



**CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE  
FRANCE SUÈDE**

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# **La Suède**

## **Country Presentation 2026**

# La Suède

## Synthèse

### Sweden — Overview

- **Population:** 10,683,108 (2026)
- **GDP:** €662.32 billion (2025)
- **GDP per capita:** €57,625 (2024)
- **Growth rate:** +0.9% (2025)
- **Inflation rate:** 0.3% (December 2025)
- **Exports to France:** €7.1 billion (2024)
- **Imports from France:** €5.7 billion (2024)

### Economic Overview of Sweden

Sweden is the **leading Nordic country** in terms of economic size (GDP of €662.32 billion in 2025) and population, reaching **10.6 million inhabitants** (2026). A wealthy nation with a GDP per capita of approximately €57,625 (2024), Sweden boasts a highly competitive productive apparatus, combining a long-established industrial base built around raw materials (iron, copper, timber) with a leading presence in information and communication technologies, life sciences, green technologies, and creative industries. Highly open to international trade, Sweden is well connected to the rest of Europe and benefits from well-developed port and airport infrastructure. The European Union, of which it has been a member since **1995**, is its primary market, though it is rapidly expanding trade with new growth regions, particularly in Asia. Its multinationals have global reach and drive the Swedish economy through exports, as well as through R&D spending concentrated on national territory, among the highest in Europe.



## A Prosperous, Diversified Economy Oriented Towards Exports and Innovation

With a GDP of around €670 billion (26th in the world) and a GDP per capita of approximately €58,000 in 2025, Sweden consistently ranks in the top 5 EU countries with the highest standards of living. Despite the shocks of the 2008 financial crisis and the pandemic, growth averaged 2.1% over the 2000–2023 period, significantly outperforming the EU average (1.4%). Highly open commercially, Swedish exports and imports of goods and services represented 53% and 50% of GDP respectively in 2023. The Swedish economy rests on a diversified industrial base with the following strengths:

- One of the highest R&D intensities in the OECD (3.4% of GDP in 2023)
- A high employment rate (77% in 2024)
- Relatively dynamic productivity gains (+1.2% per year over 2000–2022)
- An efficient financial market (record number of listings on the Nasdaq Stockholm) and powerful family capitalism

It should be noted, however, that the share of the manufacturing sector in value added has declined markedly, from around 20% in the early 2000s to approximately 13% in the early 2020s. That said, raw materials and processed products still account for nearly a quarter of the country's goods exports

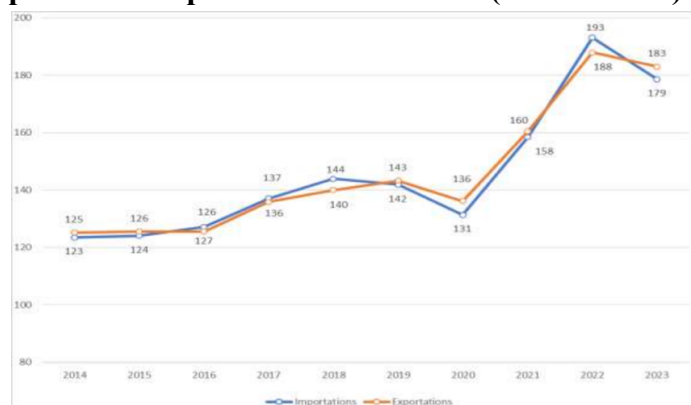
## Swedish Foreign Trade

In 2024, Swedish exports and imports of goods and services represented approximately 52% and 54% of GDP respectively. According to the OECD, Sweden ranked around 20th–25th globally for total export and import volume in the early 2020s. After recording a trade deficit between 2016 and 2018, Sweden posted a solid trade surplus in 2023–2024, reaching approximately SEK 50.2 billion ( $\approx$  €4.37 billion) — the highest level in a decade.

