

Kingdom of Sweden

Rating report

Rating rationale

Wealthy and diversified economy. Sweden benefits from a wealthy, competitive and diversified economy, which has shown resilience through recent crises. Real GDP grew by 0.8% in 2024 - rebounding from a 0.2% contraction the previous year – driven by stronger manufacturing and exports, improving consumer confidence, falling inflation and interest rates. The recovery lost momentum in early 2025 amid increasing global trade uncertainty, before accelerating again in the second half of 2025, supported by continued easing inflation, rising real wages and accommodative fiscal policy which fostered domestic demand. Scope estimates GDP growth to have increased by 1.7% in 2025, and to grow by 2.5% in 2026 and 2.1% in 2027.

Robust fiscal framework and low public debt ratio. The government has shown fiscal restraint in recent years which helped to contained inflation but has now started to implement more expansionary fiscal policy. While Sweden's fiscal policy framework has been revised, it remains robust, with a balanced net lending target over the business cycle starting in 2027 and a debt anchor of 35% of GDP (+/-5%). We expect the debt-to-GDP ratio to increase slightly to 34.8% in 2025 and 36.5% in 2026, due to expansionary fiscal policy aimed at supporting households, reducing unemployment, strengthening welfare and increasing defence expenditure. Debt-to-GDP is expected to peak at 37.8% in 2027, then decline to 36.7% by 2030 as the budget deficit gradually narrows.

Rating challenges include: i) financial stability risks, including from high levels of household and corporate debt; and ii) persistent vulnerabilities in the housing market.

Figure 1: Sweden's sovereign-rating drivers

Risk pillars		Quantitative		Reserve currency*	Political risk**	Qualitative****	Final rating	
		Weight	Indicative rating					
Domestic economic risk	35%	aaa	SEK	Sweden	Notches	1/3	AAA	
Public finance risk	20%	aaa			Notches	1/3		
External economic risk	10%	aaa			Notches	1/3		
Financial stability risk	10%	aaa			Notches	- 1/3		
ESG risk	Environmental factors	5%	aaa		[+0]	1/3		
	Social factors	7.5%	bb-		[-0]	0		
	Governance factors	12.5%	aaa			0		
Sovereign Quantitative Model***		aaa				+1		
Additional considerations						0		

*The reserve-currency quantitative adjustment applies to currencies in the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket.

**The political-risk quantitative adjustment is based on the World Bank's Political Stability & Absence of Violence/Terrorism index.

***The Rating Committee approved an indicative rating of 'aaa'.

****The qualitative scorecard analyst adjustments, capped at one notch per rating pillar, are weighted equally with an aggregate adjustment rounded to the nearest integer. For details, please see Scope's [Sovereign Rating Methodology](#). Source: Scope Ratings.

Foreign currency

Long-term issuer rating/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Senior unsecured debt/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Short-term issuer rating/Outlook

S-1+/Stable

Local currency

Long-term issuer rating/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Senior unsecured debt/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Short-term issuer rating/Outlook

S-1+/Stable

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Credit strengths and challenges

Credit strengths

- Wealthy, diversified and competitive economy
- Strong fiscal framework and low public debt
- Robust external position

Credit challenges

- Elevated household and corporate debt burdens
- Housing market imbalances including concentrated mortgage exposure

Outlook and rating triggers

The Stable Outlook reflects Scope's view that risks to the ratings are balanced.

