



The Bank Barometer

24 April 2025



Preface

The Bank Barometer provides an overview of the development in the Swedish banking system. In the report, we describe the development of the banks, credit market companies¹, and mortgage credit institutions and that Finansinspektionen (FI) supervises. In this report, banks and credit market companies are mainly referred to collectively as “banks”. The difference between a bank and a credit market company is that a bank includes payment intermediation via general payment systems, such as RIX and Bankgirot.

The report is descriptive and is primarily based on the companies’ balance sheets and profit and loss statements. The report thus does not aim to assess the stability of the Swedish banking system – this type of assessment is found in Finansinspektionen's stability report. The Bank Barometer is published once every six months, and the focus is on the most recent semi-annual period. The data that is included in this version is the banks’ quarterly reporting through Q4 2024.

The Bank Barometer describes the Swedish banking system but also covers the activities of Swedish banks outside of Sweden. The report thus targets the Swedish banking sector from two perspectives: one where we look at banking activities in Sweden in general (including branches of foreign banks) and one where the focus is on the Swedish banks’ activities in total (even outside of Sweden).

¹ Credit market companies include credit market companies and credit market associations.

Summary

The Swedish banking market is concentrated, and seven banks account for more than 80 per cent of the lending to the public. During the first half of 2024, the major banks continued to lose market shares on the Swedish lending market. Mortgage banks, savings banks, and consumer credit firms were the primary groups that continued to gain market shares.

The Swedish banks' net profit increased throughout all of 2024. This increase was primarily due to higher net commission income, although a decrease in net interest income and administrative expenses applied some counter-pressure. During the same period, net profit for the major Swedish banks decreased. This decrease was mainly due to higher administrative expenses but also a decrease in net interest income.

Lending to the public grew by 2.5 per cent during the second half of 2024. This is an increase compared to the first half of 2024, when the growth rate was significantly lower. Consumer credit firms, leasing banks, and securities banks stick out as the banks with the largest growth.

The percentage of non-performing loans increased in the above-mentioned categories except for consumer credit firms and securities banks. Consumer credit firms still have the highest percentage of non-performing loans among all categories. For the Swedish banking sector as a whole, the levels are higher than before but still low compared to banks in the rest of Europe.

Consumer credit firms consist of 15 companies whose core activities are to issue different types of unsecured credit to households. The return on equity for this category as a whole has been negative, or close to zero, since the end of 2021, but it has increased in recent quarters. Within the category, approximately half of the companies reported a loss in 2024.