



Photos: Jenny Frejning | Christina Fagergren | Länsstyrelsen.



The Stockholm area is one of Europe's most successful regions. Entrepreneurship is strong; research, education and innovative ability are top class. One-third of Sweden's economic growth is created here. Stockholm County is the largest in the country in terms of population. More than two million people live here, a fifth of Sweden's population. Stockholm is Sweden's driving force.

# The Stockholm Region at a Glance

The County of Stockholm comprises two percent of Sweden's area. Its more than two million inhabitants, who equal twenty percent of Sweden's population, make it the most densely populated county in Sweden. The average age is 39.

The region is growing with 30,000–40,000 new inhabitants per year.

There are people from 187 countries living in the county, and it is home to 31 percent of all Swedish citizens with a foreign background.

There are 26 municipalities in the county.

## Environment

There are about 270 wild life reserves, two national parks and one national city park in the county. The archipelago, with 30,000 islands and 12,000 inhabitants, is famous for its beautiful nature.

There are about 850 lakes in the county. The biggest, Lake Mälaren, serves as a water reservoir for about two million people.

Half of the county consists of forest.

Three World Heritage sites on UNESCO'S list are located in the County of Stockholm: Drottningholm Palace, the Viking settlement of Birka and Skogskyrkogården woodland cemetery.

## Business

The Stockholm county makes up 30 percent of Sweden's GNP. More than every third company in Sweden is located here. These approximately 240,000 companies, together with the rest of the labour market, employ roughly one million persons. 100,000 of the employees travel to work from surrounding regions.

In 2009, 18,071 new companies were started in the county. Of these, 21 percent were started by people



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## The region's competitive advantages

- ✓ Valuable environmental and natural resources
- ✓ Excellent conditions for knowledge-based companies
- ✓ Good climate for innovation
- ✓ International companies
- ✓ Centrally located in the expansive Baltic region

with a foreign background. There are also 2,200 farms in the region.

In terms of economic performance (i.e. regional gross domestic product per capita) Stockholm is among the strongest regions in EU at place number ten.

A large proportion of the workforce are employed in the service sector. In international studies, Stockholm is among the leading regions in knowledge intensive services (as percentage of total employment).

The region is considered to be competitive, particularly in the following sectors:

- ICT
- Life Science
- Finance

### Universities

The region is host to 21 universities and colleges of higher learning, which equals one fifth of Sweden's educational resources. Together, The Royal Institute of Technology, The University of Stockholm and Karolinska Institutet (KI), constitutes the tenth strongest university cluster in the world, outside of the USA. Life Science and IT are two competitive advantages. KI is also the top ranked university in Europe, and number six in the world, in terms of medical science.

#### Regional GDP per capita

Top-10 (271), PPS, EU27=100

1.	London	334
2.	Luxemburg	275
3.	Bryssel	221
4.	Hamburg	192
5.	Prag	172
6.	Île de France	169
7.	Southern & Eastern	166
8.	Groningen	165
9.	Oberbayern	165
10.	<b>Stockholm</b>	<b>165</b>

Source: Eurostat 2007

#### Biggest companies

Empl.

Ericsson	10,500
NCC	6,500
Astra Zeneca	6,200
Scania	6,100
SEB	5,800

Source: SCB 2009

### About the County Administrative Board

The County Administrative Board of Stockholm is a public authority with a broad sphere of responsibility. We work with issues concerning the environment, nature, the business community, social development, animal protection, gender equality, integration, transport, infrastructure and housing. The County Administrative Board's task is to coordinate these and other areas of public responsibility to ensure a sustainable society in which economic development, the environment and social welfare are interlinked. Chris Heister is the Governor of Stockholm County.