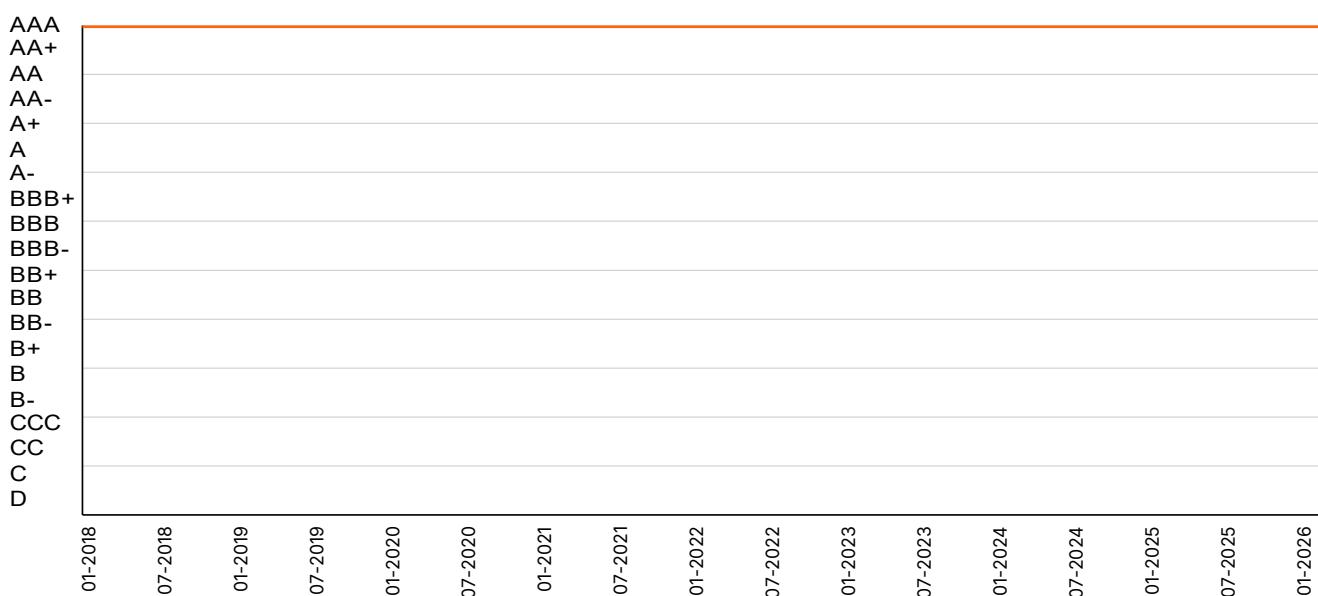
Positive rating-change drivers

- Not applicable

Negative rating-change drivers

- Deterioration in the fiscal outlook, resulting in a significant increase in public debt
- Significant worsening in economic outlook, for example due to a sharp correction in the housing market

Figure 2: Rating history



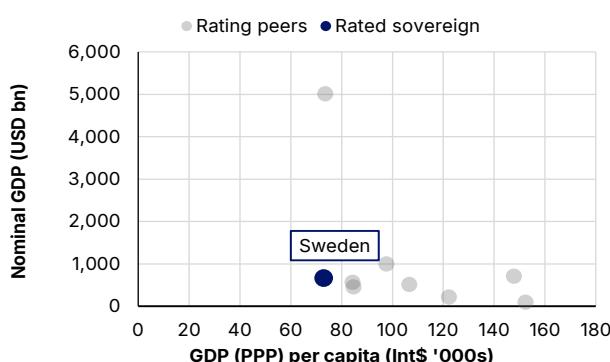
Foreign-currency long-term issuer rating. Positive/Negative Outlooks are treated with a +/-0.33-notch adjustment. Credit Watch positive/negative with a +/-0.67-notch adjustment.
Source: Scope Ratings.

Domestic economic risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Sweden's Domestic Economic Risk

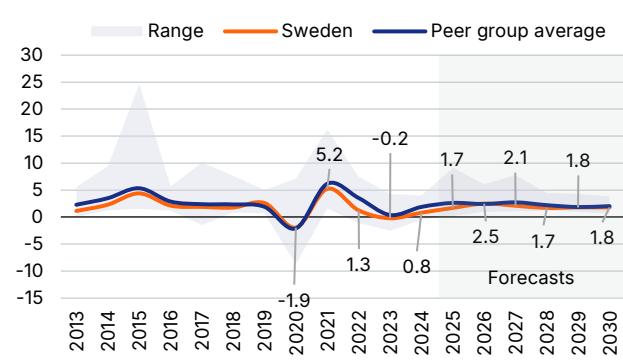
SQM ¹ indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Growth potential and outlook	Neutral	0	Moderate growth potential of around 1.8%.
	Monetary policy framework	Neutral	0	The Riksbank is a credible and effective monetary authority.
	Macroeconomic stability and sustainability	Strong	+1/3	Competitive economy, favourable business environment and a highly skilled labour force; a healthy labour market with high employment and labour force participation rates.

