

Sweden

Geography

Location: Northern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Skagerrak, between Finland and Norway

Area:

total area: 449,964 sq km

land area: 410,928 sq km

Land boundaries: total 2,205 km, Finland 586 km, Norway 1,619 km

Coastline: 3,218 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone: agreed boundaries or midlines

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: temperate in south with cold, cloudy winters and cool, partly cloudy summers; subarctic in north

Terrain: mostly flat or gently rolling lowlands; mountains in west

Natural resources: zinc, iron ore, lead, copper, silver, timber, uranium, hydropower potential

Land use:

arable land: 7%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 2%

forest and woodland: 64%

other: 27%

Irrigated land: 1,120 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: acid rain damaging soils and lakes; pollution of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea

natural hazards: ice floes in the surrounding waters, especially in the Gulf of Bothnia, can interfere with maritime traffic

Note: strategic location along Danish Straits linking Baltic and North Seas

People

Population: 8,821,759 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 19% (female 810,859; male 854,553)

15-64 years: 64% (female 2,761,060; male 2,856,012)

65 years and over: 17% (female 887,597; male 651,678) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.46% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 13.19 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.84 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 2.27 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 5.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 78.43 years

male: 75.64 years

female: 81.39 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.97 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Swede(s)

adjective: Swedish

Ethnic divisions: white, Lapp (Sami), foreign born or first-generation immigrants 12% (Finns, Yugoslavs, Danes, Norwegians, Greeks, Turks)

Religions: Evangelical Lutheran 94%, Roman Catholic 1.5%, Pentecostal 1%, other 3.5% (1987)

Languages: Swedish

note: small Lapp- and Finnish-speaking minorities; immigrants speak native languages

Literacy:

total population: 99%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Kingdom of Sweden

conventional short form: Sweden

local long form: Konungariket Sverige

local short form: Sverige

Type: constitutional monarchy

Capital: Stockholm

Independence: 6 June 1809 (constitutional monarchy established)

National holiday: Day of the Swedish Flag, 6 June

Constitution: 1 January 1975

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: blue with a yellow cross that extends to the edges of the flag; the vertical part of the cross is shifted to the hoist side in the style of the Dannebrog (Danish flag)

Economy

Overview: Aided by a long period of peace and neutrality during World War I through World War II, Sweden has achieved an enviable standard of living under a mixed system of high-tech capitalism and extensive welfare benefits. It has a modern distribution system, excellent internal and external communications, and a skilled labor force. Timber, hydropower, and iron ore constitute the resource base of an economy that is heavily oriented toward foreign trade.

Industries: iron and steel, precision equipment (bearings, radio and telephone parts, armaments), wood pulp and paper products, processed foods, motor vehicles

Agriculture: animal husbandry predominates, with milk and dairy products accounting for 37% of farm income; main crops - grains,

sugar beets, potatoes; 100% self-sufficient in grains and potatoes;
Sweden is about 50% self-sufficient in most products

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for narcotics shipped via the CIS
and Baltic states for the European market

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 12,000 km

Highways:

total: 135,859 km

Inland waterways: 2,052 km navigable for small steamers and
barges

Pipelines: natural gas 84 km

Ports: Gavle, Goteborg, Halmstad, Helsingborg, Hudiksvall,
Kalmar, Karlshamn, Malmo, Solvesborg, Stockholm, Sundsvall

Airports:
total: 253

Defence Forces

Branches: Swedish Army, Royal Swedish Navy, Swedish Air Force