

Ratings Direct[®]

Swedish Export Credit Corp.

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Swedish Export Credit Corp.

SACP: a-		Support: +5		Additional factors: 0	
Anchor	а-		ALAC support	0	Issuer credit rating
Business position	Moderate	-1	/ La to support		
Capital and earnings	Very strong	+2	GRE support	GRE support +5	
Risk position	Moderate	-1		A A I /C4abla / A . 4 I	
Funding	Adequate	0	Group support	0	AA+/Stable/A-1+
Liquidity	Adequate	0			
CRA adjustment		0	Sovereign support	0	

ALAC--Additional loss-absorbing capacity. CRA--Comparable ratings analysis. GRE--Government-related entity. ICR--Issuer credit rating. SACP--Stand-alone credit profile.

Credit Highlights

Issuer Credit Rating
AA+/Stable/A-1+

Overview	
Key strengths	Key risks
Extremely high likelihood of government support.	Heavy reliance on foreign wholesale funding, including structured financing.
Strong loan asset quality and high-quality guarantees.	Concentration on a large individual loan exposure.
Robust capitalization well above the international average.	Relatively low profitability.

We see a high likelihood that Swedish Export Credit Corp (SEK) would receive support from the Swedish government if needed. SEK's business is driven by the Swedish state's mandate to support the country's export sector, which contributed 44% to Sweden's GDP in 2021. As a result, our 'AA+' long-term ratings factor in five notches of uplift from SEK's 'a-' stand-alone credit profile (SACP). We therefore expect that SEK will continue to maintain a relatively narrow focus on providing credit to Swedish export companies.

SEK is expected to remain well-capitalized due to in part its high-quality loan book and associated guarantees. As of year-end 2021, SEK's risk-adjusted capital was 19.6% and is expected to remain about 19.0%-20.0%. Returns are anticipated to remain stable albeit modest at about 4.0%-4.5% over 2022-2024. Lending growth is likely to return to a more normal 5%-6% per year, following slightly higher growth in 2020 as SEK met high demand from Swedish exporters in the wake of the pandemic.

SEK's asset quality is expected to remain exceptional, but concentration risks will persist. In 2021 reversals were booked related to provisions taken in 2020, indicating that conditions are improving. As such, we believe marginal provisioning will be needed over the next two years. This is further reinforced by guarantees provided by the Swedish government via the Swedish Export Credits Guarantee Board (EKN) for a large portion of SEK's lending. More generally, unguaranteed corporate exposures and financial institutions also present some concentration risk, in our view.

The close link to the Swedish government will continue to offset SEK's reliance on wholesale market funding. SEK has a Swedish krona (SEK) 175 billion (€16.9 billion) backup credit line with the Swedish National Debt Office (SNDO) to ensure funding and liquidity needs are fully supported, if necessary. SEK will continue to otherwise be fully wholesale funded, and which leads to it having S&P Global Ratings-adjusted funding and liquidity metrics below the Swedish banking system average. Our view of its policy to effectively match assets and liability redemptions offsets this risk, however.

S&P Global Ratings acknowledges a high degree of uncertainty about the extent, outcome, and consequences of the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Irrespective of the duration of military hostilities, sanctions and related political risks are likely to remain in place for some time. Potential effects could include dislocated commodities markets--notably for oil and gas--supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, weaker growth, and capital market volatility. As the situation evolves, we will update our assumptions and estimates accordingly. See our macroeconomic and credit updates here: Russia-Ukraine Macro, Market, & Credit Risks. Note that the timing of publication for rating decisions on European issuers is subject to European regulatory requirements.

Outlook

The stable outlook on SEK indicates that there is an extremely high likelihood of the Swedish government providing timely support, if needed, over the next two years. The outlook also reflects our expectation that the bank's asset quality will remain strong and its liquidity and capitalization robust. Given the level of extraordinary support and our 'AAA' rating on Sweden, we could revise our SACP downward by four notches without it affecting the rating.

Downside scenario

Although unlikely, we could consider a negative rating action if we saw that SEK's role or link with the Swedish government were weakening. Given the current SACP, we could lower the ratings by one notch if, in our view, the likelihood of support had reduced to very high from extremely high, because of a change in its role or link with the government.

