Bilateral investment</b> .....	10
<b>6</b>	<b>ECONOMIC AND TOURISM PROMOTION</b> .....	11
6.1	<b>Swiss foreign economic promotion instruments</b> .....	11
6.2	<b>The host country's interest in Switzerland</b> .....	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

In June 2023, the EU Commission forecasted a slight contraction of the Swedish economy and negative GDP growth (-0,5%) for the whole year<sup>3</sup>. The same forecast predicted that the GDP growth for 2024 would have resumed (+1,1%). According to Statistics Sweden's data (February 2024), GDP growth in the full year of 2023 was -0,2%<sup>4</sup> compared to 2022. The IMF Article IV data from March 2024, indicates that Swedish GDP growth for 2024 is expected to be +0,2%. Three out of four quarters in 2023 showed negative GDP growth compared to respective quarter in 2022 (Q1: +0,8%, Q2: -1%, Q3: -1,4%, Q4: -0,2%) and monthly unemployment rates began to increase together with the number of bankruptcies in September 2023. The unemployment rate between January and December 2023 went up from 7,3% to 8,2%<sup>5</sup>. In September 2023, when the economic downturn in Sweden became clearly visible, the unemployment trend was 7,9%. By the end of 2024, unemployment is foreseen to have further increased to 8,4%<sup>6</sup>.

Since the peak of 10,2% in December 2022, monthly inflation rates dropped significantly and reached 2,3% in December 2023, just above the Riksbank's (Swedish National Bank) inflation target of 2% which is expected to be reached in 2024. Although inflation decreased in 2023, the monthly rates remained high and the Riksbank continued to raise progressively the policy rate from 2,5% to 4% in 2023. The Riksbank's estimation by the end of 2023 was that an eventual decrease of the policy rate would occur during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2024. The macro-economic previsions for Sweden however improved during the winter of 2023-2024 which made the Riksbank revise its prediction, stating that a lowered policy rate might already occur in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2024. Subsequently, in May 2024, the bank lowered the policy rate by -0,25% to 3,75%; which is the first decrease in eight years. On 26 June 2024, the Riksbank left the rate unchanged although the inflation has settled around the target of 2%, a sign that the Riksbank considers that a setback is still possible<sup>7</sup>. The Swedish General Government Debt was 34% in 2023, 1,1% higher than in 2022, and is expected to have grown marginally by the end of 2024 to 34,5%<sup>8</sup>.

In 2023 the Riksbank undertook two major measures to tame the surging inflation: in the first place, it increased rapidly the national policy rate and secondly it started to reduce its assets in foreign government bonds (ca. SEK 10,5 billion April-July and ca. SEK 20 billion September-December) and foreign currency reserves. As a result, the SEK has gained ca. 5-6% since September 2023 and the price for imports from Sweden has increased. Throughout 2023, the Riksbank's Governor Erik Thedéen made public statements that the Riksbank was committed to supporting the SEK: a strategy which had been avoided intentionally in the past, linked to the fear that a strong currency would disrupt the export of Swedish goods.

In 2023, the Riksbank was criticised that its policy of foreign bond purchases had contributed to the excessive inflation in 2022 and 2023 in Sweden. From 2014 to 2021, the Riksbank had purchased massively foreign bonds as a measure to stimulate the inflation and the GDP growth, when the policy rate lay between -0,5% and 0%. The Riksbank had built up a total of SEK 60 billion in deficit which led to SEK -18 billion equity driven by the inflation in 2022. Consequently, a new National Bank bill was drawn up and came into effect in January 2023, ordering the Riksbank to maintain SEK 40 billion basic equity and to refrain from foreign bond purchases with the goal to stimulate inflation. To meet the first mentioned requirement by 30 September 2023, the Riksbank had to apply for a capital injection from the Government of SEK 80 billion.

<sup>3</sup> [https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/ip251\\_en.pdf](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/ip251_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.scb.se/en/finding-statistics/statistics-by-subject-area/national-accounts/national-accounts/national-accounts-quarterly-and-annual-estimates/pong/statistical-news/national-accounts-fourth-quarter-2023/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ekonomifakta.se/sakomraden/arbetsmarknad/arbetsloshet/arbetsloshet\\_1212507.html](https://www.ekonomifakta.se/sakomraden/arbetsmarknad/arbetsloshet/arbetsloshet_1212507.html)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2024/03/08/Sweden-2024-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-and-Staff-Report-546063>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.riksbank.se/en-gb/press-and-published/notices-and-press-releases/press-releases/2024/policy-rate-unchanged-at-3.75-per-cent/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2024/03/08/Sweden-2024-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-and-Staff-Report-546063>

## 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 and aerospace industries, where a high number of advanced technological companies require both machinery, components, automation systems, as well as advanced services.

Continued investments in rail and infrastructure open up possibilities for Swiss companies in the sector; Implenia has successfully participated in several tenders over the past years. Stadler Rail and Stadler Rail Services have also expanded in Sweden, as in the whole Nordic region. Sweden's recent NATO-membership has increased pressure to prioritize the renovation and modernization of critical infrastructure, eg several strategic supply (rail) lines between Sweden and Norway. Previous opportunities in the railway and infrastructure sectors have been compiled by the Trade Point Nordics, now Swiss Business Hub Nordics, and published on the website of Switzerland Global Enterprise<sup>9</sup>, and have been presented and updated in a recent webinar organised by the Trade Point<sup>10</sup>.

The demands faced by Sweden's public healthcare, combined with a very high degree of digitalisation offers good opportunities for Swiss providers of various digital health services, as has been summarised in a recent report by the Trade Point Nordics, also available on the website of Switzerland Global Enterprise<sup>11</sup>.