Figure 3: Nominal GDP and GDP per capita



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO), Scope Ratings

Figure 4: Real GDP growth, %



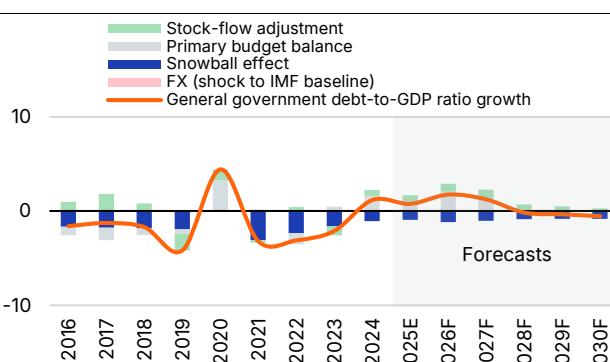
Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

Public finance risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Sweden's Public Finance Risk

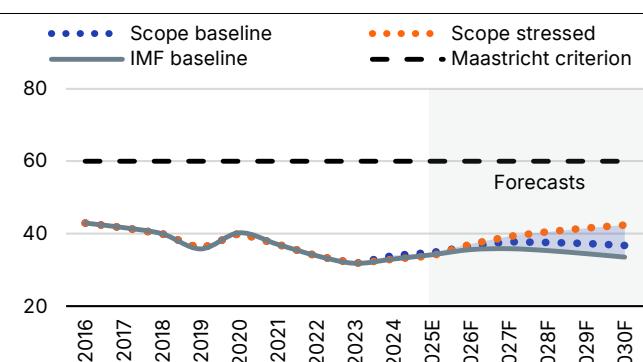
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Fiscal policy framework	Strong	+1/3	Appropriate countercyclical response to recent crises; track record of prudent fiscal policies and strong fiscal framework including a balance target and debt anchor
	Long-term debt trajectory	Neutral	0	Low public debt levels with stable trajectory in the long-term
	Debt profile and market access	Neutral	0	Excellent market access, low government financing costs and relatively short debt maturity

Figure 5: Contributions to change in debt levels, pps of GDP



Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

Figure 6: Debt-to-GDP forecasts, % of GDP



Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

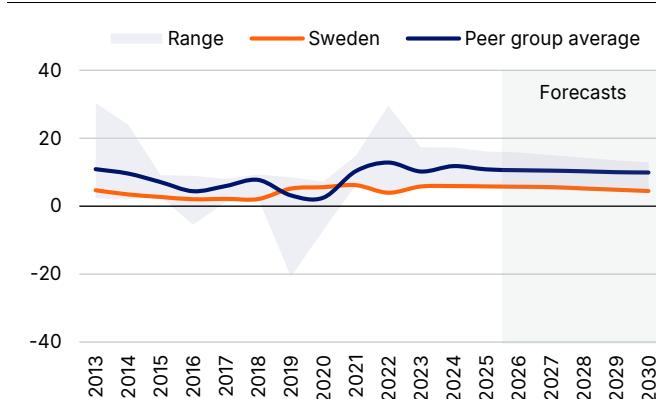
¹ Sovereign Quantitative Model

External economic risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Sweden's External Economic Risk

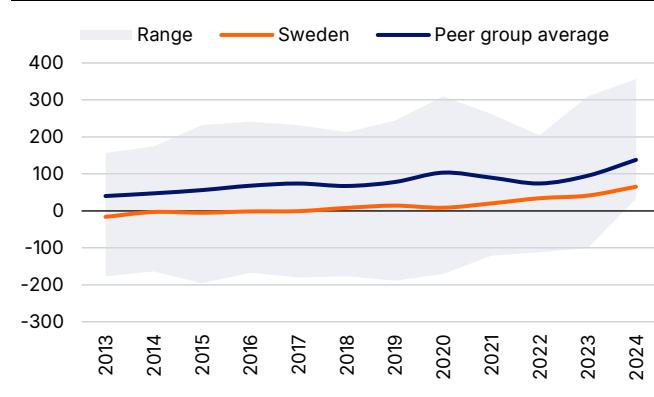
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Current account resilience	Neutral	0	External sector competitiveness underpins track record of current account surpluses
	External debt structure	Neutral	0	High external debt, especially in the financial institution sector, in line with peers
	Resilience to short-term external shocks	Strong	+1/3	Net external creditor position; regional safe-haven status of the Swedish Krona

