

GLOBAL EXPORT
OF GOODS 2025

GLOBAL HEADWINDS SLOW SWEDISH EXPORT OF GOODS

Sweden's position in the global export market

FOREWORD

GEOPOLITICS REDRAWS THE PLAYING FIELD

Uncertainty and geopolitical tensions dampened the global economy in 2024 as Russia escalated its war of aggression in Ukraine, Israel launched counterattacks against its enemies in the Middle East, and a humanitarian catastrophe developed in Gaza. The strained relationship between the two superpowers the US and China entered a calmer phase with fewer announcements of tariffs and export restrictions levied against each other.

China, Russia and other autocracies continued to challenge the democracies of the Western world in the race for technological superiority and economic influence. At the same time, weakening global demand resulted in a modest increase in international trade.

Global export of goods rose by 2 per cent at current prices, but the figure conceals significant regional differences. European exports lost momentum which meant that our continent relinquished its newly won position as the world's largest export region – a top spot that reverted to Asia.

China and the rest of Asia strengthened their positions in the global export market, while North America held its ground. For the smaller export regions of the Middle East, South America and Africa, shares of world exports remained unchanged.

The weaker European trend was also reflected in Sweden. Our share of world goods exports remained at just under 0.9 per cent in 2024, but declines were noted in several of Sweden's 13 most important product groups. Automotive exports fell back against the backdrop of a global downturn for the entire industry. The largest setbacks, however, were seen in Sweden's basic industries including wood products, petroleum products and pulp and paper, while the machinery industry went against the tide and showed a significant uptick.

It is important to emphasize that the figures in this report refer to 2024 as the playing field for international trade underwent major changes during the first half of 2025. With President Trump at the helm, the US has shifted towards a new trade policy based on arbitrary and expansive use of tariffs and other trade barriers. This means that the report reflects a period that is largely behind us.

For exporting countries and companies, this policy shift means that the old playing field – where trade policy frameworks and trade patterns evolved slowly – has now been redrawn and replaced by an environment where political decisions can affect market access, supplier networks and competitiveness overnight.

Our aim with the report *Global headwinds slow Swedish export of goods* is to provide an overview of how Sweden's export industry compares with other countries and regions. At the same time, it serves as a reference point for how international trade will develop going forward under the new, dramatically changed landscape. At a time when terms and conditions for national exports are rapidly changing, forward-planning and market intelligence will become more critical than ever.

Lena Sellgren
Chief Economist



ASIA RECLAIMS TOP SPOT IN WORLD TRADE

The sluggish performance of the world economy with stagnating global demand, and a particularly weak development in Europe, had a dampening effect on the export market during 2024. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), global goods exports – measured as the sum of all countries' goods exports – rose by 2 per cent to just under USD 24,500 billion at current prices in 2024 compared with the previous year. The total figure includes re-exports from transit countries such as the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China and an important shipping port for goods from the mainland. WTO estimates that nearly 45 per cent of world exports consist of intermediate goods.

Services exports, which are often closely linked to goods exports but are not covered in this report, jumped by as much as 10 per cent in 2024 to just under USD 8,800 billion at current prices. The value of services exports thereby amounted to 36 per cent of the value of

goods exports. Business Sweden will publish an analysis of global export of services in an upcoming report (December 2025).

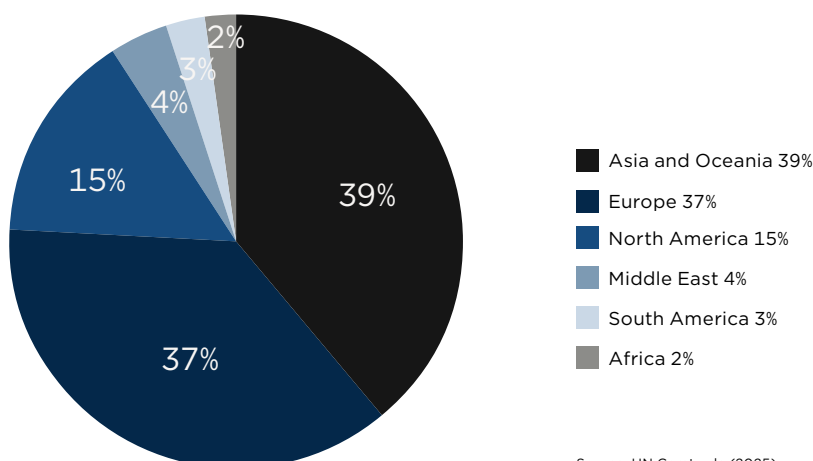
Business Sweden's compilation of statistics from UN Comtrade shows small but significant changes in the regions' shares of global export of goods during 2024 compared with 2023. But the change was sufficient enough to make Europe lose its narrow lead over Asia in 2023 as the world's largest export region. Europe's share of global exports fell by one percentage point from just above 38 per cent in 2023 to 37 per cent in 2024, while Asia's share increased by the same amount, from just under 38 per cent to 39 per cent. China, which saw a sharp increase in goods exports following a considerable decline in 2023, played a major role in Asia's upswing.