Upside scenario

We consider a positive rating action to be unlikely. However, we could raise the ratings if the Swedish government provided a timely guarantee for SEK's liabilities, in line with our criteria.

Key Metrics

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Key Ratios And Forecasts								
		Fiscal year ended Dec. 31						
(%)	2020a	2021a	2022f	2023f	2024f			
Growth in operating revenue	4.0	(2.7)	(1.5)-(2.0)	2.0-2.5	2.0-2.5			

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Key Ratios And Forecasts (cont.)									
_	Fiscal year ended Dec. 31								
(%)	2020a	2021a	2022f	2023f	2024f				
Growth in total assets	5.7	(0.5)	3.5-4.0	3.5-4.0	3.5-4.0				
Net interest income/average earning assets (NIM)	0.6	0.6	0.6-0.7	0.6-0.7	0.6-0.7				
Cost to income ratio	30.0	34.6	35.0-36.5	35.0-36.5	35.0-36.5				
Return on average common equity	4.9	5.1	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0				
New loan loss provisions/average customer loans	0.1	0.0	0.0-0.1	0.0-0.1	0.0-0.1				
Gross nonperforming assets/customer loans	0.7	1.0	0.7-0.8	0.6-0.7	0.5-0.6				
Risk-adjusted capital ratio	19.1	19.6	19.0-20.0	19.0-20.0	19.0-20.0				

All figures are S&P Global Ratings-adjusted. a--Actual. e--Estimate. f--Forecast. NIM--Net interest margin.

Anchor: Blended Economic Risk Reflects SEK's Net Exposure After Guarantees

The anchor we assign to SEK is 'a-', reflecting its domicile in Sweden and its net credit exposure after guarantees to markets worldwide. As a result, our blended economic risk score for SEK is somewhat higher than for banks operating only in Sweden, due to SEK's external exposures to Swedish exporters' customers. However, the difference is not large enough to lower the anchor.

Our view of economic risk for Sweden is a result of the country's diverse and competitive economy, which provides an offset to the highly indebted private sector. Although direct exposure to Russia and Ukraine is limited, secondary effects from the conflict between the two countries is expected to slow Sweden's economic growth to 2.3% in 2022 (previous forecast 3.0%). House price growth has contributed to material economic imbalances, in our view; however, we view the trend as stable because we believe that extraordinary support measures related to the pandemic will be withdrawn in a controlled manner, reinforcing a fairly robust economic recovery.

Our view of industry risk in Sweden reflects a regulatory environment that is in line with other EU countries, in addition to deep debt capital markets, a well-functioning domestic covered bond market, and a history of liquidity support in times of need that mitigates structural reliance on wholesale funding. Furthermore, we view the stability, sound profitability, and lack of complexity in the banking sector as strengths. The sector's good operating efficiency is backed by banks' advanced levels of digitalization. As a result, we see a stable trend for industry risk.

Business Position: Important Export Lending Role, But With Narrow Revenue Breadth

With total assets of SEK333 billion (about €32 billion) as of March 31, 2022, SEK is anticipated to remain an important pillar of Swedish exporters' success owing to its strong relationships with the country's largest exporters. More recently, SEK also started promoting midsize corporations' expansion to new markets and expects to play a central role in financing the green transition of the Swedish economy.

SEK's primary focus is to work with the Swedish government and commercial banks to offer direct corporate lending

for the Swedish export sector and end-customer long-term financing, arranged for the buyers of Swedish goods and services. About 40%-45% its loans are guaranteed by the Swedish government via the EKN. However, SEK can take on direct unguaranteed credit risk when complying with its underwriting principles or in connection with other guaranteed lending. Generally, in terms of the transactions undertaken, SEK is willing to lend at longer terms and with more capital-intensive tranches than private commercial banks, to create long-term financing solutions for the export sector it is committed to.

As result, SEK's revenue is primarily derived from net interest income from its lending activities. It also has some profit and loss volatility due to unrealized gains and losses associated with its liquidity holdings and the value of its own debt, but these are mitigated over time by holding short-dated liquidity instruments until maturity.

