

■ Revisions to the National Accounts

When Statistics Sweden published the ordinary calculation for the second quarter, they for the first time reported the National Accounts figures in line with the new regulations, ENS 2010. Adjustments made as a result of the changeover and other historical revisions mean, for instance, that Swedish GDP is now a good 5 per cent higher. As a large share of the revisions are based on changes in definitions, they are not expected to have any greater economic significance or impact on the Riksbank's forecasts.

New definition of investment gives higher historical GDP

When the National Accounts figures for the second quarter were published, Statistics Sweden changed over to reporting in line with the new regulations, ENS 2010¹¹. At the same time, the National Accounts were revised, partly as a result of new calculations for the whole year 2012.

All in all, these changes have meant that the historical GDP level has been adjusted upwards by on average around 5 per cent (see Figure A1). This is largely explained by the new regulations entailing that costs for research and development (R&D) are reported as investment. One direct consequence of this change is that investment's percentage of GDP is now higher than before (see Figure A2). A new classification of costs for military equipment also contributes to this upward adjustment, although to a much smaller extent. Another consequence of these changes is that the profit share in the economy becomes higher (see Figure A3). This is because the higher GDP level largely corresponds to increased production in the business sector at the same time as the number of hours worked has not been adjusted.

New calculations entail lower GDP growth in 2012 and higher disposable incomes

Statistics Sweden has also, in addition to the changeover in the calculation of the National Accounts, made a general revision of the National Accounts, which includes new calculations for the whole year 2012. This has meant that the historical growth in GDP is somewhat different than before, for instance, with relatively large downward revisions to domestic demand in 2012 (see Figure A4).

As the number of hours worked has in principle not been revised, the changes in GDP growth give rise to lower figures for productivity growth in 2010–2012 and somewhat higher figures for productivity growth during the first half of 2014. At the same time, this means that growth in unit labour costs has changed in the opposite direction and is around a percentage point higher in 2012, but around half a percentage point lower in the first half of 2014 (see Figure A5).

Figure A1. GDP

SEK Billion, seasonally-adjusted data

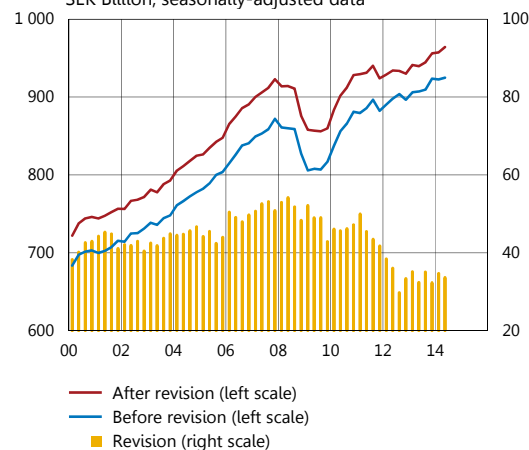


Figure A2. Gross fixed capital formation

Per cent of GDP, current prices

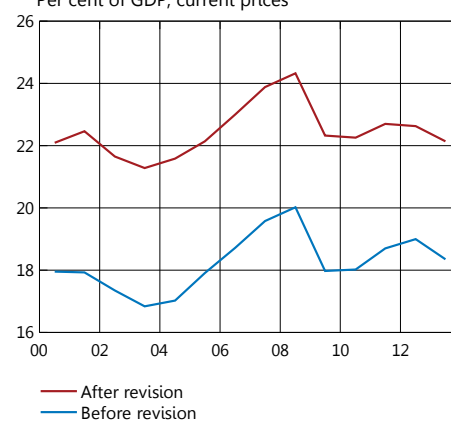
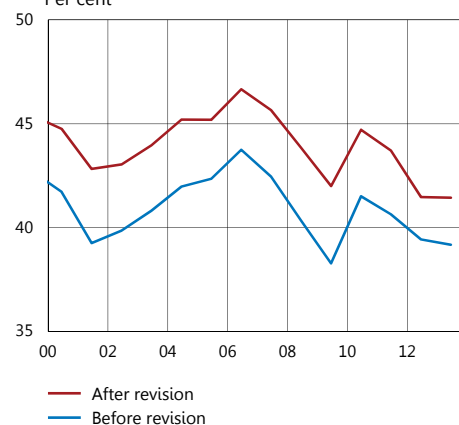


Figure A3. Profit share

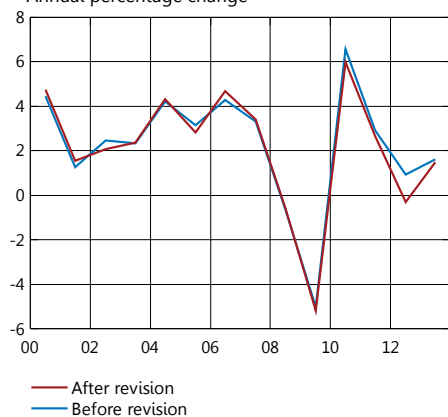
Per cent



¹¹ The National Accounts are governed by the regulatory framework System of National Accounts (SNA) which has been drawn up by the United Nations. The regulations are updated regularly and adapted to economic developments. Within the EU, the calculation of National Accounts is governed by the ENS (European and National System of Accounts), which is an adaptation of the SNA to European conditions.

Figure A4. GDP

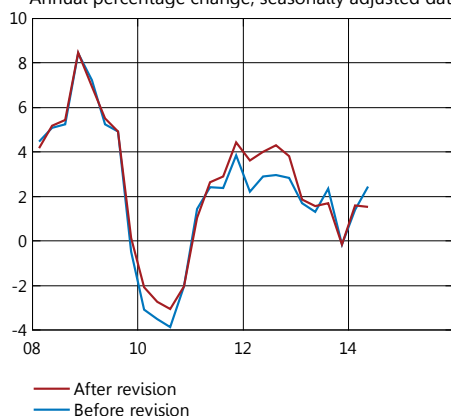
Annual percentage change



Source: Statistics Sweden

Figure A5. Unit labour cost

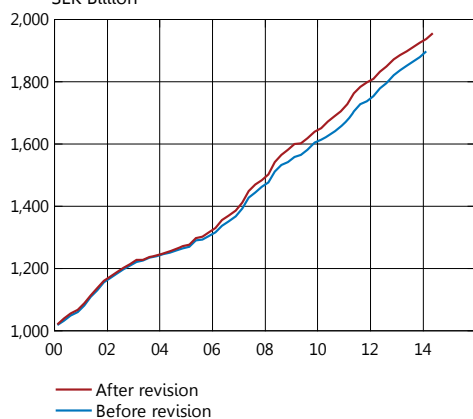
Annual percentage change, seasonally adjusted data



Sources: Statistics Sweden and the Riksbank

Figure A6. Disposable income

SEK Billion



Note. Current prices, expressed as a moving sum of four periods.

Source: Statistics Sweden

Another consequence of the new calculations is that households' disposable incomes are higher than before (see Figure A6). This affects, for instance, aggregated measures such as households' saving and debt ratios. New sources and methods for calculation in the insurance sector have contributed to households' capital incomes from both private insurance saving and pension saving being higher. Wage income from abroad has also been adjusted slightly upwards.

Revisions resulting from new regulations and general review have limited significance

The changeover in the National Accounts on the basis of the new regulations has led to changes in definitions, which give rise to level changes in several macroeconomic variables. These changes do not in themselves affect the functioning of the economy. Statistics Sweden's review of the National Accounts has not significantly changed the picture of the cyclical development of the economy, and the revisions are therefore not deemed to have any significant impact on the forecast.