North America's share remained stable at 15 per cent. The shares of the smaller export regions were likewise unchanged, with the Middle East at 4 per cent, South America at 3 per cent and Africa at 2 per cent.

KEY FINDINGS

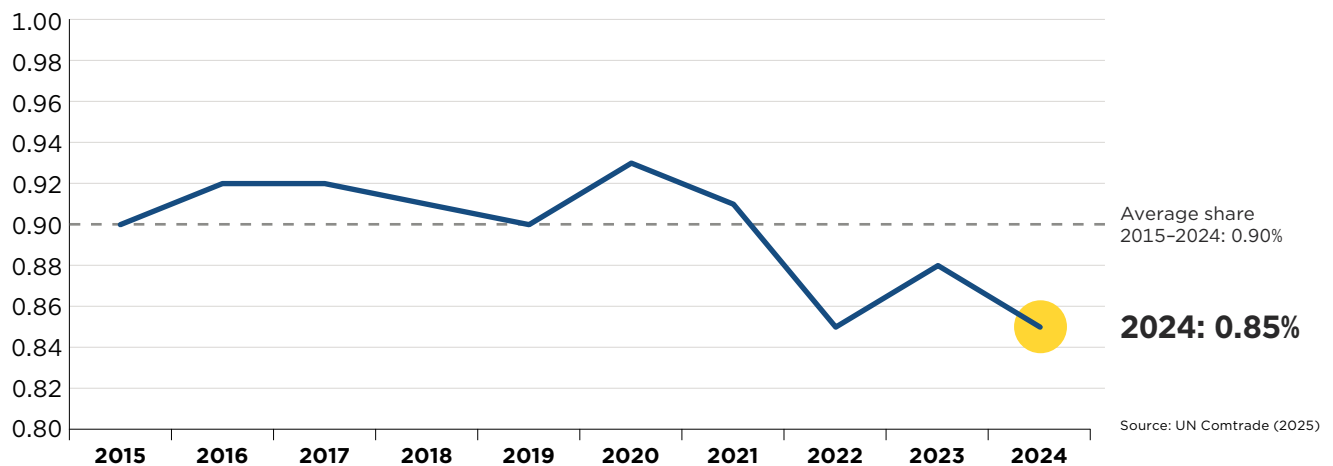
- World export of goods rose by 2 per cent at current prices during 2024 compared with 2023
- Asia reclaimed the top position from Europe as the world's leading export region
- China, the US and Germany together accounted for one third of global goods exports
- Sweden's share of world goods exports amounted to just under 0.9 per cent in 2024, a marginal decline from 2023
- Swedish exports lost shares of the global export market in 11 of 13 key product groups

ASIA REGAINS LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL EXPORTS
Global export of goods, regional shares, per cent, 2024



Source: UN Comtrade (2025)

MARGINAL DOWNTICK IN SWEDEN'S SHARE OF WORLD EXPORTS
Sweden's export of goods, share of world exports, per cent, 2015–2024



SWEDEN'S POSITION SLIGHTLY WEAKENED

China strengthened its position further in 2024 as by far the world's largest exporter of goods, reaching an export value of USD 3,577 billion and a 15.6 per cent share of global exports, see the table below. The US and Germany came in second and third place with shares of the global export market of 9.0 and 7.3 per cent respectively.

Together, China, the US and Germany accounted for nearly one third of world export.

In all, the ten largest goods-exporting countries accounted for just over half of global export of goods in 2024.

As shown in the diagram above, Sweden's share of the global export market amounted to just under 0.9 per cent, which is a slightly below the average over the past decade. Sweden also dropped one position compared with 2023 and ended up in 32nd place in 2024 on the list of the world's largest exporting countries.