Capital And Earnings: Very Strong Capital Ratios, Supported By Ample Use Of Guarantees, Reduce Balance-Sheet Risk

SEK meets its regulatory capital requirements with a comfortable buffer and will maintain a risk-adjusted capital (RAC) ratio of 19%-20% over 2022-2023. As of March 2022, its regulatory common equity tier 1 (CET1) and total capital ratios both stood at 21.2% and remain well above the estimated regulatory requirements of 8.0% for the CET1 ratio and 15.7% for total capital ratio set by the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority.

Following increased demand from Swedish exporters to secure liquidity needs and long-term financing during the pandemic, we believe annual lending growth will ease toward more normal levels of about 5%-6% over 2022-2023. We also project revenue will hover near SEK1.9 billion-SEK2 billion (€180 million–€190 million) over the next two years. As a result, SEK's return on equity will be 4.0%-4.5%, approaching the company's long-term target of 5.0%. We anticipate that the company will continue to pay approximately 30% of net profits as dividends in line with guidance of 20%-40% annually. In our view, SEK's strong capital buffers will support its business growth and therefore we do not incorporate any additional capital measures into our forecast.

Risk Position: Concentration Risk And Complexity Counterbalances A Near Spotless Loss History

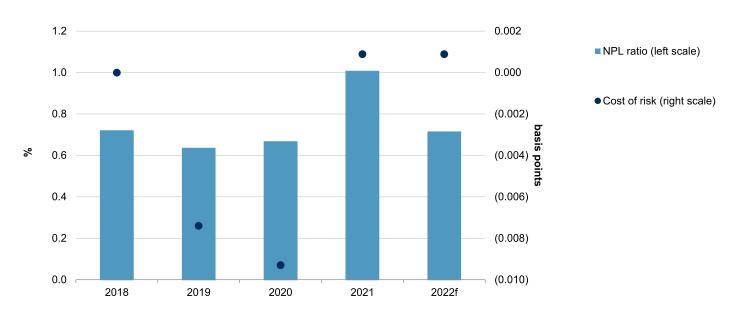
In our view, SEK will continue to have material concentration in unguaranteed corporate exposures, primarily via bond investments in some of Sweden's largest corporations. We also believe the company faces concentration risk from guarantees provided by government export credit agencies--of which EKN is the largest--and financial institutions. However, we note mitigation of low double-default risk, in that both the guarantor and the underlying guaranteed corporation must default for a loss to materialize on SEK's guaranteed loan book. Furthermore, the counterparty exposures in its derivative transactions present an element of concentration that is not fully captured in our RAC framework.

SEK's use of structured funding adds materially to its operational complexity, in our view. The company relies on the extensive use of complex and illiquid derivatives, which in some circumstances can be difficult to value and renew if necessary. As of first-quarter 2022, SEK had SEK37.4 billion (about €3.6 billion) in level 3 (marked to model) liabilities,

of which SEK34.1 billion (€3.3 billion) was classified as debt securities (about 11% of securities issued). We believe the company has strengthened its resources and IT systems significantly over the past few years with respect to management and valuation of remaining risks.

SEK's asset quality is expected to remain robust, with minimal losses realized. As a result of stricter default definitions and conservative risk management, gross nonperforming assets increased to 1.01% for full-year 2021 from 0.67% at year-end 2019. Reserve coverage of these exposures, however, was not raised as the bulk of these provisions was taken during 2020. As a result, reversals were booked over 2021 and we anticipate that generally additional provisioning needs will remain limited, given the guaranteed nature of much of SEK's lending.

Chart 1
SEK's Asset Quality Will Remain Exceptional, While Provisioning Reflects Cyclicality



Source: S&P Global Ratings.

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Funding And Liquidity: Supported By Link To The Government, And A Substantial Liquidity Portfolio

We see the link to the Swedish government and the diversity of the company's funding sources as supportive factors that have worked effectively in difficult markets, historically, largely due to the strength of the sovereign and underpinning our view of SEK's funding sources. SEK funds itself internationally, primarily in euros, U.S. dollars, and yen, in addition to maintaining nearly 20% of its long-term funding in relatively complex funding structures with early redemption clauses at the end of first quarter 2022--both factors we consider weaknesses. Similarly, SEK's stable

funding ratio of 81% at year-end 2021 remains below the Swedish banking system average. While we recognize the company displays relatively poor S&P Global Ratings-adjusted funding and liquidity metrics, we use our qualitative analysis of its policy of effectively matching assets and liability redemptions in our assessment of its funding.