Trade flows recovered strongly in 2021 and 2022 (+15%), after being significantly affected by the pandemic in 2020 (–7%). The trade balance, which was in deficit between 2016 and 2018, has returned to sustained surpluses since 2023.

Germany and neighbouring countries are by far Sweden's main trading partners. Swedish goods exports are concentrated in machinery, chemicals, and minerals.

### Evolution of Goods Exports and Imports to/from Sweden (SEK billions)



Over the past decade, export and import volumes have grown in tandem, rising very dynamically between 2013 and 2019 (+50% in value terms) to reach a total of €300 billion. While 2020 saw a significant decline (–7%) due to the pandemic, 2021 and 2022 saw a strong recovery in both exports and imports (+15%), well above 2019 levels.

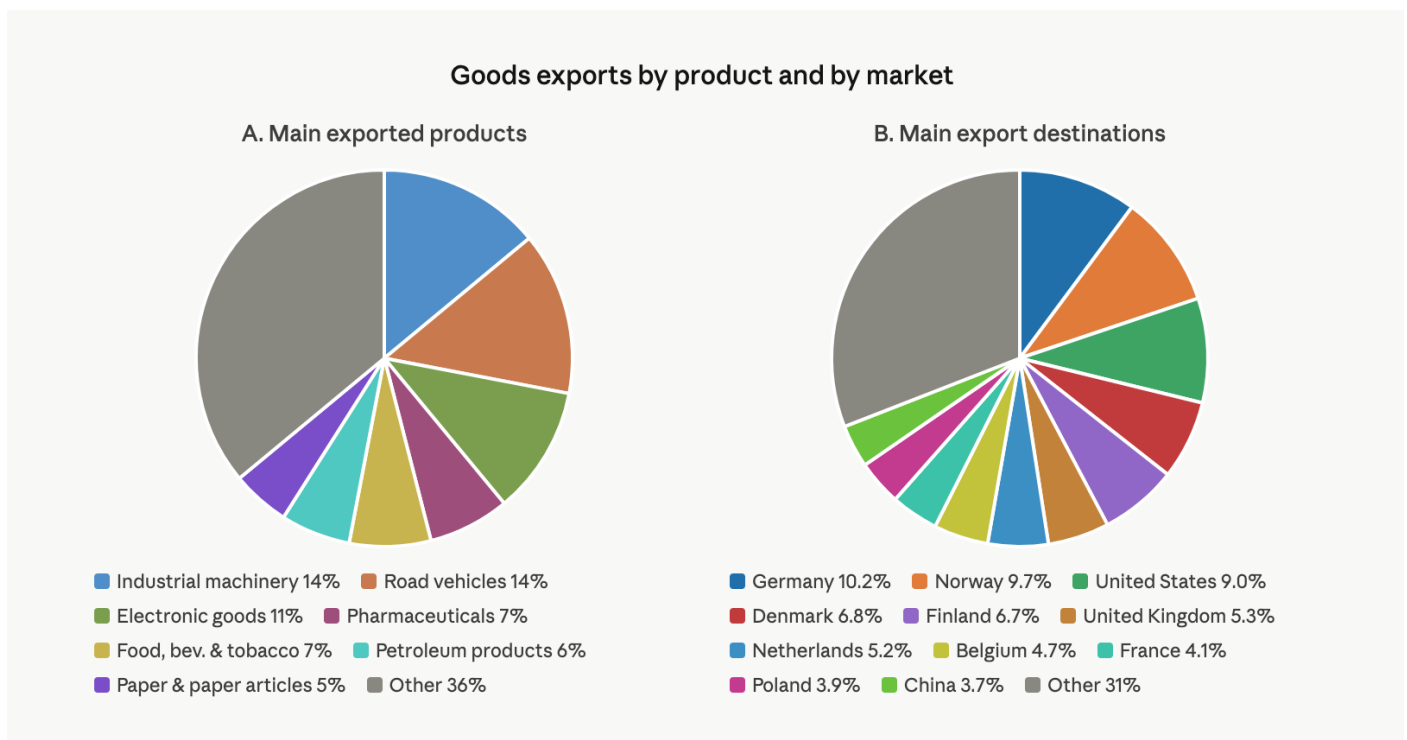
## France–Sweden Bilateral Trade in 2025