CHINA, THE US AND GERMANY ACCOUNT FOR A THIRD OF GLOBAL EXPORT OF GOODS

Top 10 goods exporting markets, 2024

Place- ment	Market	Export of goods 2024, USD bn	Change 2023–2024, per cent	Share of world exports, per cent		Top 3 Export goods 2023	Top 3 Export markets 2023
				2024	2023		
1	China	3,577	5.8	15.6	15.1	Smartphones, computers, semiconductors	USA, Hong Kong, Japan
2	USA	2,064	2.2	9.0	9.0	Crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas	Canada, Mexico, China
3	Germany	1,684	-2.4	7.3	7.7	Cars, automotive parts, pharmaceuticals	USA, France, The Netherlands
4	The Netherlands	722	-1.6	3.1	3.3	Petroleum products, semiconductor equipment, crude oil	Germany, Belgium, France
5	Japan	707	-1.5	3.1	3.2	Cars, semiconductors, automotive parts	USA, China, South Korea
6	South Korea	683	8.1	3.0	2.8	Semiconductors, cars, petroleum products	China, USA, Japan
7	Italy	675	-0.3	2.9	3.0	Pharmaceuticals, cars, petroleum products	Germany, USA, France
8	France	646	0.9	2.8	2.9	Aerospace, pharmaceuticals, cars	Germany, Italy, Belgium
9	Hong Kong	639	11.2	2.8	2.6	Gold, semiconductors, smartphones	China, Vietnam, South Korea
10	Mexico	619	4.3	2.7	2.6	Cars, automotive parts, computers	USA, Canada, China
	Other markets	10,963	2.1	47.7	47.8		
(32)	Sweden	196	-0.9	0.9	0.9	Cars, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals	Germany, Norway, USA
	Total	22,978	2.4	100.0	100.0		

Sources: UN Comtrade, Observatory of Economic Complexity (2025)

SWEDEN'S EXPORT PROFILE RESEMBLES EUROPE'S

Business Sweden has chosen to limit the compilation of global export data to 13 product groups that together accounted for 84 per cent of Swedish goods exports in 2024, and 77 per cent of world exports. These are the product groups where Swedish exports are most successful and where it can be assumed that Swedish companies are highly competitive in an international comparison.

The distribution of Sweden's goods exports across different product groups reflects the country's position as an advanced market economy, but also to some extent Sweden's abundant raw materials.

As such, Sweden has roughly the same export profile as the rest of Europe where product groups typical of industrial countries dominate the market: chemicals and pharmaceuticals, machinery, automotive as well as electronics and telecom, see table below.

A closer comparison shows that Sweden has a weaker profile compared with Europe in chemicals and pharmaceuticals as well as in food and beverage, and a somewhat stronger profile in machinery and automotive. Further down the list of product groups, Sweden stands out from

Europe with its large emphasis on export goods linked to basic industries such as pulp and paper, steel, and wood products.

As shown in the table, other regions' export profiles differ markedly from Sweden and Europe. North America has a similar profile, but the fact that the US and Canada are major oil and gas exporters raises the region's share for petroleum products to just over 12 per cent. Asia's shares of heavy industrial goods in its goods exports are significantly smaller than Sweden's, but the region stands out for a large share of electronics and telecom. Almost a third of Asia's goods exports consist of electronic products. Asia's share of exports for the product group textiles and footwear is also considerably higher than in other regions.

Goods exports from the Middle East are dominated by petroleum products. In South America, food and beverage accounts for just over a quarter of goods exports, with petroleum products as the other main export product. Africa's profile is similar to South America's, except that the shares are reversed as petroleum tops the list followed by food and beverage. It is important to note that as much as 40 per cent of goods exports from both South America and Africa fall outside the 13 highlighted product groups, underscoring the regions' heavy dependence on raw materials for exports.