Figure 7: Current-account balance, % of GDP



Source: IMF WEO forecasts, Scope Ratings

Figure 8: Net international investment position (NIIP), % GDP



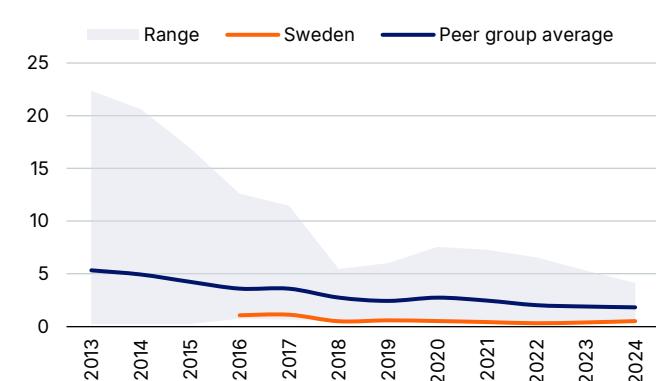
Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Financial stability risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Sweden's Financial Stability Risk

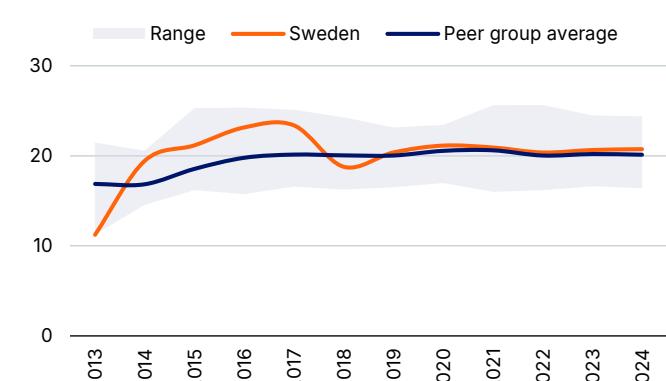
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Banking sector performance	Neutral	0	High bank capitalisation levels; dependent on global wholesale financial markets for funding
	Financial sector oversight and governance	Neutral	0	Prudent oversight under the Riksbank and the Financial Supervisory Authority
	Financial imbalances	Weak	-1/3	High household debt, largely mortgage-related; significant bank exposure to housing sector, mortgage structure amplifies rate sensitivity mostly at variable rates, interest-only or partially amortised mortgages

Figure 9: Non-performing loans (NPLs), % of total loans



Source: World Bank (WB), Scope Ratings

Figure 10: Tier 1 capital, % of risk-weighted assets



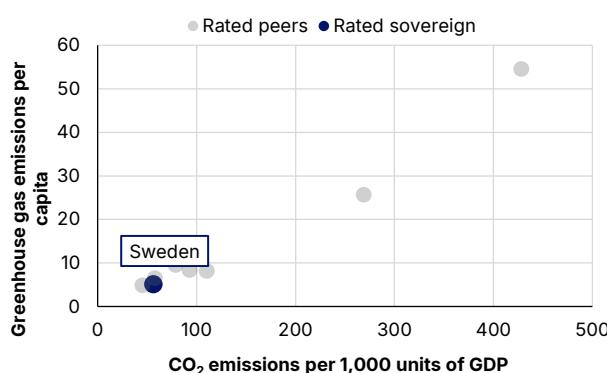
Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Sweden's ESG Risk

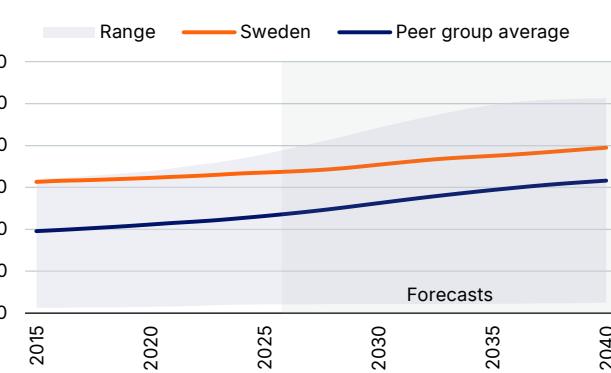
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Environmental factors	Strong	1/3	High environmental standards, ambitious targets for achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 and very high carbon taxes
	Social factors	Neutral	0	Stable working age population and strong welfare institutions, but demographic shifts increase pressure on public finance and the welfare system.
	Governance factors	Neutral	0	High-quality institutions, minority ruling coalition government, NATO membership since March 2024