France is an **intermediate-tier trade partner** for Sweden in goods trade. After a rebalancing observed between **2018 and 2020**, France's trade deficit with Sweden widened again **from 2021–2022 onwards**, in the context of post-pandemic recovery and strong growth in French imports.

Bilateral trade remains concentrated in three main sectors:

- 1° Mechanical, electrical, electronic and IT equipment
- 2° Transport equipment
- 3° Chemical and pharmaceutical products

France and Sweden remain intermediate-tier partners for each other. Between 2023 and 2024, France remains one of Sweden's main trading partners but no longer strictly ranks 9th for both exports and imports: it ranks **8th for goods exports** and **10th for goods imports**.



## Opportunities for French Companies

The region remains culturally shaped by an Anglo-Saxon lens and strong German influence, which are difficult to bypass. However, the repositioning of the United States, accentuated by tariffs introduced under the Trump administration, has significantly weakened their local standing, as has that of Chinese-origin products. In this context, the Nordic countries are looking to promote European-origin goods. France, with its 900 established subsidiaries and the recognition of the Made in France label, has genuine potential to capture market share. Beyond this regional foothold, the area is also a springboard to international markets: the high degree of internationalisation of major Nordic groups offers their partners opportunities to expand on a global scale.

While Sweden's reputation as a model economy needs no introduction, the true potential of the market is too often underestimated: Swedish consumers have one of the highest purchasing powers in Europe, and their tastes are rapidly evolving towards increasingly sophisticated products. The country also has a stable-fundamentals, internationally open economy.

Although the Swedish economy contracted in 2023, following the prolonged effects of the pandemic and global uncertainties, it returned to a growth trajectory from 2024 onwards, with GDP rising by +1%.

The country offers niche markets, and among the **most promising sectors** are:

### Wines and Spirits

The Swedish wine market is a mature market organised around a state monopoly that regulates retail sales of alcoholic beverages with alcohol content above 3.5%, operating 450 stores (**Systembolaget**) across Sweden representing around 80% of the market.

In 2024, Systembolaget sold approximately 562 million litres of alcoholic beverages across all categories, for a net revenue of approximately SEK 39.4 billion (approximately €3.5 billion), maintaining its position as one of the world's largest alcohol distributors.

### Gourmet Products

The current enthusiasm for gastronomy and Nordic cuisine symbolised by Sweden's 23 Michelin stars creates a favourable environment for gourmet products, both local and foreign. The health crisis benefited some specialist retailers whose quality products are sought by customers wishing to enjoy gastronomic pleasure at home.

France remains a recognised supplier of gourmet products, with a firmly established premium image in the mid-2020s, despite price constraints linked to logistics costs. In 2022, according to Les Échos, French food and agri-food products represented €84.1 billion in exports. Leading French gourmet exports to Sweden include cheeses, bakery products, chocolates, jams, honey and confectionery. Nonetheless, French products remain not widely accessible, largely due to rising prices linked to transport and logistics costs.

### Organic, Health and 'Free-from' Products

Eating more healthily has become a major concern for Swedes in recent years. Today, nearly a quarter of Swedes identify as flexitarian, vegetarian or vegan. The organic products market continues to show positive momentum in 2024–2026, particularly through online sales, which are twice as high as in-store sales.

Supermarkets represent the number one channel for organic products, holding nearly 89% market share. The Coop chain, particularly advanced in organics, alone accounts for 40% of organic products sold. These projections suggest strong opportunities for French producers, particularly in segments such as meat and charcuterie, ready meals, bakery, confectionery, biscuits and snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages..