SWEDISH EXPORTS DOMINATED BY CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS, MACHINERY AND AUTOMOTIVE
Global export of goods by region, distribution by product group, per cent, 2024

	Sweden	Global export	Europe	North America	Asia and Oceania	Middle East	South America	Africa
Chemicals and pharmaceuticals	13.9	12.2	18.1	11.5	8.1	7.6	5.0	5.6
Machinery	13.5	9.4	11.5	9.2	8.9	3.6	2.2	2.1
Automotive	13.4	8.2	10.2	10.8	6.6	2.8	2.6	4.1
Electronics and telecom	10.3	17.8	9.9	13.6	30.5	6.9	1.3	1.9
Food and beverage	6.4	7.6	9.7	7.7	3.9	3.1	26.4	13.1
Pulp and paper	6.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.7	2.4	0.7
Petroleum products	5.9	8.4	4.5	12.1	4.4	53.2	14.3	25.8
Steel	3.7	2.1	2.2	0.9	2.5	1.0	2.1	2.8
Wood products	2.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.3
Textiles and footwear	2.4	4.0	4.0	1.1	5.8	1.2	1.4	2.1
Metal goods	2.3	2.3	2.7	1.8	2.6	0.4	0.6	0.8
Instruments	2.0	2.5	2.5	3.3	2.7	1.2	1.2	0.3
Furniture	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other goods	16.4	22.9	21.5	25.4	21.9	18.2	39.4	40.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The three most important product groups globally and by region are marked in yellow in the table.
Source: UN Comtrade (2025)

SWEDISH EXPORTS ARE LOSING MARKET SHARES*

Global export of goods by region, change in export value by product group, per cent, 2023–2024

	Sweden	Global export	Europe	North America	Asia and Oceania	Middle East	South America	Africa
Chemicals and pharmaceuticals	-0.2	2.1	3.8	0.6	0.8	-1.1	-11.9	-2.2
Machinery	12.1	1.5	-2.2	-0.4	7.4	10.7	-8.7	-7.5
Automotive	-4.4	-1.4	-4.2	-3.6	4.1	18.3	-4.5	-1.3
Electronics and telecom	3.2	7.2	-0.8	10.5	9.3	10.6	9.6	12.4
Food and beverage	6.2	4.9	4.2	3.2	4.7	14.5	7.4	15.5
Pulp and paper	-6.6	2.3	0.6	0.2	1.5	11.6	21.9	0.7
Petroleum products	-17.3	-2.3	-7.8	0.9	-8.8	4.4	14.1	-16.0
Steel	-9.6	-6.4	-7.9	-11.1	-3.1	-15.9	-16.4	-9.5
Wood products	-23.4	-0.4	-1.6	-1.6	2.1	-0.4	4.6	4.2
Textiles and footwear	-4.6	1.1	-0.4	-2.4	2.2	9.6	-3.1	7.1
Metal goods	-1.2	1.6	-2.0	1.1	5.4	7.0	-2.2	8.3
Instruments	3.5	3.8	1.8	2.0	6.1	3.4	17.6	2.5
Furniture	-4.0	0.9	-2.3	-4.3	5.7	-9.2	2.7	2.9
13 product groups	-1.1	2.2	-0.4	1.6	4.9	5.2	5.0	-5.3
Total	-0.9	2.1	-0.5	1.7	4.8	2.1	4.5	1.0

- Increased share of global export
- Unchanged share of global export
- Decreased share of global export

*Note: An increased or decreased share of global export can be determined from the table by comparing the change in export value with the change in global export value. For example, for electronics and telecom, the value of Swedish exports increased by 3.2 per cent, while global export of electronics and telecom increased even more, by 7.2 per cent. This means that Swedish exports – despite an increase in export value – lost market share in the product group electronics and telecom. In the same way, Swedish exports gained market share in the product group machinery, as the increase in export value amounted to 12.1 per cent compared with the increase in global export value of 1.5 per cent.

Source: UN Comtrade (2025)

ASIA A GLOBAL WINNER...

Business Sweden's compilation in the table above shows that world exports in the 13 outlined product groups rose by 2.2 per cent in 2024. Asia recorded an increase of 4.9 per cent, while North America saw a more modest uptick of 1.6 per cent. Conversely, Europe's exports in the 13 product groups fell back by 0.4 per cent. Significant increases in export value were noted for the Middle East and South America, while Africa suffered a decline of 5.3 per cent.

Swedish exports in the 13 product groups fell by 1.1 per cent. Significant drops were noted for wood products – 23.4 per cent – and petroleum products which fell by 17.3 per cent. Nonetheless, Swedish exports of machinery jumped by as much as 12.1 per cent.

Among the winning product groups globally, electronics and telecom stood out and grew by 7.2 per cent, as did food and beverage and instruments which rose by 4.9 and 3.8 per cent respectively. In the bottom league of product

groups that lost ground were steel, petroleum products, automotive and wood products.