Figure 11: CO₂ emissions per GDP, mtCO₂e



Source: European Commission (EC), Scope Ratings

Figure 12: Old-age dependency ratio, %



Source: United Nations (UN), Scope Ratings

Reserve-currency adjustment

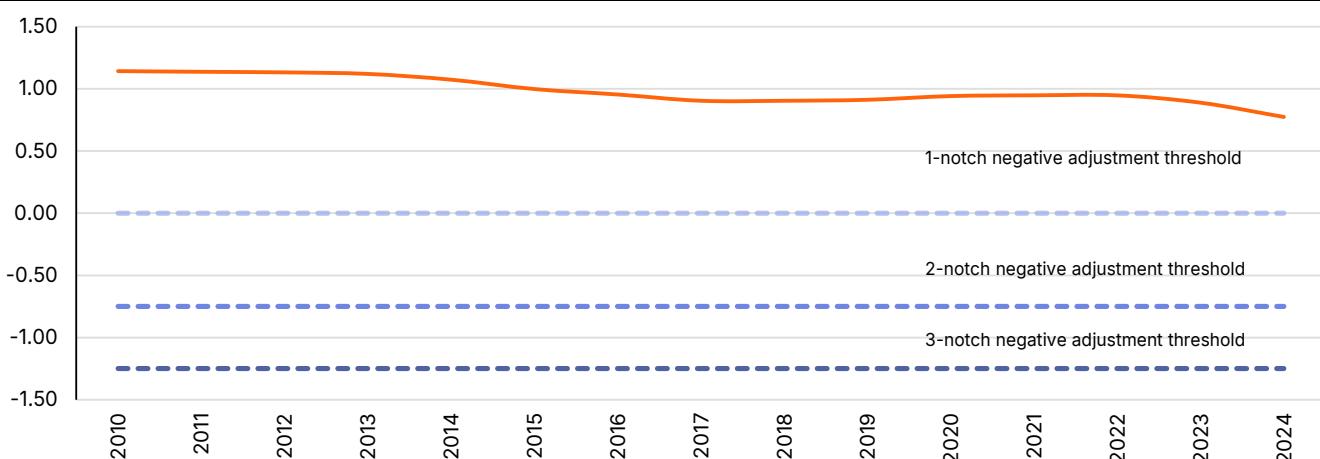
IMF SDR basket and Scope reserve-currency adjustment

Currency	U.S. dollar	Euro	Chinese yuan	Japanese yen	Pound sterling	Other
IMF SDR basket weights, %	43.4	29.3	12.3	7.6	7.4	0.0
Positive adjustment, notches	3	1	1	1	1	0

Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Political-risk adjustment

Figure 13: WB Political Stability & Absence of Violence/Terrorism index, Hungary, 3-year moving average