### Fruit and Vegetables

Given its geographic and climatic situation, Sweden has limited fruit and vegetable production. As a result, over 70% of the fruits and vegetables consumed are imported. Consumption of these products has continued to increase in recent years, in a context of growing general awareness of the importance of healthy eating.

- **Most consumed vegetables:** Tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, carrots
- **Most consumed fruits:** Apples, citrus fruits, berries

Swedes are also looking for protein-rich foods such as legumes, mushrooms, kale, broccoli, nuts and nutrient-rich products.

### Private Label Products

Swedish retail is structured around 3 main players: ICA, Coop and Axfood, which together hold 89% of the market (ICA alone holding 51%). Today, private label products account for over 25% market share in the food sector. Over the years, retailers have developed their own brands to meet consumer demand, offering a more diverse product portfolio across different price segments. ICA's organic range 'I love eco' is an illustration of this trend.

## Industry and Cleantech

The traditional sectors of the Swedish economy were built around the presence of **raw materials** (pulp, iron ore and steel...). However, the main competitive factor today is the ability of Swedish companies to adapt to new commercial and technical technologies.

Among the most important sectors are:

- Automotive
- Equipment manufacturing for industrial, food and pharmaceutical sectors
- Transport and energy infrastructure
- Steel and metallurgy

The Swedish business landscape includes major companies such as ABB, Ericsson, Husqvarna, Assa Abloy, Atlas Copco, Volvo Group, Sandvik, Scania, SKF, Tetra Laval, etc.

The country is now turning towards innovation and the digitalisation of its industry, notably through sustainable production. The 'Smart Industry' programme, launched in 2019, remains a pillar of Swedish industrial policy in the mid-2020s, reinforced by European cooperation.

Furthermore, the Franco-Swedish partnership for innovation and green solutions, signed in 2017, renewed in 2019 and again on 30 January 2024 during President Macron's visit, aims in part at collaboration in innovation for 'sustainable, digital and resilient' companies. The agreement targets operational action in four key areas:

- 4° Transport / Green energy / Sustainable cities
- 5° Green finance
- 6° Smart Industry
- 7° Health and life sciences

## Aerospace and Space

The Swedish aerospace industry is concentrated primarily within two major groups: Saab and GKN Sweden.

The local industry is active in research, development and manufacturing of engines, avionics, space applications, communications and positioning.

**Saab**, the sole national aircraft manufacturer, ceased civil aircraft production in 1999 but continues to maintain its aircraft, in addition to producing civil components and systems.

**GKN Sweden**, resulting from the acquisition of Volvo Aero in 2012 by the British group GKN, is active in the civil and military segments as well as in aerospace. The sites at Trollhättan and Linköping produce and repair engine components and sub-assemblies for aircraft, as well as spacecraft propulsion systems. Downstream, there is a network of companies working for Saab and GKN, particularly in precision engineering.

In the space sector, the main national organisation is the SSC (Swedish Space Corporation), which provides space and satellite engineering services. It also manages the Erange site in Swedish Lapland, a launch base and one of the world's leading civilian satellite communications facilities.

## Cosmetics

In 2024, sales of beauty and fragrance products totalled approximately €2.91 billion. After modest growth of +3% in 2019, the sector contracted by –6% in 2020 before recovering by +4.9% in 2021, driven by the country's economic health and consumers' high purchasing power post-pandemic. In general, Swedish consumers are increasingly gravitating towards higher-quality, 'healthier' beauty products with ecological and natural ingredients.

### Clothing, Footwear and Fashion Accessories

Clothing has long represented a significant item of expenditure in durable consumer goods for Swedish households. However, this sector is currently experiencing numerous changes (e-commerce, etc.) and shifts in consumer behaviour (second-hand, ethical and sustainability considerations, etc.). In addition, the health crisis had a particularly significant impact on this sector.