In line with the mandate from the state, SEK has funded the SEK88 billion loan portfolio related to CIRR loans (with an average duration of seven years), which it administers on the government's behalf, with short-term borrowings that have maximum tenors of one year. Although profitable for the government the structure gives rise to a duration mismatch and refinancing risk, although the SNDO's SEK175 billion credit facility, which is renewed annually, mitigates this. This facility is treated as contingent financing and as of first-quarter 2022 has no active drawn down. Note that this facility is adapted in times of need or distress to ensure SEK retains strong access to liquidity.

SEK's ratio of broad liquid assets to less than one-year wholesale funding was 0.61x at year-end 2021, which compares poorly with the industry average of about 1x. Historically, most losses that SEK has faced have been due to bank failures and investments in collateralized debt obligations in its liquidity portfolio. The company has since exited all of its securitization positions and its liquidity portfolio comprises financial instruments rated 'A-' or higher, with only a few exceptions.

As of March 31, 2022, SEK had a regulatory liquidity coverage ratio of about 821% as well as a regulatory net stable funding ratio of 141%, both strong for the Swedish banking sector.

Support: Five Notches Of Uplift For Government Support

We regard SEK as a government-related entity in Sweden. The 'AA+' long-term rating on the company is five notches above the SACP, reflecting our view that there is an extremely high likelihood the Swedish government would provide timely and sufficient support, if needed. Specifically, we believe SEK:

- Plays a very important role for the Swedish government in providing financing to the export sector, which generates about 44% of the country's GDP. The company's role as a key financier to export-related credits was confirmed in Sweden's 2015 revision to its export strategy; and
- Has an integral link with the Swedish government, reflecting its 100% ownership of SEK, its supportive stance toward the company, and its mandate for SEK to act as the country's sole provider of CIRR export loans to Swedish exporters. In December 2015, the Swedish parliament voted to remove the government's option to reduce its ownership share to no less than 34%, which had been in place since 1996 but never seriously considered.

We do not believe that the February 2016 implementation of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive in Sweden affects the Swedish government's willingness or ability to provide support to SEK before bailing in senior unsecured debtholders, despite the company being in scope for the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities. Factoring potential support from additional loss-absorption capacity would, however, not affect our ratings on SEK, considering the five notches of support already included because of its government-related entity status.

Environmental, Social, And Governance

ESG Credit Indicators



ESG credit indicators provide additional disclosure and transparency at the entity level and reflect S&P Global Ratings' opinion of the influence that environmental, social, and governance factors have on our credit rating analysis. They are not a sustainability rating or an S&P Global Ratings ESG Evaluation. The extent of the influence of these factors is reflected on an alphanumerical 1-5 scale where 1 = positive, 2 = neutral, 3 = moderately negative, 4 = negative, and 5 = very negative. For more information, see our commentary "ESG Credit Indicators: Definition And Applications," published Oct. 13, 2021.

We view ESG credit factors for SEK as broadly in line with industry and country peers. Still, we view the company's policy mandate--to support the Swedish export industry and increasingly its SME sector, as well as contributing to the country's overall transition towards carbon neutrality--as supporting our assessment that there is an extremely high likelihood the Swedish government would provide extraordinary support to SEK.

It is SEK's ambition to support the climate transition in sectors where it is likely to be the most challenging, including transportation, energy, and shipping. As of first-quarter 2022 the company had SEK19.3 billion (€1.9 billion) of loans outstanding that qualified as dark green under its green bond framework, which is about 8% of total lending. This supports the bank's growing franchise as a green issuer, with SEK6.1 billion issued in 2021, up from SEK1 billion in 2019. Over the next several years, growth in this franchise is anticipated as SEK works toward achieving a lending book composition that is classified to be about 50% green loans.

