



Area	173,860 Sq. Mi. (slightly larger than California); the largest Nordic country, the third-largest country in the European Union, and the fifth-largest country in Europe.
Capital	Stockholm
Population	10.5m
Ethnic Groups	80% Swedish; 1.9% Syrian; 1.4% Iraqi; 1.4% Finnish; 15% Other.
Religions	67% Christianity; 27% Unaffiliated; Others - Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist
Human Dev Index	945 (7 th); (v. USA .926 – 17 th)
Currency	Swedish kronor
GDP (PPP)	\$674.3b
GDP (PPP) per cap	\$62,900 est. for 2022
Agriculture products	Wheat, milk, sugar beet, barley, potatoes, oats, rapeseed, pork, rye
Industries	Iron/steel, precision equip, wood pulp, processed foods, motor vehicles.
Major Trading Partners (exports)	Germany; Norway; U.S
Organizations:	Joined the EU but rejected Eurozone membership; UN; the Nordic Council, the Council of Europe; the WTO; and the OECD;

An independent Swedish state emerged during the early 12th century. The Swedish Empire became one of the great powers of Europe until the early 18th century. Territories outside the Scandinavian Peninsula were gradually lost during the 18th and 19th centuries, ending with the annexation of present-day Finland by Russia in 1809.

In 2014, Sweden celebrated 200 years of peace. Prior to joining the EU in 1995, Sweden maintained an official policy of neutrality during wartime and non-participation in military alliances during peacetime, although Sweden secretly relied on U.S. nuclear submarines during the Cold War. Since 2008 Sweden has joined EU battlegroups, provided intelligence to NATO and openly moved towards cooperation with NATO. In 2022, Sweden applied for NATO membership and was formally invited to join at the NATO Summit in Madrid.

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy, with legislative power vested in the 349-member unicameral *Riksdag*. It is a unitary state, currently divided into 21 counties and 290 municipalities.

Sweden maintains a Nordic social welfare system that provides universal health care and tertiary education for its citizens. It has the world's 12th highest per capita income and ranks very highly in quality of life, health, education, protection of civil liberties, economic competitiveness, income equality, gender equality, prosperity and human development.

Fun Facts: Love chocolate; Baby Boom; Leads world in generosity; Imports garbage; Spanking banned; Nobel Prize; Country has its own phone number; Invented vodka made from potatoes.