...WITH DECLINES FOR SWEDEN IN MOST PRODUCT GROUPS

A comparison of the changes in export value shown in the table above indicates that Sweden lost shares of world exports in 11 of the 13 product groups. Swedish exports performed better than the global market overall, and thereby gained market share, only in two product categories: machinery and food and beverage.

Europe lost shares of world exports in all product groups except chemicals and pharmaceuticals, while Asia instead gained shares in 9 product groups, particularly in machinery and automotive. North America gained global market share in electronics and telecom as well as petroleum products. The Middle East increased its shares in 8 product groups, while both South America and Africa increased their shares in 7 product groups.

EXCHANGE RATES AND PRICE CHANGES IMPACT THE ANALYSIS

It is important to note that all export statistics in the UN Comtrade database are reported in current prices converted to US dollars. This causes a currency effect which, somewhat simplified, means the export figures for countries with a different currency will weaken or strengthen depending on how the value of the local currency fluctuates in relation to the US dollar. For example, according to data from Statistics Sweden, Sweden's total export of goods declined by 1.4 per cent in Swedish kronor measured by current prices in 2024 compared to 2023. But converted into dollars in UN Comtrade's figures, the decline amounted to only 0.9 per cent, due partly to the slight strengthening of the krona against the dollar during the year. Since the strengthening of the krona was modest, most of the difference in this case can probably be explained by UN Comtrade's method for converting countries' goods exports in local currency into dollars. For an international comparison of countries' exports, it is necessary to use a uniform currency and as such the US dollar – being the world's most used currency – is a natural choice.









Another complication that arises from reporting goods exports in current prices is that no consideration is given to price changes. For example, the recent years' increases in the value of goods exports are largely a result of high inflation. What appears to be an uptick in a country's export performance may in fact be just the opposite, a decrease, when current prices are recalculated to fixed prices to adjust for price and currency effects.

ABOUT GLOBAL EXPORT OF GOODS

Business Sweden's analysis of global export performance is based on data from UN Comtrade, which contains statistics on most markets' foreign trade broken down into product groups according to the so-called SITC nomenclature (*Standard International Trade Classification, revision 4*).

All figures are in current prices converted from local currencies to US dollars. The analysis encompasses the 13 most important product groups for Swedish exports.

The product groups are as follows, with SITC codes in brackets:

 Food and beverage (0, 1)	 Textiles and footwear (65, 84, 85)	 Automotive (78)
 Wood products (24, 63)	 Steel (67)	 Furniture (82)
 Pulp and paper (25, 64)	 Metal goods (69)	 Instruments (87)
 Petroleum products (33)	 Machinery (71, 72, 73, 74)	
 Chemicals and pharmaceuticals (5)	 Electronics and telecom (75, 76, 77)	

The 13 selected product groups accounted for 84 per cent of Swedish export of goods and 77 per cent of global export of goods in 2024. The most important product groups that were omitted from the analysis, and which accounted for 16 per cent of Swedish export of goods and 23 per cent of global export of goods, are commodities such as ore and minerals, natural gas, as well as various consumer goods.

Business Sweden's compilation of data from UN Comtrade summarises a total figure for global export of goods in 2024 at USD 22,978 billion, which can be compared to the WTO's estimated total figure of USD 24,456 billion. Several underlying factors can be attributed to the gap, but the WTO is generally considered to have more sophisticated data processing.

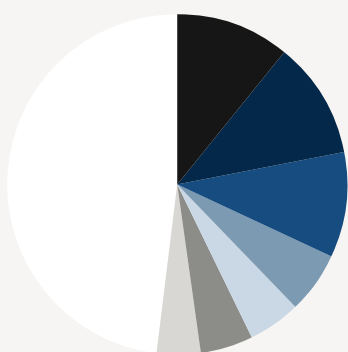
PRODUCT GROUPS

Business Sweden provides a brief overview of the 13 examined product groups below, including diagrams on the largest exporting countries and their shares of the global export market in each respective product group.

For additional comments on individual product groups, Business Sweden has used data (2023) from the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC).

Alphabetical order has been followed when companies are listed.

China is the world's largest exporting country with a first place in 10 product groups. The US leads in chemicals and pharmaceuticals as well as in food and beverage, while Germany takes the top spot in automotive. The United Arab Emirates is the largest exporter in petroleum products, narrowly ahead of the US and Saudi Arabia.