As a result, growth in the ready-to-wear, footwear and fashion accessories sector has slowed in recent years. The entire retail sector is facing major disruption due to the growing weight of e-commerce. Nonetheless, the clothing sector retains growth opportunities for emerging designer brands on the international scene, luxury brands, and high-end sportswear.

### Maritime Sector

Sweden has the longest coastline in Europe, with over 3,000 km running along the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and, indirectly, the Norwegian Sea. Maritime transport is therefore of significant importance to the economy, with 9 out of 10 goods arriving by sea.

In addition, the country has over 50 **public** ports located on its coasts as well as on Lake Vänern and Lake Mälaren. There are also industrial ports and **private** loading wharves. These ports offer a full range of services and represent an employment pool of approximately 4,300 Swedish workers.

The west of the country, particularly Gothenburg, is a growth engine for the sector, with around 3,000 maritime companies and 20,000 employees accounting for 45% of sector workers in Sweden. The Port of Gothenburg is the largest in Scandinavia, handling around 30% of Swedish foreign trade, and is the region's largest container port, with direct lines to over 130 worldwide destinations. Each year, over 800,000 containers transit through the port, representing 40 million tonnes of goods processed.

Gothenburg and Karlskrona are home to major marine technology centres, focusing on sustainable development, green maritime transport and underwater technologies to address climate change and new security situations.

### Boating and Leisure Maritime

One of the most popular activities for Swedish families is boating. The country has 1 boat per 11 inhabitants (one of the highest rates in the world). The leisure boating market is a dynamic sector in Sweden, generating annual revenue of nearly €1.8 billion, including boat sales, marine equipment, fuel, services, boating tourism, etc.

In the boat segment, Sweden is a strongly import-oriented market. France, for example, is its 7th largest boat supplier and stands out particularly in the sailing yacht segment.

It is worth noting an evolution in the relationship with boats: use is shifting towards shorter but more frequent periods, which impacts demand for recreational boats and creates opportunities for new concepts.

### Art de Vivre / Home Living

Sweden's highly contrasting seasons, marked by extreme variations in temperature and daylight, encourage residents to place great importance on their homes. They dedicate a significant share of their budget and leisure time to their interiors.

With a strong sensitivity to design, Swedes generally prefer clean, minimalist styles, though in recent years there has been a growing attraction to warmer and more personalised settings.

Design and interior architecture occupy a central place in the economy. The Nordic tradition of cocooning, entertaining at home and DIY, widely promoted through social media, magazines and television programmes, reinforces this trend.

Distribution of home décor products relies primarily on specialist physical stores for furniture and home décor, which account for 85.5% of sales. The main retailers include **IKEA**, **MIO** and **Hemtex**. Alongside these large chains, independent stores, small chains, department stores and concept stores offer more premium ranges. E-commerce accounts for 14.5% of the market.

## Hospitality

The Swedish hotel sector is one of the most interesting in the world in terms of diversity, quality of facilities and services. All major Swedish cities Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö, Västerås, to name just a few offer a wide range of high-quality hotels.

The size of the hotel industry market in Sweden was estimated at USD 5.83 billion in 2024. According to forecasts, this figure is expected to grow in a context of increasing numbers of domestic and international travellers, driven by simpler and more affordable travel opportunities. The Swedish hotel market is relatively mature and is primarily dominated by domestic chains. Scandic is the largest hotel operator in the Nordic countries, with a total of around 280 hotels in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark. You'll find their hotels in more than 35 Swedish cities, from Kiruna in the north to Malmö in the south.

## Healthcare

The Swedish healthcare system is predominantly public (85%) and funded through direct taxation. It is founded on a principle of easy access to care, with decentralised management at the regional and municipal level.

Another distinctive feature is its highly digitalised healthcare system: 99% of prescriptions are digitised, and approximately 83 million electronic prescriptions are issued each year. The government has launched the 'Vision e-Health 2025' strategy, aiming to position Sweden at the forefront of the most developed countries in e-health and digitalisation.