The sectors that may prove to be of interest from a cooperation point of view are the newer "tech" sectors. Sweden is one of the giants when it comes to capitalising on start-up innovations, and has one of the highest output of unicorns in the world. In general, Swedish tech companies are apt in the "front end" of things, i.e., the application part, which would open up for Swiss start-ups, who tend to be more advanced in deep tech, or the "back-end" of tech. It is therefore of great interest to promote the exchange between universities, university spinoffs, start-ups and scale-ups. The Embassy in Stockholm and its Swiss Business Hub Nordics will continue to foster the cooperation with Innosuisse and Swissnex and their counterparts in the region.

## 3 FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY

---

### 3.1 Host country's policy and priorities

In December 2023, the Government presented its new strategy for Sweden's trade, investment and global competitiveness<sup>12</sup>, which focuses on achieving three overarching objectives<sup>13</sup>:

1) **Strengthening Sweden's competitiveness and improving conditions for trade, investments and innovation:** the Government wants to address the challenges that the Swedish exports industry is facing to maintain and increase its market shares in an international context of increased geopolitical tensions and fierce competition. One of its priorities is to create better conditions for SME's by improving their access to international trade, investments, research cooperation and innovation collaborations. The Government also wants to contribute to an effective implementation of the European Green Deal, with the objective of strengthening the EU's competitiveness.

2) **Increasing exports and presence of Swedish businesses in international markets:** The EU and North America are Sweden's traditional export markets but currently Sweden is developing long-term strategies for rebuilding Ukraine and improving the visibility and

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.s-ge.com/en/publication/guide/2022-e-infra-sweden-c7-railway-guide>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.s-ge.com/en/publication/recordings/hot-rail-projects-cold-north>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.s-ge.com/en/publication/industry-report/2023-ip-medt-sweden-c6-sweden-medtech-digital-healthcare-market>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.government.se/contentassets/cc8b5c6c15724583855273c16111662b/strategy-for-swedens-trade-investment-and-global-competitiveness.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.government.se/press-releases/2023/12/government-has-adopted-a-new-strategy-for-swedens-trade-investment-and-global-competitiveness/>

reputation of Swedish SME companies, particularly in Asia. Therefore, Sweden will take part in World Expo 2025 in Osaka. To secure long-term sustainable economic growth, the Government wants Swedish suppliers and subcontractors to become part of global and regional value chains and benefit from growth pole development on the Asian continent.

Regarding Sweden's contribution to the reconstruction of Ukraine, Business Sweden's has consolidated its presence in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, by opening a trade office in 2023, as part of the Strategy for Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine<sup>14</sup>. The Government has tasked Business Sweden with providing assistance through initiatives on the ground for Swedish business to participate in Ukraine's reconstruction work, focusing on green-tech, health care, transport, energy infrastructure and other infrastructure.

**3) Strengthening Sweden's position as a prioritised partner for green and digital transition:** Transitioning to a fossil-free and climate-neutral society requires major investments. When heavily populated countries with high emissions like the US, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Egypt, Brazil and Mexico, invest substantially in the transition of their industries and societies, major export opportunities are created for Swedish products and services. Swedish know-how is in demand in areas such as energy transition, fossil-free steel, manufacturing, sustainable transport solutions, smart and sustainable cities, battery production, semiconductors, sustainable mining, health and life sciences, green industries, and raw and new materials.

Sweden's NATO membership in March 2024 has entailed a new Swedish foreign and security policy identity and is opening up significant opportunities for Swedish businesses to increase their market shares in the area of defence materiel and dual-use products. Sweden will now be better positioned to participate in technological development, both civil and military, including 5G and 6G, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cyber security and space and quantum technologies. With its extensive technological know-how, the Swedish defence industry provides technology for civilian products and dual-use products. A great deal of technological development today takes place outside the traditional defence industry, which bring new opportunities and challenges such as collaboration and compliance with export control regulations for dual-use products.

The war in Ukraine has led to the donation of large numbers of defence material from NATO countries to Ukraine. As a result, many of these countries are facing military stock depletion, especially NATO standard 155mm artillery shells. A very limited number of companies in Europe produce these shells and other type of military ammunition. Since the beginning of the war against Ukraine, an industrial cluster of highly specialised companies in Sweden (BAE Bofors; SAAB; Nammo; Eurenco), has seen their sales orders and need to recruit additional workers, increase significantly. This cluster is located in Karlskoga (ppl: ca. 27,000), where economic activities traditionally are linked to mining and metallurgy industries. Due to the economic boost generated by these companies, the town Karlskoga is expanding for the first time in 50 years.

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

The new Swedish strategy for trade, investment and global competitiveness, as well as the Strategy for Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine, raise no direct opportunities for Swiss companies; it might at most be a reminder that public support in different possible forms is essential for Swedish and Swiss SMEs to remain competitive worldwide.

