



SVERIGES RIKSBANK
SE-103 37 Stockholm
(Brunkebergstorg 11)

Tel +46 8 787 00 00
Fax +46 8 21 05 31
registratorn@riksbank.se
www.riksbank.se

DNR 2025-00084

Your ref:

The Riksbank's statement following consultation with FI prior to its decision on countercyclical capital buffers

23 October 2025

The Riksbank's overall assessment

The Riksbank considers that the countercyclical capital buffer rate should remain unchanged at its positive neutral level of 2 per cent for the fourth quarter of 2025.

The Riksbank's starting points

In Sweden, Finansinspektionen (the Swedish financial supervisory authority, FI) is responsible for the countercyclical capital buffer as part of its macroprudential responsibilities and it is required to calculate a countercyclical buffer benchmark every quarter and where necessary to set or change the countercyclical buffer rate. Since July 2024, FI has been obliged to give the Riksbank the opportunity to comment in connection with the decisions.¹

When assessing the level of the countercyclical capital buffer rate, the Riksbank takes into account the resilience of the banks, and the development of cyclical systemic risks in the financial system. FI applies a positive neutral level, which means that the countercyclical buffer rate should be 2 per cent in normal times. The Riksbank shares FI's assessment of the neutral level, which contributes to the banks having capital that they can use if necessary.

Good resilience in the banking sector is essential

The Swedish economy has been weak for some time, and the turnaround in the labour market is taking time. There are signs that growth has improved recently, and the conditions are in place for stronger economic activity going forward. In its latest forecast from September, the Riksbank envisaged stronger growth in the coming years, supported by economic policy. However, there is uncertainty about how quickly domestic demand will recover, linked to factors such as household saving behaviour and the impact of fiscal stimulus on economic activity, which poses a risk to the expected recovery in the labour market. Despite a slight decline in business insolvencies during the summer, they remained high in September, and overall remain at an elevated level. The bankruptcies have so far resulted in limited loan loss provisions for banks.

¹ See Chapter 7, Section 7 a of the Capital Buffers Act (2014:966).

Despite continued high uncertainty abroad, with geopolitical conflicts, weak public finances in several countries and the unpredictability of US trade policy, risk appetite in the financial markets is high. Stock markets have performed strongly, particularly in the United States, mainly driven by companies in the technology sector and expectations around the potential of AI. In addition, financial market volatility is low and yield spreads between riskier and safer bonds have narrowed to low levels. However, a change in risk appetite can rapidly affect current asset pricing and lead to a deterioration in the functioning of some markets. The favourable global financial conditions are also reflected in Sweden, with both household and corporate bank borrowing increasing slightly. Borrowing in the corporate bond market has also picked up and credit margins have returned to low levels. Total household and corporate debt, in relation to GDP and income, has remained relatively unchanged since the previous quarter. In addition, their interest costs relative to income have continued to decline as lending rates have fallen. This suggests that there is currently no build-up of cyclical systemic risks associated with private sector loans. Although credit growth remains relatively low at present, it may continue to rise as the economic recovery gains momentum. If borrower-based macroprudential measures are also eased, household mortgages could grow even more.

The major Swedish banks are generally resilient, mainly due to good liquidity, high profitability and substantial capital buffers. The capital requirements are therefore not expected to limit their room for manoeuvre, which suggests that banks have the capacity to maintain the supply of credit to the real economy. The resilience of the financial system may, however, be put to the test by the current global environment. In such a situation, the current buffer rate provides the conditions for being able to lower the requirement, creating better opportunities for banks to maintain their lending to households and companies and to manage losses without jeopardising the established capital requirements.

On behalf of the Executive Board:

Erik Thedéen
Governor

Niclas Olsén Ingefældt
Senior Economist

The decision has been taken by the Executive Board (Governor Erik Thedéen, First Deputy Governor Aino Bunge and Deputy Governors Per Jansson and Anna Seim) following a presentation by senior economists Ellen Kockum and Niclas Olsén Ingefældt. Head of Department Olof Sandstedt and Senior Adviser Mattias Erlandsson participated in the finalisation process.