Despite the existence of domestic production, predominantly from advanced technologies, 65% of medical devices on the Swedish market are imported. The largest manufacturers are major multinational groups, several of which are global leaders in their field. These include Getinge, Gambro, Mölnlycke, Permobil, Nobel Biocare, Cambio Healthcare Systems, etc.

Medical equipment trade between France and Sweden is significant: in 2024, Swedish imports of French-origin products include optical, photo-technical and medical devices valued at approximately USD 176 million (≈ €165 million), demonstrating that medical goods remain part of the bilateral trade relationship.

## Technology, R&D and Services

Sweden is a champion in R&D and innovation, as consistently reflected in international reports and rankings. The country has established itself as one of the **most innovative in Europe and the world**:

- According to the **Global Innovation Index 2025** published by WIPO, Sweden ranks **2nd globally** (just behind Switzerland and ahead of the United States), confirming its position as a global innovation leader.

- At European level, the **European Innovation Scoreboard 2025** shows that Sweden is the **most innovative country in the European Union**, with performance at **138% of the EU average**, placing it ahead of Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland.

Historically, the Swedish government invested early in digital infrastructure, notably launching the ‘Lanedator’ programme in 1998, equipping all companies with computers for their employees.

Today, Sweden has numerous public and private clusters, incubators and science parks, as well as public innovation-funding agencies such as Almi and Vinnova.

## The Startup Ecosystem

A true cradle of European technology, Sweden is the birthplace of numerous globally influential startups. Spotify, Skype, Klarna, Candy Crush... Sweden boasts over 40 ‘unicorns’, placing it **second globally** behind Silicon Valley in terms of unicorns per capita.

Moreover, the many public and private clusters, incubators, science parks and funding agencies increase the chances of startup success on the territory.

**Kista Science City**, conceived as Sweden’s first ‘science city’, was established in the late 1970s. It claims the title of Europe’s leading cluster in information and communication technologies, describing itself as ‘Europe’s leading ecosystem for transformative technologies’.

Sweden has numerous highly dynamic innovation clusters, linked to universities and sometimes operating across borders such as **Medicon Valley**, spanning Sweden and Denmark. The Nordic zone, including Estonia, counts 83 unicorns, earning it the title of ‘Silicon Valley of Europe’.

There are approximately 10,000 active startups, 8,000 of them in Stockholm alone, making the country one of the world’s most prominent startup nations relative to its population.

It is worth noting that Swedish leaders recognise French talent and appreciate the quality of French technical education. A community of French-speaking entrepreneurs has taken shape in the Stockholm region under the banner of **French Tech Stockholm**.

## Software, AI, Quantum Computing and Cloud

Sweden ranks among the most advanced European countries in digitalisation, consistently placing at the very top of the EU in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness ranking. Digital transformation is widely diffused: approximately 72% of Swedish companies used paid cloud computing services in 2025. More broadly, over 70% of companies rely on either artificial intelligence solutions or advanced or intermediate digital technologies such as cloud and data analytics.

Artificial intelligence is being rapidly adopted, though still unevenly depending on the size of actors. Around 35% of companies reported directly using AI solutions in 2025, with particularly strong momentum among large groups already experimenting with generative AI to optimise their processes. Conversely, SMEs and the public sector lag behind, mainly due to constraints of skills and resources.

The Swedish AI market is growing strongly. Available estimates indicate it reached approximately €1.4 billion in 2025, with a sustained medium-term growth trajectory driven by industry, services and use cases related to automation and generative AI. This dynamic has led authorities to reinforce action: following recommendations formulated at end-2024 by the AI commission, a dedicated national AI strategy is being finalised in 2026, integrated into the 2025–2030 digital strategy and accompanied by increased public funding, notably through European programmes.