Key Statistics

Table 1

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Key Figures									
		Year-ended Dec. 31							
(Mil. SEK)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018				
Adjusted assets	332,692	333,508	335,301	317,240	301,990				
Customer loans (gross)	236,955	227,019	222,576	207,598	198,014				
Adjusted common equity	20,175	19,958	19,447	18,674	17,612				
Operating revenues	308	1,934	1,987	1,910	1,427				
Noninterest expenses	162	670	596	596	582				
Core earnings	116	1,034	968	1,027	648				

^{*}Data as of March 31.

SEK--SEK-Swedish krona. N.A.--Not available. N/A--Not applicable. N.M.--Not meaningful.

Table 2

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Business Position					
		Year-ended Dec. 31			
(%)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total revenues from business line (currency in millions)	308.0	1,934.0	1,987.0	1,910.0	1,427.0
Commercial & retail banking/total revenues from business line	44.8	97.1	95.8	88.2	98.7

Table 2

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Business Position (cont.)								
	<u>-</u>	Year-ended Dec. 31						
(%)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018			
Other revenues/total revenues from business line	55.2	2.9	4.2	11.8	1.3			
Return on average common equity	2.2	5.1	4.9	5.5	3.6			

^{*}Data as of March 31.

Table 3

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Capital And Earnings									
	_	Year-ended Dec. 31							
(%)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018				
Tier 1 capital ratio	21.2	21.6	21.8	20.6	20.1				
S&P Global Ratings' RAC ratio before diversification	N/A	19.6	19.1	18.8	17.3				
S&P Global Ratings' RAC ratio after diversification	N/A	15.9	15.3	15.2	14.1				
Adjusted common equity/total adjusted capital	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0				
Double leverage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
Net interest income/operating revenues	157.5	98.6	97.9	89.9	101.1				
Fee income/operating revenues	(2.3)	(1.5)	(2.1)	(1.7)	(2.2)				
Market-sensitive income/operating revenues	(55.2)	2.9	4.2	11.8	1.3				
Cost to income ratio	52.6	34.6	30.0	31.2	40.8				
Preprovision operating income/average assets	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3				
Core earnings/average managed assets	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2				

^{*}Data as of March 31.

Table 4

Swedish Export Credit Corp. RACF [Risk-Adjusted Capital Framework] Data									
(Mil. SEK)	Exposure*	Basel III RWA	Average Basel III RW(%)	S&P Global RWA	Average S&P Global RW (%)				
Credit risk									
Government & central banks	196,606	9,675	5	6,346	3				
Of which regional governments and local authorities	15,052	750	5	542	4				
Institutions and CCPs	41,155	8,838	21	7,505	18				
Corporate	118,476	66,063	56	83,842	71				
Retail	0	0	0	0	0				
Of which mortgage	0	0	0	0	0				
Securitization§	0	0	0	0	0				
Other assets†	0	0	0	0	0				
Total credit risk	356,237	84,575	24	97,693	27				
Credit valuation adjustment									
Total credit valuation adjustment		2,913		0					

N.A.--Not available. N/A--Not applicable. N.M.--Not meaningful.

Table 4

Swedish Export Credit Corp.	RACF [Risk-Adjus	sted Capital	Framework] Data	a (cont.)	
Market Risk					
Equity in the banking book	0	0	0	0	0
Trading book market risk		0		0	
Total market risk		0		0	
Operational risk					
Total operational risk		3,625		4,187	
(Mil. SEK)	Exposure	Basel III RWA	Average Basel II RW (%)	S&P Global RWA	% of S&P Global RWA
Diversification adjustments					
RWA before diversification		92,140		101,880	100
Total Diversification/ Concentration Adjustments				24,014	24
RWA after diversification		92,140		125,894	124
(Mil. SEK)		Tier 1 capital	Tier 1 ratio (%)	Total adjusted capital	S&P Global RAC ratio (%)
Capital ratio					
Capital ratio before adjustments		19,925	21.6	19,958	19.6
Capital ratio after adjustments‡		19,925	21.6	19,958	15.9

^{*}Exposure at default. §Securitization Exposure includes the securitization tranches deducted from capital in the regulatory framework. †Exposure and S&P Global Ratings' risk-weighted assets for equity in the banking book include minority equity holdings in financial institutions. ‡Adjustments to Tier 1 ratio are additional regulatory requirements (e.g. transitional floor or Pillar 2 add-ons). RWA--Risk-weighted assets. RW--Risk weight. RAC--Risk-adjusted capital.SEK -- Sweden Krona. Sources: Company data as of 'Dec. 31 2021', S&P Global Ratings.

