

CSTI POLICY BRIEFING NOTE

Country Overview of Manufacturing Policy Sweden

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Overview

A [fifth of Swedish GDP](#) is generated in manufacturing, and manufacturing is very important for [Swedish exports](#), particularly within the EU. As such it is an important sector for Sweden’s economy. On the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2011, Sweden is ranked in first place among the EU’s 27 member states, and is fourth in the World Economic Forum’s 2012 ranking of global competitiveness. Sweden is a relatively resource rich country (mining, timber, etc.), with a diversified industrial base. There are leading Swedish companies on the international stage in the automotive, telecommunications, chemicals and furniture sectors, to name but a few. What has been noted as a trend in recent years is what’s termed the “servitisation” or “[servicification](#)” of Swedish manufacturing, a blurring of the boundary between manufacturing and services, as manufacturing now buys more services and produces more services in-house and also sells and exports more services.

National and Regional Policy

There are efforts at a national level to improve framework conditions for businesses in the manufacturing sector through [enterprise and industry policy](#), in order to “strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation and effective competition”. This includes targeted measures for various industries and sectors.

Sweden also engages in a [regional growth policy](#) that includes “regional development strategies, regional business support, support for commercial services and EU Regional Development Fund programmes” for the country’s 21 regions. The National Strategy for Regional Growth and Attractiveness 2014-2020 was launched in June 2014. Individual regions have the responsibility to draw up and implement their own regional development strategies. For example, [in Jönköping](#), innovation policies include a Science Park system operating across its 13 municipalities with physical meeting places for stakeholders referred to as “growth arenas”, and also “innovation vouchers” for SMEs.

Key Actors and Initiatives in Swedish Manufacturing Policy System

The most important branch of the Swedish government for supporting advanced manufacturing is the [Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation](#).

In late 2014 Prime Minister [announced](#) the setting up of an Innovation Council that is intended to enhance cooperation and coordination in the area of innovation policy, and is also a measure designed to increase the share of GDP devoted to research and development.

Key Documents

2012

Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications

- [The Swedish Innovation Strategy](#)