In cloud and digital infrastructure, Sweden benefits from a solid and attractive ecosystem. The market is supported by significant investments in data centres. The country has approximately 2,000 data centres, in a market fragmented between major international players, mid-sized operators and numerous small local actors, reinforcing its positioning as a North European hub for computing and data storage.

In the quantum domain, Sweden stands out primarily through its research effort. A national quantum computer development project is underway: the current platform is based on a machine of approximately 25 qubits, with a target of 100 qubits by 2029.

## E-Commerce

E-commerce has grown strongly, particularly since the pandemic. Out of the €12 billion in revenue in 2020 (+40%), the main spending categories of Swedish consumers are:

- Everyday consumer goods (€1.4 billion, +95%)
- Health and beauty products (€0.8 billion, +59%)
- Home equipment (€0.7 billion, +63%)
- DIY materials (€0.7 billion, +41%)
- Cultural products (€0.6 billion, +26%)
- Sport and leisure (€0.5 billion, +38%)
- Clothing (€1.5 billion, +15%)

## Why invest in Sweden?

Quality business environment

Open, diversified & competitive economy

Participation exemption, full tax deduction on authorised interest, no strict capitalisation rules

Highly skilled workforce adapted to export-oriented roles

Swedish consumers have one of the highest purchasing powers in Europe, with a growing propensity to consume

Ease of doing business

Balanced judicial system: safe, transparent & reliable transactions

High quality management & advisory services

## Advice for French Companies Wishing to Enter the Swedish Market



*“Sweden is a country with a very dynamic economy, naturally geared towards innovation and new ideas. With an efficient and effective bureaucracy that favours establishment, this market offers rapid business start-ups and solid commercial opportunities for companies ready to make the investment. Labour law is very similar to France’s, but be aware of the labour market and recruitment, which can present challenges if rapid headcount growth is needed. Productivity remains high and the Swedish model proves ultimately very viable, even if for newcomers the business culture can be disconcerting — particularly working hours, daily breaks (the famous ‘fika’) and the work-life balance expected by employees. Ultimately, establishing in Sweden promises great prospects in an economy with remarkable growth over many years.”* — **Jan MALMBORG, President of the French-Swedish Chamber of Commerce**



*“I would advise them to contact local construction players, French companies already established there, and the Trade Advisors (Conseillers du Commerce Extérieur de la France), to discuss concrete opportunities. I would also encourage active participation in tenders from Swedish municipalities and public bodies. The approach towards prospects and future clients must be very professional and formal, guaranteeing the quality of services and products offered. However, it is important to build a network of influence. In short, a professional but simple approach, serious yet friendly and authentic, will be well received. One must have the art of self-promotion without showing it.”*

**Olivier MERCIER, CEO at VINCI Energies**

Founded in 1918, the **French-Swedish Chamber of Commerce** is a private association under local law with a mission to promote the development of relations between France and Sweden. The CCFS counts nearly 150 member companies and forms an indispensable network for any company wishing to develop its Franco-Swedish relations. The CCFS is an essential partner for French companies wishing to enter the Swedish market. By offering these companies a comprehensive range of services, the CCFS considerably facilitates the first contact with Swedish partner companies and provides careful support to approach Sweden in the best possible way. The CCFS's activities are organised around two pillars


- **The Business Network:** Managing a network of 150 member companies
- **Business Support Services:**
  - Export support (market validation, prospecting missions, commercial follow-up and study trips)
  - Establishment support (creation of local entity, payroll management, domiciliation, tax and VAT management, VIE hosting, etc.)