## **4 FOREIGN TRADE**

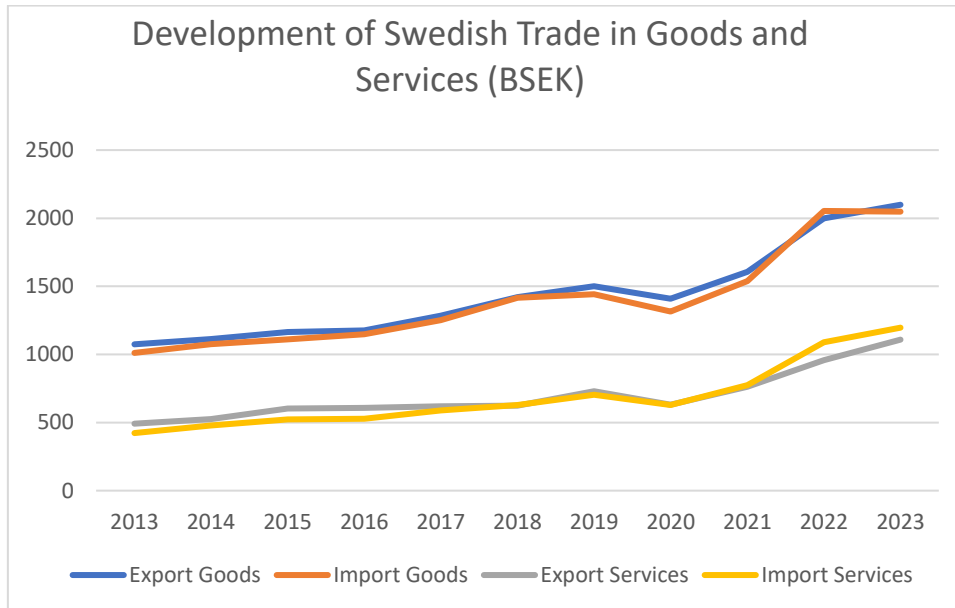
---

### **4.1 Developments and general outlook**

Sweden's foreign trade focuses in the first place on Europe, the EU27 and the Nordics. In

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.government.se/contentassets/19d253702ff94665975da196bce2b879/strategy-for-swedens-reconstruction-and-reform-cooperation-with-ukraine-20232027/>

terms of trade in goods, the main European trade partner countries are Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and Belgium. The United Kingdom, in spite of Brexit, remains a significant (6<sup>th</sup> largest) export market. Outside of Europe, the United States is an important export market (3<sup>rd</sup> largest), while China constitutes a significant import market (6<sup>th</sup> largest).

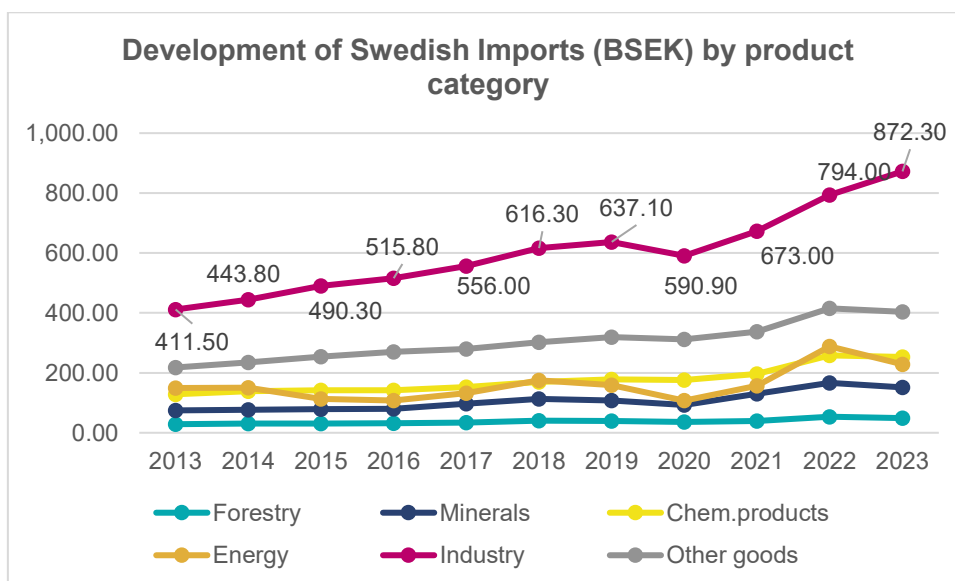


Graph 1: Swedish trade in goods & services 2013-2023  
Sources: Kommerskollegium and Statistics Sweden (SCB)

As shown in *Graph 1*, above, Swedish trade has shown a small but steady surplus over the past 10 years.

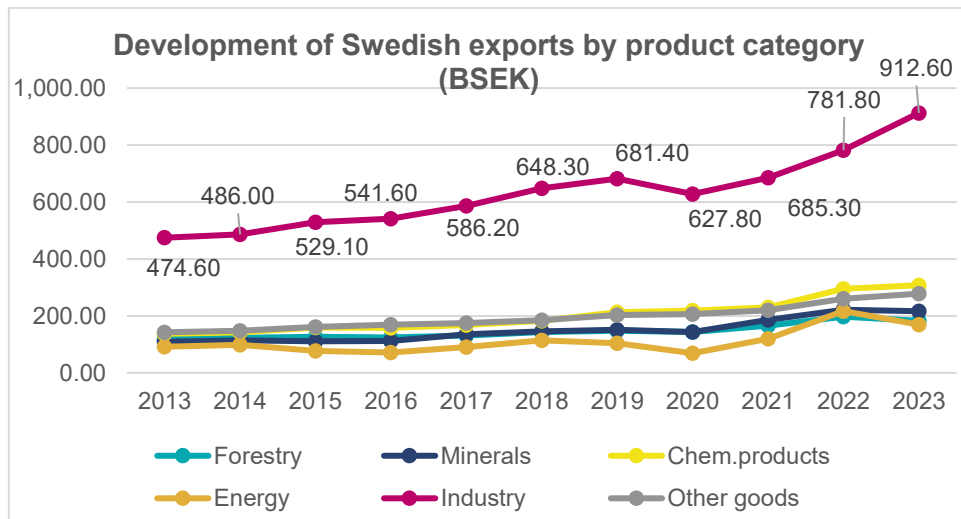
#### 4.1.1 Trade in goods

Sweden imports mainly cars and components for the domestic car industry, food, crude oil, equipment for the telecom industry and iron and steel.