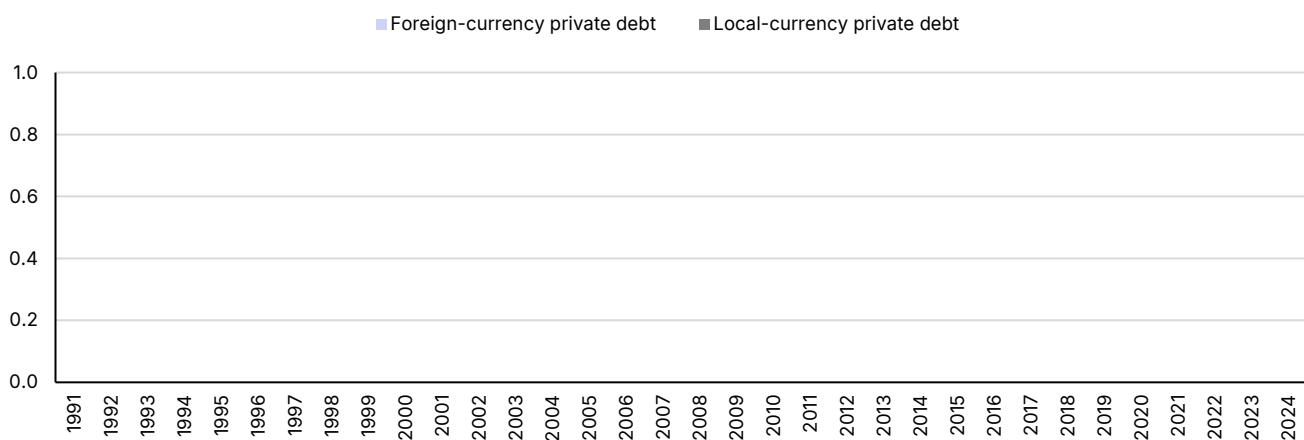
Source: WB, Scope Ratings

Additional considerations

No adjustment was applied to the rating from additional considerations.

Appendix 1. Sovereign default history

Sovereign default history, USD m



Depicted private-debt defaults may not always constitute a credit event under [Scope's credit-rating definitions](#).

Source: [Bank of Canada–Bank of England Sovereign Default Database](#), Scope Ratings.

Appendix 2. Rating peers

Rating peers are related to sovereigns with an indicative rating in the same rating category or adjacent categories, as assigned by Scope's sovereign quantitative model after accounting for methodological reserve-currency and political-risk adjustments.

Peer group*
Denmark
Norway
Netherlands
Luxembourg
Switzerland
Germany

*Select publicly-rated sovereigns only; the full sample of sovereign-rating peers may be larger.

Appendix 3. Economic development and default indicators

IMF Development Classification	Advanced economy
5y USD CDS spread (bp) as of 23 January 2026	9.05

Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro

Appendix 4. Statistical table for selected SQM indicators

This table presents a selection of the indicators (24 out of 30 – with the governance indicator reflecting a composite of five indicators) used in Scope's quantitative model, in line with Scope's Sovereign Rating Methodology. The metrics and sources for the data presented here ensure comparability across global country peers and may therefore differ from data from national and other select international statistical series and not immediately reflect updates from national sources. The metrics and sources for the data presented here ensure comparability across global country peers and may therefore differ from data from national and other international statistical series and may not immediately reflect latest national updates.

Pillar	Core variable	Source	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E
Domestic Economic	GDP per capita (PPP), Int\$ '000s	IMF	57.3	62.4	67.2	69.3	71.4	73.1
	Nominal GDP, USD bn	IMF	544	632	575	579	604	662
	Real growth, %	IMF	-1.9	5.2	1.3	-0.2	0.8	0.8
	CPI inflation, %	IMF	0.7	2.7	8.1	5.9	2.0	2.3
	Unemployment rate, %	WB	8.3	8.8	7.4	7.6	8.3	-
Public Finance	Public debt, % of GDP	IMF	40.2	37.0	33.9	31.8	33.0	34.2
	Net interest payment, % of government revenue	IMF	-0.1	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	-0.1
	Primary balance, % of GDP	IMF	-3.2	-0.2	1.2	-0.4	-1.6	-1.4
External Economic	Current-account balance, % of GDP	IMF	5.6	6.2	4.0	5.8	5.9	5.8
	Total reserves, months of imports	WB	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	-
	NIIP, % of GDP	IMF	8.4	20.1	34.1	41.2	65.0	-
Financial Stability	NPL ratio, % of total loans	IMF	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	-
	Tier 1 ratio, % of risk-weighted assets	IMF	18.8	21.1	19.9	20.8	20.8	-
	Credit to the private sector, % of GDP	WB	138.5	136.8	136.1	129.1	125.5	-
ESG	CO₂ per EUR 1,000 of GDP, mtCO₂e	EC	61.7	62.0	56.9	55.4	56.5	-
	Income share of bottom 50%, %	WID	24.9	25.0	25.1	25.4	25.4	-
	Labour-force participation rate, %	WB	82.5	82.8	83.4	84.0	84.0	-
	Old-age dependency ratio, %	UN	32.2	32.5	32.7	33.0	33.3	33.5
	Composite governance indicators*	WB	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	-
	Political stability, index	WB	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	-

*Average of the following five World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators: Control of Corruption, Voice and Accountability, Rule of Law, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality.

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Related research

[Sovereign Outlook 2026: geopolitical tensions, fiscal headwinds outweigh growth, resilience](#), November 2025

Applied methodologies

[Sovereign Rating Methodology](#), January 2025

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