

## Chapter 7: Trade and Project Financing

- [How Do I Get Paid \(Methods of Payment\)](#)
- [How Does the Banking System Operate](#)
- [Foreign-Exchange Controls](#)
- [U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks](#)
- [Project Financing](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### How Do I Get Paid (Methods of Payment)

[Return to top](#)

Common terms of sale are payment within 30 or 90 days after delivery or against documents. Payment is normally prompt, with interest charged and paid if payment is late. All normal methods of payment are used but the most common and preferred method of payment is open account. The use of letters of credit is rare.

An U.S. exporter looking to recover debts should contact the Association of Swedish Debt Collectors for information on and contact with debt collecting agencies. The Association can be reached on: [www.svenskinkasso.se](http://www.svenskinkasso.se)

Credit reports on Swedish companies can be obtained by contacting any of the sources below:

Dun & Bradstreet Sverige AB  
Box 1529  
SE-172 29 Sundbyberg, Sweden  
Tel: 46-8-519 010 00  
<http://www.dbsverige.se>

Syna AB  
Box 244  
SE-201 22 Malmö, Sweden  
Tel: 46-40-25 85 00  
[www.syna.se](http://www.syna.se)

UC AB  
SE-117 88 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel: 46-8-670 90 00  
<http://www.uc.se>

(UC AB, the Swedish Business and Credit Information Agency, is jointly owned by all Swedish commercial banks).

## How Does the Banking System Operate

[Return to top](#)

The Swedish banking system is made up of four main categories: Swedish commercial banks (joint-stock banks), foreign banks, savings banks and co-operative banks. All the above-mentioned types of banks are - since the amendment of banking legislation in 1969 - entitled to operate in all areas of banking. At the end of 2006 Sweden had a total of 126 banks.

In 1986, Sweden issued a charter for the first 12 foreign-owned commercial banks and since 1990 foreign-owned banks have been entitled to open branch offices in Sweden. These branch offices have primarily concentrated on servicing the business sector. Also in 1990, the restrictions concerning foreign ownership of Swedish bank stock were abolished. The largest foreign bank is Danske Bank, which after acquiring the Swedish Ostgota Bank in 1997 became the fifth largest bank in Sweden.

The banks' activities are closely supervised by the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority (Finansinspektionen) (<http://www.fi.se>) to ensure that all necessary standards are met. Swedish banks' financial statements meet the international standards well and are audited by internationally recognized auditors only.

The Swedish Bankers' Association (<http://www.bankforeningen.se>) represents the banks in Sweden. The association disseminates information about the banks and their position in society. The Association has 32 members – 22 banks (of which nine are foreign owned), five finance companies and five credit institutions. New smaller, so-called 'niche banks' have been established. These banks tend to concentrate on certain areas of banking services or methods of banking, e.g. 'dial-in' banks for banking services by telephone. All major banks are offering banking services through Internet.

The largest Swedish banks are Nordea (MeritaNordbanken Group's bank in Sweden), Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB), Svenska Handelsbanken and Swedbank. .

## Foreign-Exchange Controls

[Return to top](#)

Foreign exchange restrictions in Sweden were removed in 1991. Commercial transactions are in general not subject to any restrictions. There are no restrictions on remittances of profits, or from investment liquidation proceeds. Royalty and license fee payments may be freely transferred out of Sweden. Moreover, yields on invested funds, such as dividends and interest receipts, are usually freely transferred.

## U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks

[Return to top](#)

The American banks and financial institutions represented in Sweden are Citibank and GE Money Bank.

Citibank  
Box 1422  
SE-111 84 Stockholm  
Tel. Int/46/8-723 34 00  
[www.citibank.se](http://www.citibank.se)

GE Money Bank AB  
Box 302  
SE-171 75 Stockholm  
Tel. Int/46/8/559 510 00  
[www.gemoneybank.se](http://www.gemoneybank.se)

- List of Swedish banks with correspondent U.S. banking arrangement

Nordea  
Smalandsgatan 17  
S-105 71 Stockholm  
Tel: Int/46/8-614 7800  
[www.nordea.com](http://www.nordea.com)

Nordea Bank Finland, Plc  
437 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Tel: (212) 318 9300  
[www.nordea.com](http://www.nordea.com)

Svenska Handelsbanken AB  
Kungstradgardsgatan 2  
S-106 70 Stockholm  
Tel: Int/46/8-701 1000  
[www.handelsbanken.se](http://www.handelsbanken.se)

Svenska Handelsbanken  
875 Third Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10022-7218  
Tel: (212) 326-5100  
[www.handelsbanken.se/us](http://www.handelsbanken.se/us)

SE-Banken  
Kungstradgardsgatan 8  
S-106 40 Stockholm  
Tel: Int/46/771-62 10 00  
[www.seb.se](http://www.seb.se)

Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken  
245 Park Avenue, 42nd floor  
New York, NY 10167-0061  
Tel: (212) 907-4700  
[www.seb.se](http://www.seb.se)

**Project Financing**

[Return to top](#)

The Swedish government traditionally finances public sector projects, while private projects are financed through the local capital market. Multilateral institutions active in Sweden include the European Investment Bank (EIB) which finances capital investment

projects in the areas of environmental protection and improvement measures, health and education, research and development, transport, energy and telecommunications networks; and the Nordic Investment Bank

## Web Resources

[Return to top](#)

Export-Import Bank of the United States: <http://www.exim.gov>

Country Limitation Schedule: [http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country\\_limits.html](http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country_limits.html)

OPIC: <http://www.opic.gov>

U.S. Trade and Development Agency: <http://www.tda.gov/>

SBA's Office of International Trade: <http://www.sba.gov/oit/>

USDA Commodity Credit Corporation: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc/default.htm>

U.S. Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov>

Swedish Trade Council <http://www.swedishtrade.se>

Swedish Export Credit Corporation <http://www.sek.se>

Association of Swedish Debt Collectors <http://svenskinkasso.se>

Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority <http://www.fi.se>

Swedish Bankers' Association <http://www.bankforeningen.se>