Graph 2: Swedish import of goods by category 2013-2023  
Sources: Kommerskollegium / Statistics Sweden (SCB)

In 2023, Sweden's exports of goods to the EU27 increased by 7% and imports of goods from the EU27 by 6% compared to the same period last year. Exports to the EUR area countries rose by 9% and imports from there by 6%. Among the EU countries, exports to Germany increased by 9%, while they fell by 1% to both Denmark and Finland. Imports from Germany increased by 8%, from Finland by 4% and from Denmark remained unchanged. Exports to the rest of Europe were unchanged, while imports from there fell by 10%. Exports to the United Kingdom increased by 3%, while imports from there fell by 11%. Exports to Norway decreased by 6% and imports from there by 13%. Exports to Russia fell by 8% and imports from there by 95%. Sweden exports mainly cars, trucks and other transport equipment, machines, pharmaceutical products, wood and paper, as well as iron.



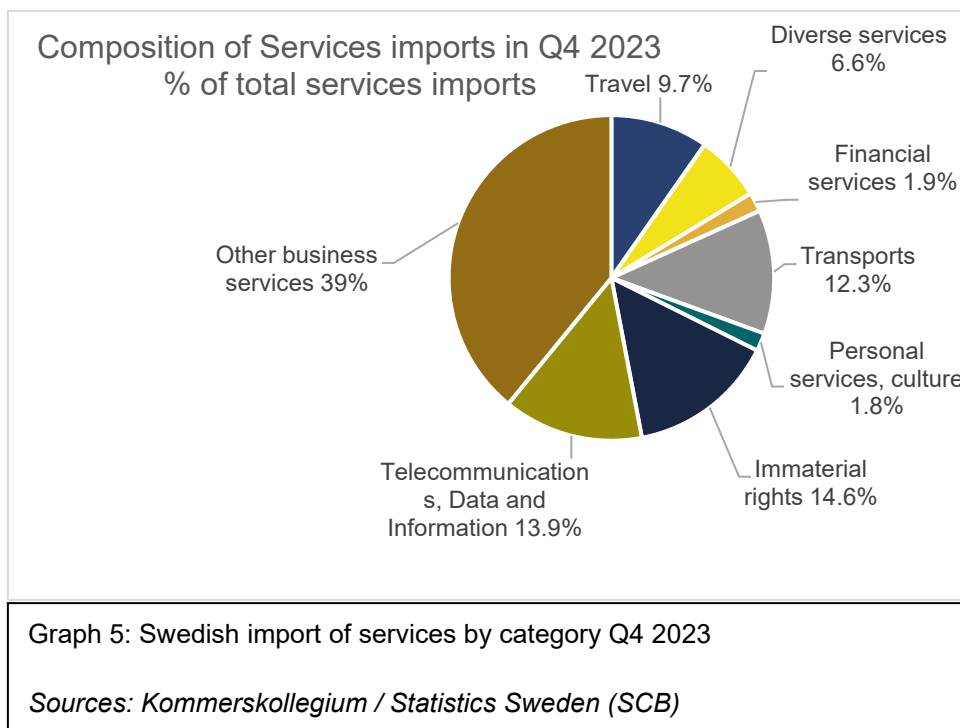
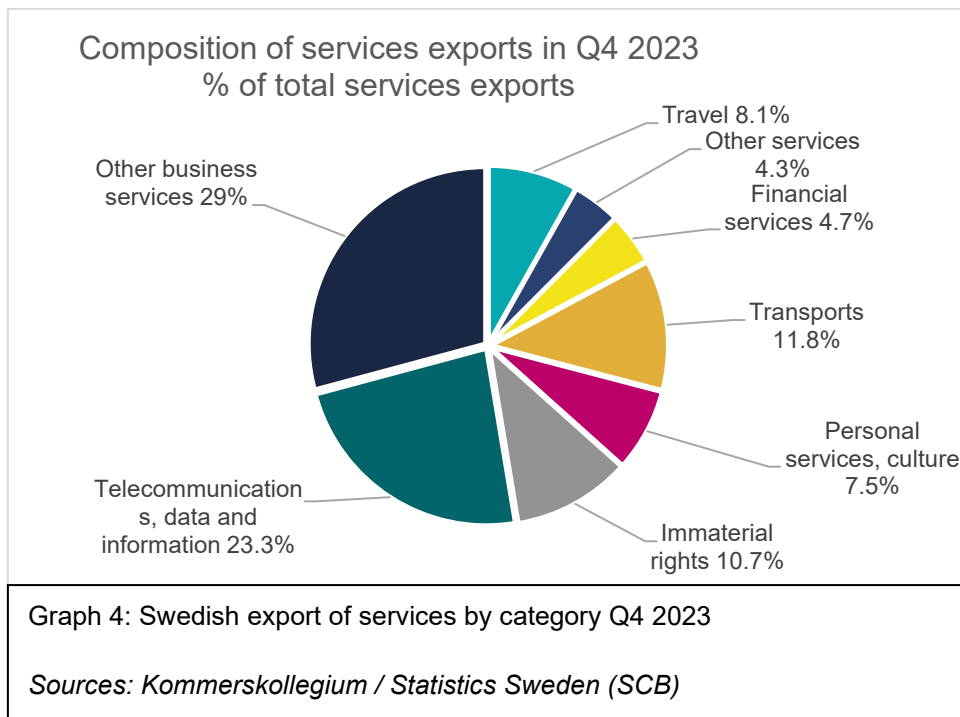
Graph 3: Swedish export of goods by category 2013-2023

