

# Sweden's foreign trade in agrofood products 2006-2008



- Sweden's trade in agrofood products increased in value in 2008. The increase was considerably larger than for other trade in goods.
- A large part of the increase is due to unusually high prices during most of 2008, but larger quantities are also part of the explanation.
- Imports of meat and dairy products increased the most. Regarding exports, the largest increase was for cereals, but beverages and processed food also increased significantly.

# Summary

Sweden imports almost twice as much agrofood products as it exports. Imports in 2008 amounted to SEK 88 billion, an increase by 13 per cent compared to the previous year. The corresponding export amounted to SEK 48 billion, an increase by 15 per cent.

Exports primarily consist of fish, cereals and cereal products, beverages, and processed food. Together these product groups make up 65 per cent of food exports. However, a large part of our fish exports consist of reexport of Norwegian fish. Exports increased in value for all product groups. The largest increases occurred for the largest product groups, also expressed as a percentage.

More than 70 per cent of our exports go to other EU Member States, particularly Denmark, Finland and Germany. Among non-members, our main trading partners are Norway and the US, but the US's importance continues to decline.

Sweden's food imports mostly consist of fish, fruit and vegetables, meat, and beverages. Together these product groups make up almost 60 per cent of food imports. However, a significant part of the total is Norwegian fish that is reexported to other countries. The import value increased for all products. The largest increases occurred for meat, dairy products, and oils and fats, which increased by more than a billion crowns each.

Almost 70 per cent of imports come from other EU Member States, primarily from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. However, one should bear in mind that some trade flows that look like imports from the EU in the statistics actually have their origin in other countries. A typical example is fruit from Latin America that coming to Sweden via the Netherlands. This means that EU imports are somewhat overestimated in the data. From Norway we import a lot of fish, and most of this is sold to other countries.

If we look at trade in processed food only, Sweden holds a much stronger trading position. Our exports amounted to SEK 18 billion and our imports to SEK 20 billion, which means that the deficit is much smaller than for our entire agrofood trade. Imports and exports both increased in 2008, imports by 13 per cent and exports by nine per cent.

Our main export product is vodka. Other important product groups are bread and baker's wares, chocolate, and various food preparations. Vodka is mostly sold to the US. Apart from this, we mostly export food to other EU Member States, 65 per cent of the remaining exports go there.

Imports of processed food mostly come from other EU Member States, as much as 88 per cent are imported from there. Imports are more evenly distributed across product groups, but some important groups are various food preparations, chocolate, processed cereals, and baker's wares. Almost all product groups have increased in value. A noteworthy exception is tobacco, which decreased by a couple of per cent.