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# Annex: Doing Business in Sweden

## Authorisations

- Since joining the European Union on 1 January 1995, Sweden applies EU regulations in force across the EU and is among the countries that implement EU directives most faithfully and rapidly.
- The EU has a liberal foreign trade policy, yet a number of restrictions exist, particularly regarding agricultural products under the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy). These price control and subsidy measures aim to modernise and develop agriculture across the EU. To achieve these objectives, the EU has implemented a system to control and regulate goods entering Swedish territory, which is important to study and understand.
- The EU has tightened its import authorisation policy for health reasons. For example, GMOs remain authorised on European territory but their presence must be systematically indicated on packaging. Some products may be banned, as is the case for hormone-treated beef.
- The BSE crisis ('mad cow disease') prompted European authorities to reinforce phytosanitary measures to ensure the quality of meat entering and circulating within the EU. The precautionary principle is now more widely applied: in case of doubt, import is prohibited until proof of non-harmfulness is demonstrated

## Required Licences

- For certain sensitive products, an import licence will be required. Permits are issued by various national agencies depending on the product being imported. For example:
- **Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket):** Issues permits for the import of animals or plants.
- **Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket) + Swedish Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket):** Have joint jurisdiction over the import of alcoholic beverages (wines and spirits).
- **Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket) + Swedish Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket):** Jointly manage the import of all types of food.
- For all French companies wishing to export or establish commercially in Sweden, the local partner who knows the import requirements for the product will be the best advisor. A list of competent agencies by imported product category is available on the website of the Swedish Customs Agency (Tullverket).

## Labelling

Specific requirements apply to labelling in the case of food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical products or other chemical products:

- Labels must be written in Swedish
- The list of ingredients must appear (in decreasing order by weight)
- Net weight or volume in metric measurements must appear
- The name of the manufacturer or place of origin of the product must appear on the label
- The product's expiry date must be indicated

The Swedish Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket) can provide all useful information regarding food labelling.

The labelling of plastic (PET) bottles is subject to specific regulations due to the recycling system (Pant). It is mandatory to join an approved recycling scheme (ReturPack) and to include certain mentions on the label to enable the deposit and recycling of the bottle.

For more information on labelling for cosmetics and pharmaceutical products sold on the Swedish market, contact the Swedish Medical Products Agency (Läkemedelsverket) or the International Regulatory Service of Business France.

## **CE Marking**

Various products sold to or within the EU must bear the 'CE' mark. This indicates to authorities that the importer or manufacturer affirms compliance with all applicable requirements and can substantiate this claim with solid documentation. This consists of a declaration of conformity (manufacturer's declaration) and a technical file, which also includes a test report.

For products presenting minimal risk, the manufacturer may rely on self-certification, i.e. a declaration of conformity, affixing the CE mark themselves. Many directives require products or systems presenting particularly high risk to be certified by an independent inspector.

## **Product Coding**

All products are classified and assigned a 10-digit code under the Harmonised System for the Description and Coding of Goods, upon which the EU's customs tariff (TARIC) is based. All EU member states apply the same customs tariffs.

## **Applicable Duties and Taxes**

The MOMS (mervärdesskatt) is the Swedish equivalent of VAT. Several rates apply: the standard rate is 25%, with a reduced rate of 12% applying to:

- Food products
- Hotel services
- Camping
- Imports of works of art

A 6% rate also applies to newspapers, passenger transport services and cultural events. Additional consumption taxes include:

- Tax on energy products
- Stamp duties (the highest being the property transfer duty of 2% on real estate transactions)
- Vehicle tax (based on weight and fuel type)
- Excise duties (alcohol and tobacco)

## **Hiring Staff Without a Local Establishment**

A foreign employer without a permanent establishment in Sweden cannot deduct the tax on the provisional tax withheld at source on wages paid to an employee. This applies even if the employee is taxable in Sweden. In such cases, the employee must themselves pay the provisional tax, the Special A-tax (SA Skatt).

## **Sources**

[French Treasury – France-Sweden Bilateral Trade Relations](#)

[French Treasury – Economic Report](#)

[French Customs](#)

[Statistics Sweden \(SCB\)](#)

[Business France – Sweden](#)

[Crédit Agricole – Invest in Sweden](#)