Sources: *Kommerskollegium / Statistics Sweden (SCB)*

#### 4.1.2 Trade in services (if data available)

Trade in services continued to grow in Q4 of 2023. Services exports increased by 5% and services imports by 6% compared to the same quarter last year (current prices). The value of Sweden's services exports amounted to SEK 294 billion in Q4 of 2023, while services imports amounted to SEK 324 billion. This resulted in a negative net income from services of SEK 31 billion (2022: deficit of SEK 26 billion). Since Q2 of 2021, annual growth rates in trade in services have been remarkably high. Initially, this was mainly due to the recovery from the pandemic year 2020, but in 2022 and 2023 price increases and the weakened SEK have also contributed to the development. The trends now measured for the last quarter of 2023 are significantly lower, indicating a slowdown.



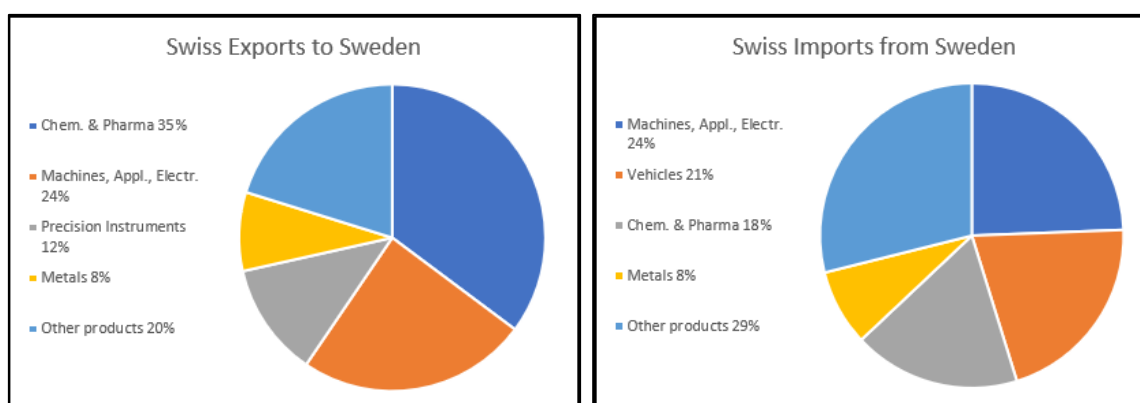


## 4.2 Bilateral trade

### 4.2.1 Trade in goods

Swedish-Swiss trade showed a slight increase of 0,6%, where Swiss exports to Sweden decreased by 0,6% whereas imports increased by 2,3% from the previous year (see Annex 4 for the figures). The main product categories remain unchanged from previous years:





Graph 6 | **Swedish trade in goods with Switzerland per nature of goods.** Source: EZV

The SEK has depreciated against the Swiss Franc by 26,5% since 2016, *after* the CHF peg to the Euro was lifted. This affects the statistics directly, and may certainly have had an effect on the value of the trade, if not the volumes. Against the EUR, the SEK lost 17,5%, whereas it depreciated by 19,3% against the USD on the mean annual value within the same period.

#### 4.2.2 Trade in services (if data available)

Swedish export of services to Switzerland<sup>15</sup> decreased by 4%, in 2023, and import<sup>15</sup> increased by over 17%. The most common types of services are *Other Business Services* (eg. Consulting, industrial services), *ICT* and *Immaterial Rights*<sup>16</sup>.

Swedish Export of services to Switzerland			Swedish Import of services from Switzerland		
2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
45 BSEK	54.3 BSEK	52.1 BSEK	16.4 BSEK	22.6 BSEK	26.5 BSEK
4.80 BCHF	5.13 BCHF	4.41 BCHF	1.75 BCHF	2.13 BCHF	2.24 BCHF

Table 1 | **Swedish trade in services with Switzerland in SEK and CHF** (CHF according to corresponding year mean values, see Annex 4). Source: Statistics Sweden

It is worth noticing that the value of Swedish export of services to Switzerland is 2.5-3 times the value of the export of goods, whereas the Swiss export of services to Sweden is close to the value of goods exported<sup>17</sup>. Furthermore, Swiss statistics (provided by SNB<sup>18</sup>) 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<sup>19</sup> 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 Switzerland to Sweden amount to 1.4 billion USD and imports of services to Switzerland from amount to 3.2 billion USD in 2021.