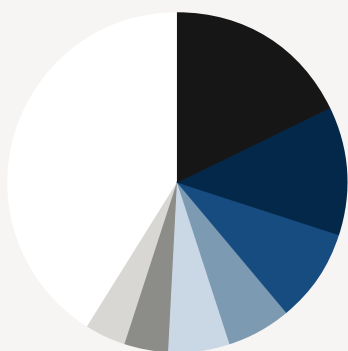


CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

This product group consists of products such as chemicals, fertilisers, plastics and pharmaceuticals. A considerable share of Sweden's chemicals industry today is represented by international groups such as Akzo Nobel, Borealis, Nouryon and Perstorp.

The pharmaceuticals industry is dominated by AstraZeneca which is one of Sweden's largest export companies. Other export companies in this sector include Cytiva, Fresenius Kabi, Octapharma and Pfizer.

The US, Germany and China are comparable in size when it comes to export of chemicals and pharmaceuticals, altogether accounting for approximately 30 per cent of global exports. Germany is by far the largest exporter when it comes to the sub-group pharmaceuticals, followed by Switzerland and the US, with China only in 19th place.

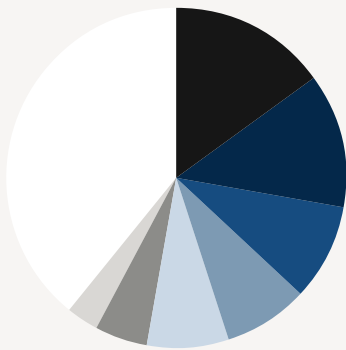


MACHINERY

The Swedish machinery industry produces power-generating equipment, machines for specialty industries, metalworking machines, and other non-electrical machines and appliances. This sector includes many of Sweden's traditional industrial companies such as ABB, Alfa Laval, Atlas Copco, Husqvarna, and SKF. Additional exporters include Epiroc, Munters, Mycronic, Nibe, Systemair, and Valmet. The industry is also represented by a large number of small and medium-sized engineering companies.

China, with 18 per cent of global exports, is the largest player followed by Germany and the US.

PRODUCT GROUPS

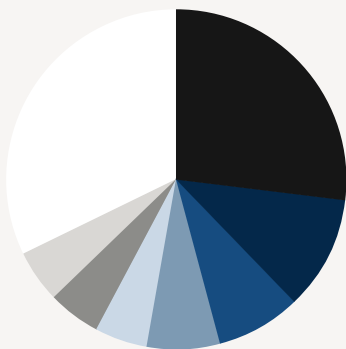


AUTOMOTIVE

The automotive industry in Sweden is dominated by Scania/Traton Group, Volvo Cars and Volvo Group, but consists of several hundred companies in total, including niche sub-suppliers. Important auto parts manufacturers include Autoliv, Haldex, and Leax.

Germany, with 16 per cent of global exports, is the world's leading automotive exporter, with China in second place. Notably, Mexico has now surpassed the US in export value and is the world's third largest exporter of vehicles and parts, thanks to its position as a supplier to the US automotive market.

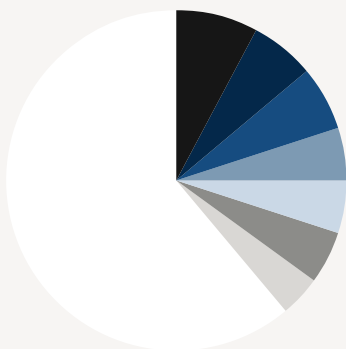
The automotive industry is currently undergoing a technology- and capital-intensive transition towards electrification and autonomous vehicles, where China's lead in electric vehicles and electronics puts strong competitive pressure on Europe's automotive industry.



ELECTRONICS AND TELECOM

The product group includes electrical products and equipment for generating and distributing electricity, computers and computer equipment, electronic components, domestic appliances, as well as telecom equipment, audio, TV and hi-fi products. Examples of Swedish exporters in this category are ABB, Axis Communications and Beijer Electronics. The telecom giant Ericsson has a significant research and development footprint in Sweden, while its base stations are mainly built and exported from manufacturing units outside Sweden.