Table 5

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Risk Position									
		Year-ended Dec. 31							
(%)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018				
Growth in customer loans	17.5	2.0	7.2	4.8	8.6				
Total diversification adjustment/S&P Global Ratings' RWA before diversification	N/A	23.6	24.8	23.1	22.4				
Total managed assets/adjusted common equity (x)	16.5	16.7	17.2	17.0	17.1				
Gross nonperforming assets/customer loans + other real estate owned	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7				
Loan loss reserves/gross nonperforming assets	7.4	6.7	15.8	9.3	9.8				

^{*}Data as of March 31.

Table 6

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Funding And Liquidity								
		Year-ended Dec. 31						
(%)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018			
Core deposits/funding base	0.0	3.4	3.5	0.0	0.0			
Customer loans (net)/customer deposits	N.M.	2,268.7	2,223.4	N.M.	N.M.			
Long-term funding ratio	68.6	69.1	66.5	62.2	60.4			
Stable funding ratio	79.3	81.2	71.8	70.8	69.0			

N.A.--Not available. N/A--Not applicable. N.M.--Not meaningful.

Table 6

Swedish Export Credit Corp. Funding And Liquidity (cont.)							
		Year-ended Dec. 31					
(%)	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018		
Short-term wholesale funding/funding base	33.6	33.0	35.9	40.4	42.4		
Regulatory net stable funding ratio	141.0	139.0	135.0	120.5	144.1		
Broad liquid assets/short-term wholesale funding (x)	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5		
Broad liquid assets/total assets	16.5	17.7	13.8	17.7	18.7		
Broad liquid assets/customer deposits	N.M.	591.4	461.3	N.M.	N.M.		
Net broad liquid assets/short-term customer deposits	N.M.	(383.5)	N.M.	N.M.	N.M.		
Regulatory liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) (x)	1,161.0	463.0	484.1	620.0	266.0		
Short-term wholesale funding/total wholesale funding	33.6	34.2	37.2	40.4	42.4		
Narrow liquid assets/3-month wholesale funding (x)	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.0		

^{*}Data as of March 31.

Related Criteria

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- The Russia-Ukraine Conflict: European Banks Can Manage The Economic Spillovers, For Now, April 21, 2022
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- The Top Trends Shaping European Bank Ratings In 2022, Jan. 31, 2022

N.A.--Not available. N/A--Not applicable. N.M.--Not meaningful.

- Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment: Sweden, Dec. 2, 2021
- EMEA Financial Institutions Monitor 4Q2021: Rebounding Economies Bolster Banks' Recovery, Nov 5, 2021.

Ratings Detail (As Of May 25, 2022)*					
Swedish Export Credit Corp.					
Issuer Credit Rating		AA+/Stable/A-1+			
Commercial Paper					
Foreign Currency		A-1+			
Senior Unsecured		A-1+			
Senior Unsecured		AA+			
Short-Term Debt		A-1+			
Subordinated		BBB			
Issuer Credit Ratings History					
04-Sep-2009	Foreign Currency	AA+/Stable/A-1+			
06-Jul-2009		AA+/Watch Neg/A-1+			
06-Jun-2003		AA+/Stable/A-1+			
04-Sep-2009	Local Currency	AA+/Stable/A-1+			
06-Jul-2009		AA+/Watch Neg/A-1+			
06-Jun-2003		AA+/Stable/A-1+			
Sovereign Rating					
Sweden		AAA/Stable/A-1+			

^{*}Unless otherwise noted, all ratings in this report are global scale ratings. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings on the global scale are comparable across countries. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings on a national scale are relative to obligors or obligations within that specific country. Issue and debt ratings could include debt guaranteed by another entity, and rated debt that an entity guarantees.

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