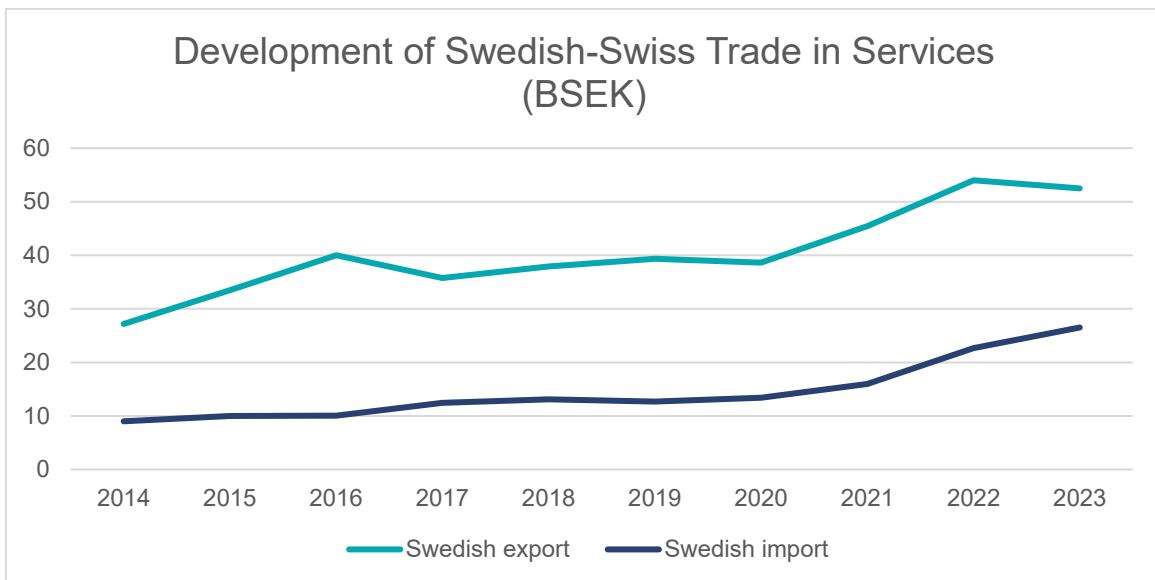
<sup>15</sup> [https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START\\_HA\\_HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/](https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START_HA_HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/)

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START\\_HA\\_HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/](https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START_HA_HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/)

<sup>17</sup> Values of trade in goods are not fully comparable with values for trade in services, as trade statistics for goods are primary values from customs statistics and trade values for services are taken from the balance of payments

<sup>18</sup> <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiMTE0MmMxMWQzMjU2NS00YzQ5LWVjOWE0NDFlOGJmNjg3YTJmliwidCI6IjZjNGI0ZWU0LWMxNmYtNGQyZC05NGQ4LlTU5ZTE3ODUyYTgzZiJ9>

<sup>19</sup> [https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=BATIS\\_EBOPS2010](https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=BATIS_EBOPS2010)



Graph 7: Development of Swedish – Swiss bilateral trade in services (BSEK) 2014 - 2023.  
Source: Statistics Sweden

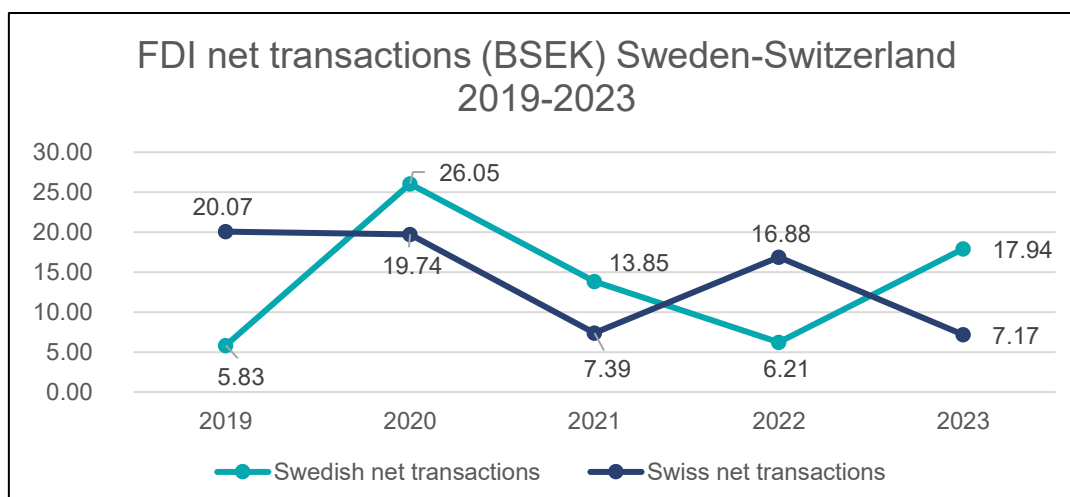
Over time, the trade in services develops positively at a faster pace than trade in goods. Since 2004, Swedish export of services to Switzerland has more than quadrupled, and Swiss export of services has doubled<sup>20</sup>.

## 5 DIRECT INVESTMENTS

### 5.1 Developments and general outlook

Foreign direct investment assets in Sweden increased by SEK 303 billion at the end of 2022 compared with 2021, and amounted to SEK 4'174 billion<sup>21</sup>. In terms of foreign direct investment assets in Sweden, Luxembourg has surpassed the United Kingdom as the largest holder country. Luxembourg's assets in Sweden amounted to SEK 796 billion at the end of 2022, while the United Kingdom's assets amounted to SEK 608 billion. The largest foreign assets in Sweden are noted in the industry groups "financial and insurance activities" and "legal, professional, scientific and technical activities". Companies operating in "legal, professional, scientific and technical activities" increased their assets most in Sweden in 2022.

### 5.2 Bilateral investment



<sup>20</sup> [https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START\\_HA\\_HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/](https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START_HA_HA0202/HA0202TjLandAr/)

<sup>21</sup> (SCB) Statistics Sweden published in December 2023 FDI Data until 2022 included

Graph 8: Development of Swedish – Swiss FDI flows (BSEK) 2019-2023. Source Statistics Sweden

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, and the high quality of life.

Swiss direct investment stock in Sweden amounted to SEK 99 billion in 2022<sup>22</sup>, earning Switzerland the 10<sup>th</sup> place among the largest investors in Sweden. Nearly 300 Swiss owned companies employ about 26'000 people in Sweden, placing Switzerland in 12<sup>th</sup> place with Germany, Norway and Netherlands being the top three foreign employers<sup>23</sup>.