China, with a 27 per cent share of global exports from mainland companies and 11 per cent share from Hong Kong, is the dominant exporter, despite some overlap in Chinese export statistics. Primarily based in the electronics clusters around the cities of Shenzhen and Guangzhou in Guangdong province, over half of the exports went to other parts of Asia, likely including a large share of intermediate or finished goods destined for European and North American markets.

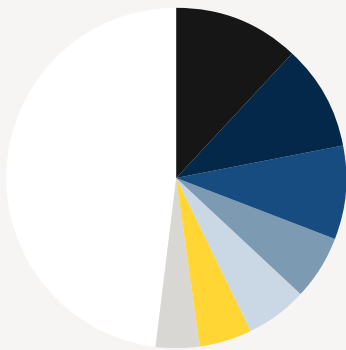


FOOD AND BEVERAGE

This product group includes meat, milk and fish products, vegetables and fruit, coffee and tea, sugar products as well as beverages and tobacco products. Swedish exporting companies include AAK, Almondy, Löfbergs, Orkla Foods Sweden, Pågen and Åbro, among others. Brands like Abba, Absolut, and Wasa also contribute to showcasing Sweden's food exports. Besides domestic food production, Norwegian salmon also boosts exports as these commodities pass through Sweden destined for global markets.

With 8 per cent of global exports, the US is the leading exporter followed by the Netherlands and Germany, but the international food market is highly fragmented with many players and niche products. While the US primarily exports soybeans and corn, the major export products from the Netherlands and Germany are dairy products, meat, and vegetables.

PRODUCT GROUPS



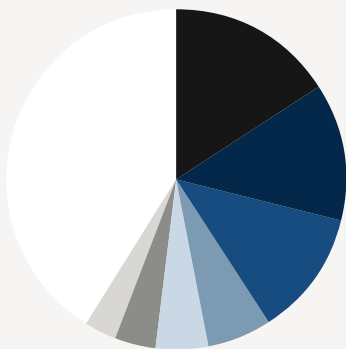
China 12%	Canada 6%
USA 10%	Sweden 5%
Germany 9%	Finland 4%
Brazil 6%	Other 47%



PULP AND PAPER

Pulp and paper is a traditional Swedish export industry and was the largest sector during the decades following the Second World War. Today, companies such as Billerud Korsnäs, Holmen, Metsä, SCA, Smurfit Kappa, Stora Enso and Södra dominate the market.

China, the US, and Germany have a combined share of just under one-third of global exports. Sweden has had a historically strong position in pulp and paper with a share that remains at 5.2 per cent, rounded to 5 per cent in the diagram.



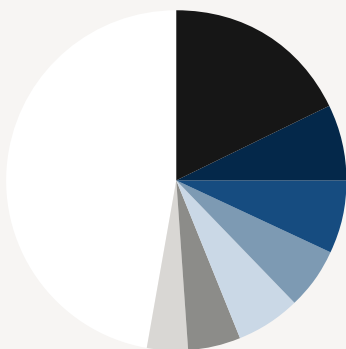
United Arab Emirates 16%	The Netherlands 5%
USA 13%	India 4%
Saudi Arabia 12%	Brazil 3%
Canada 6%	Other 41%, of which Sweden 0.6%



PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

The product group primarily includes crude oil and refined mineral oil products, of which the lion's share is produced at refineries in Gothenburg and Lysekil on Sweden's west coast. Important exporters include Nynas, Preem and St1.

The United Arab Emirates, the US and Saudi Arabia together account for around 40 per cent of global exports. Over the past decade, the US – deploying new extraction technology known as hydraulic fracturing (fracking) – has emerged as the world's largest oil producer.



China 20%	Indonesia 6%
Germany 7%	Italy 5%
Japan 6%	USA 4%
South Korea 6%	Other 46%, of which Sweden 1.6%

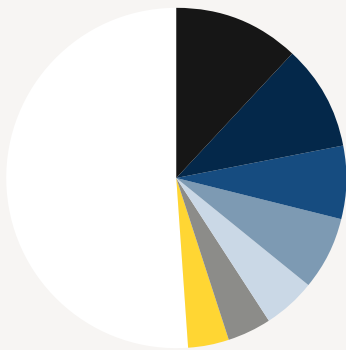


STEEL

This product group includes iron and steel. Sweden is today a leading niche producer of different types of specialty steel with companies such as Alleima, Outokumpu, Ovako, SSAB and Uddeholm at the forefront. Most of the finished steel products delivered by steel companies in Sweden are destined for exports.

