Thoughts on technology and the economy

Handelsbanken
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Technological breakthroughs throughout history
Money and means of payment of the future? Cash usage is falling

Note. SEK million (at year-end).

Source: The Riksbank
International economy increasingly strong

Good GDP growth...

... but underlying inflationary pressures still subdued

Note. Annual percentage change. The KIX is an aggregate of countries that are important for Sweden’s international transactions. Underlying inflation in the euro area is measured as the HICP excluding food, tobacco, alcohol and energy. In the United States, it is measured as PCE excluding food and energy.

Sources: National sources, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Eurostat and the Riksbank
Wages have developed slowly abroad

Unemployment has declined in the euro area and the USA...

...but wages have increased slowly, particularly in the euro area

Note. Per cent and annual percentage change respectively. With regard to remuneration to employees, the Labour Cost Index is used for the euro area and the Employment Cost Index for the United States.

Source: OECD, Bureau of Labor Statistics and ECB.
Swedish labour market still strong

Unemployment has fallen

Labour shortage

Note. Percentage of labour force, aged 15-74, and percentage of companies, respectively.

Sources: National Institute of Economic Research, Statistics Sweden and the Riksbank
But there is a division

Unemployment for those born abroad remains high

Establishment on the labour market among refugees is going faster

Note. Per cent. Employment rate according to number of years in country, 20-64 years. Refers to refugees and those in need of protection received by municipalities.

Source: Statistics Sweden
Somewhat lower inflationary pressures in Sweden recently

Weaker wage development

Rate of price increase for services has slowed down

Note. Annual percentage change. Wages according to short-term wage statistics. Price development up to end of December. The broken lines in the right graph refer to the average from 1995.

Sources: Statistics Sweden, Swedish National Mediation Office and the Riksbank
Inflation close to 2 per cent but with continued support from monetary policy

Inflation close to target...

... and expectations at 2 per cent

Note. Annual percentage change and per cent, mean value.

Source: Statistics Sweden, TNS SIFO Prospera and the Riksbank
Continued expansionary monetary policy

Repo rate -0.50 per cent

Purchases of government bonds

Note. Per cent and nominal amount, SEK billion.

Source: The Riksbank