Swedish direct investment stock in Switzerland amounted to SEK 165 billion in 2022<sup>24</sup>, rendering Switzerland the 9<sup>th</sup> place among target countries for Swedish FDI. 361 Swedish companies employed some 17'000 persons in Switzerland<sup>25</sup>.

## 6 ECONOMIC AND TOURISM PROMOTION

### 6.1 Swiss foreign economic promotion instruments

Sweden remains Switzerland's most important trading partner in the Nordic countries. Economic and trade promotion is done in close cooperation with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE); since 2015 all trade promotion in the Nordic countries is led and coordinated through the Trade Point Nordics, now Swiss Business Hub Nordics, which is part of the Trade Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in Sweden.

The Swiss Business Hub Nordics cooperates closely with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Sweden<sup>26</sup> and the Swedish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland<sup>27</sup>, as well as with the Danish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce<sup>28</sup> and the Chamber of Commerce Finland-Switzerland<sup>29</sup>. The Head of the Trade point is adjunct Board Member in all the three Swiss chambers in Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

As a result of increased interest by Swiss SMEs in the Nordic countries, a projected higher export potential for Swiss SMEs to the Nordics, and a gained interest by the Swiss Cantons for successful Nordic companies, the Trade Point Nordics has been upgraded to a Swiss Business Hub, with an increase in staff, and the additional mandate of invest and location promotion, as of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

The main events that the Trade Point Nordics supported or organized in 2023 was a Swiss participation at Tech BBQ<sup>30</sup> in Copenhagen, in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy in Denmark and Swissnex and the Swiss participation at the start-up conference SLUSH-23<sup>31</sup> in Helsinki, Finland. Innosuisse supported 17 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 Trade Point supported a delegation of Swiss Game developers led by Pro Helvetia during their visit to Nordic Game Conference<sup>32</sup> in Malmö, Sweden. The Embassy and

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START\\_FM\\_FM0001\\_FM0001D/FM0001T04b/](https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START_FM_FM0001_FM0001D/FM0001T04b/)

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.tillvaxtanalys.se/download/18.3a5e58b7189d31eb54d7c5d3/1692630326751/Statistik\\_2023\\_05%20Utl%C3%A4ndska%20f%C3%B6retag.pdf](https://www.tillvaxtanalys.se/download/18.3a5e58b7189d31eb54d7c5d3/1692630326751/Statistik_2023_05%20Utl%C3%A4ndska%20f%C3%B6retag.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START\\_FM\\_FM0001\\_FM0001D/FM0001T06/](https://www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se/pxweb/en/ssd/START_FM_FM0001_FM0001D/FM0001T06/)

<sup>25</sup> <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJoiMTE0MmMxMWQzMjU2NS00YzQ5LWlyOWEtNDFlOGJmNjg3YTJmIiwidCI6IjZiNGI0ZWU0LWwMxNmYtNGQyZC05NGQ4LTU5ZTE3ODUyYTZiZi9>

<sup>26</sup> <https://swisscham.se/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://swecham.ch/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://dshk.ch/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://handelskammer-fin.ch/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://techbbq.dk/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://slush.org/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://nordicgame.com/>

the Trade point have supported Pro Helvetia at game development related conferences since 2016.

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. With 444'000 overnight stays, the Nordics ranks 13 as origin of tourists<sup>33</sup>. 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 have again returned to Sweden in nearly pre-pandemic numbers; logging some 417'000 overnight stays in Sweden<sup>34</sup> (423'000 in 2019) excluding private rentals, AirBnB.

## 6.2 The host country's interest in Switzerland

Sweden and Switzerland share a common interest in a number of subjects, 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 a number of events on these topics.

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<sup>35</sup>.

The Swiss Nordic Bio<sup>36</sup>, a similar cooperation by Vinnova and Innosuisse within biotech, health tech and pharma (drug development, drug delivery, bio materials, medical device, diagnostics, contract manufacturing, etc.) and 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 to foster the cooperation between the innovation agencies of the two countries and the Embassy is currently in contact with the relevant Swedish authorities on a possible MoU in the field of science and research,

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/tourism.html>

<sup>34</sup> [https://tillvaxtdata.tillvaxtverket.se/statistikportal\\_eng#page=72b01aa0-1d4a-425c-8684-dbce0319b39e](https://tillvaxtdata.tillvaxtverket.se/statistikportal_eng#page=72b01aa0-1d4a-425c-8684-dbce0319b39e)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.swii.org/index.php/about-the-initiative/initiative-at-a-glance>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.swissnordicbio.com/>

## ANNEX 1 – Economic structure

**Economic structure of the host country**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2022 (most recent year)</b>
<b>Distribution of GDP</b>		
Primary sector	<b>1,44 %</b>	<b>1,46 %</b>
Manufacturing sector	<b>22,13 %</b>	<b>23,95 %</b>
Services	<b>65,09 %</b>	<b>63,62 %</b>
- of which public services	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>

<b>Distribution of employment</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2021 (most recent year)</b>
Primary sector	<b>1,83 %</b>	<b>1,97 %</b>
Manufacturing sector	<b>18,16 %</b>	<b>18,15 %</b>
Services	<b>80,01 %</b>	<b>79,88 %</b>
- of which public services	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>

Source(s):