With a share of just under 20 per cent, China is the leading exporter followed by Germany and Japan. The majority of Chinese steel exports go to countries in Asia, the Middle East and South America. The EU and the US have imposed various protective measures targeted at Chinese steel based on the assessment that China's strategy to manage overcapacity in its steel industry is to dump cheap steel on the global market.

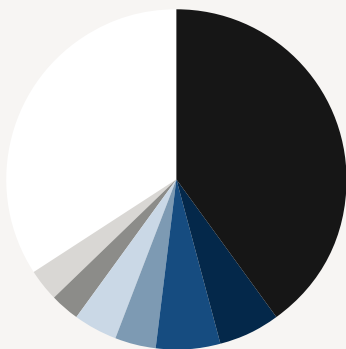
PRODUCT GROUPS



WOOD PRODUCTS

Wood products include raw materials and processed wood and cork, but not furniture. Examples of major Swedish companies in this segment are Derome, Holmen, SCA and Setra. Sweden's share of the market amounts to 3.6 per cent, rounded to 4 per cent in the diagram.

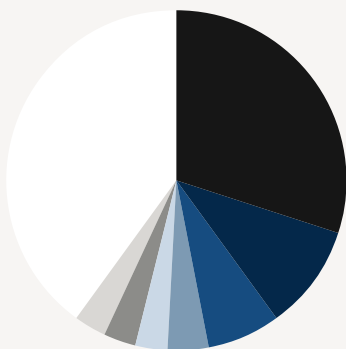
China is the world's leading exporter followed by Canada and Germany. In the absence of sufficient domestic raw materials, China imports timber and processes wood into products such as plywood. Canada's position as a wood exporter is clearly linked to the country's vast forest coverage.



TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR

Sweden is a well-established market in the fashion and textiles industry with export companies such as Acne, Filippa K, H&M, NA-KD, Nudie Jeans and Totême, among others.

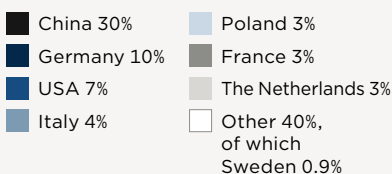
Of all the 13 selected product groups, China is the most dominant player in this sector and accounts for 40 per cent of global exports. Textiles and footwear is also the country's second-largest export product group after electronics and telecom, with the US as the largest export market.



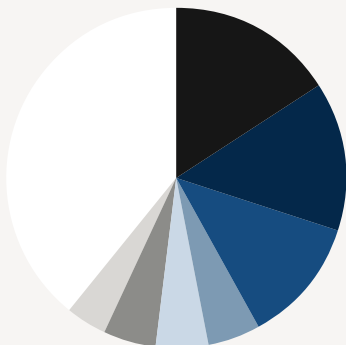
METAL GOODS

The metals industry manufactures different types of hand- and hydraulic tools as well as metal constructions, containers and metal items for both domestic and industrial use. Major Swedish exporters include Gunnebo Industries, Lindab and Sandvik.

In just a few decades, China has become the dominating supplier of metals to the global manufacturing and construction sectors.



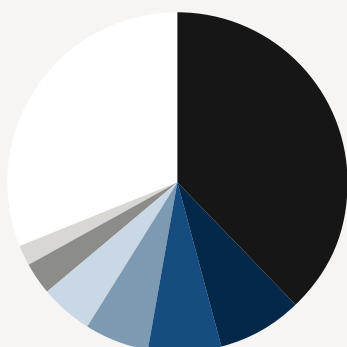
PRODUCT GROUPS



INSTRUMENTS

This product group includes various types of monitoring and control instruments as well as photographic and optical instruments for scientific and technical use, for example in healthcare. Consumer products such as watches are also included in the product group. Sweden has a number of large export companies such as Elekta, Getinge and Hexagon.

China, with 17 per cent of global exports, is the leading player followed by the US and Germany. The product group is strongly linked to electronics and telecom, where China has an advantage on many fronts.



FURNITURE

The product group includes furniture, mattresses, bedding and pillows. The most important Swedish exporter in this segment is IKEA, but several other export companies are also represented including Kinnarps, Lammhults and Hilding Anders.

China's dominance as an exporter in this product group is almost comparable to textiles and footwear, where there are clear links. China's strong position in wood products also contributes to the country's export success in this product group.





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