Distribution of GDP: (Data release: December 2023): Statista

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

Distribution of employment: (Data release: December 2023): Statista

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

## ANNEX 2 – Main economic data

## Host country's main economic data

	2022	2023	2024 (projections)
<b>GDP (USD bn)*</b>	<b>590.410</b>	<b>593.268</b>	<b>623.048</b>
<b>GDP per capita (USD)*</b>	<b>56.114</b>	<b>56.225</b>	<b>58.529</b>
<b>Growth rate (% of GDP)**</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Inflation rate (%)**</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Unemployment rate (%)**</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Fiscal balance (% of GDP)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Current account balance (% of GDP)**</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>General government gross debt (% of GDP)**</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>Debt-service ratio (% of exports)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Reserves (months of imports)**</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>

\*: Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook Database April 2024  
[World Economic Outlook Database April 2024](#)

\*\*.: Source: IMF, Article IV Consultation Sweden 11 March 2024  
[Article IV Report March 2024](#)

## ANNEX 3 – Trade partners

## Trade partners of the host country Year: 2023

Rank	Country	Exports* from the host country (EUR million)	Share	Change <sup>37</sup>	Rank	Country	Imports* to the host country (EUR million)	Share	Change
1	Germany	2 479.7	10.5%	8.3%	1	Germany	3 679.3	16.4%	8.1%
2	Norway	2 250.0	9.5%	-9.5%	2	Norway	2 546.3	11.3%	-12.6%
3	USA	2 164.0	9.1%	2.0%	3	Netherlands	2 433.8	10.8%	0.4%
4	Denmark	1 634.8	6.9%	-1.7%	4	Denmark	1 367.3	6.1%	-1.3%
5	Finland	1 606.1	6.8%	-1.8%	5	Belgium	1 169.8	5.2%	6.8%
6	UK & NI	1 308.7	5.5%	2.9%	6	China	1 079.1	4.8%	-23.4%
7	Netherlands	1 274.3	5.4%	17.1%	7	Finland	1 045.8	4.7%	2.5%
19	Switzerland	234.2	0.1%	17.3%	18	Switzerland	223.9	0.1%	38.3%
	EU 27	12 822.0**	54%**	6.9%**		EU 27	14 806.9**	66%**	5.4%**
	Total	23 726.9	100%	4.8%		Total	22 476.7	100%	-0.9%

Source(s):

Export/Import: Sweden's most important trade partners 2023:

<https://www.kommerskollegium.se/handelsstatistik/varuhandel/sveriges-viktigaste-handelspartner/>

\*: Data from National Board of Trade (*Kommerskollegium*) has been converted from SEK to EUR (Average 2023 SEK/EUR used conversion rate: SEK 11,48 = EUR 1). SEK billions have become EUR millions

\*\* : Own calculations

<sup>37</sup> 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 (in million)	Volume (in million)
2018	1'558	4,1	1'239	0,1	318	2'797
2019	1'676	7,6	1'217	-1,8	458	2'893
2020	1'606	-4,2	1'190	-2,3	416	2'795
2021	1'841	14,7	1'346	13,2	495	3'188
<b>2022</b>	<b>1'792</b>	<b>-2,7</b>	<b>1'347</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>3'139</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>1'781</b>	<b>-0,6</b>	<b>1'378</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>3'159</b>
(Total 1)*						
<b>2024 Q1</b> (I-VI)**	<b>463</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>783</b>

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

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

Exports	2022 (% of total)	2023 (% of total)
1. Products of the Chemical & Pharmaceutical Industry	38.6	35.2
2. Machines, Appliances, Electronics	22.3	24.3
3. Precision Instruments, clocks, watches, jewellery	11.6	12.0
4. Metals	8.9	8.3

Imports	2022 (% of total)	2023 (% of total)
1. Machines, Appliances, Electronics	24.7	24.4
2. Vehicles	18.3	20.8
3. Products of the Chemical & Pharmaceutical Industry	17.5	17.8
4. Metals	9.3	8.1

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 <sub>Min</sub>	SEK <sub>Mid</sub>	SEK <sub>Max</sub>	SEK <sub>Min</sub>	SEK <sub>Mid</sub>	SEK <sub>Max</sub>	SEK <sub>Min</sub>	SEK <sub>Mid</sub>	SEK <sub>Max</sub>
2016	8.33	8.69	9.25	9.15	9.47	9.98	7.92	8.56	9.38
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

Source: Sveriges Riksbank – Swedish National Bank, <https://www.riksbank.se/en-gb/statistics/search-interest--exchange-rates/annual-average-exchange-rates/?y=2020&m=12&s=Comma&f=y>

## ANNEX 5 – Main investing countries

## Main investing countries in the host country

Year: 2022

Rank	Country	Direct investment* (stock) (B SEK)	Share	Variation (stock)	Inflows over past year (B SEK)
1	Luxembourg	796	19.1 %	48.0 %	91.4
2	United Kingdom	608	14.6 %	- 2.5 %	24.9
3	Netherlands	516	12.4 %	3.2 %	257.2
4	Norway	355	8.5 %	13.1 %	137.3
5	Germany	328	7.9 %	- 6.5 %	-79.4
6	USA	325	7.8 %	- 4.1 %	-46.7
7	Finland	267	6.4 %	3.1 %	-39.0
8	Denmark	209	5.0 %	- 3.7 %	43.0
9	Ireland	123	2.9 %	13.9 %	42.1
10	<i>Switzerland</i>	99	2.4 %	22.3 %	17.2
	EU27*	2509	60.1 %	9.6 %	333.7
	Total	4174	100 %	12.2 %	494.4

Source(s):

\*: Most recent data for category "Direct investment" only available until 2022