

*Sweden's trade with the United States*

As the most populous and richest country of the area, Sweden is naturally the largest Nordic trading partner of the U.S. Whereas two-way trade was \$210 million in 1953, last year the total was \$716 million (f.o.b.). In each of the nine years from 1959 to 1967 there was a U.S. surplus in this trade, totalling \$718 million for the whole period.

Swedish imports from the United States are spread over a wide commodity range and it is hard to find examples of significant changes in sources of supply. A large part of Sweden's imports from the U.S. consists, moreover, of agricultural products, which are often subject to substantial fluctuations in total value. For industrial commodities, (SITC 5-9) the share of the U.S. in total imports fell from 10.9 percent to 9.2 percent between 1959 and 1966. There were decreases in organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, iron and steel plates and sheets, power generating machinery and agricultural machinery. On the other hand, there are also cases where U.S. suppliers strengthened their position on the Swedish market, e.g. in office machines and metal-working machinery.

Motor vehicles represent the most important single item in Sweden's exports to the U.S., accounting for 21 percent of the total in 1966. Sweden has been able to maintain its small (4 percent) share of the U.S. import market for cars. Pulp, paper and paperboard occupy the second place in Sweden's exports to the U.S. During the period under review, half of the U.S. pulp market was lost to Canada, which with 92 percent of the market against Sweden's 5 percent, enjoys a quasi-monopoly. Part of this loss in pulp exports was offset by increasing exports of paper which, however, did not exceed the growth in U.S. total imports of paper.

The U.S. market also represents an important outlet for some specialized Swedish iron and steel products. In at least one group in this category, hoops and strips, Sweden has gained in the U.S. market in competition with the United Kingdom, Benelux and Japan. For office machines also, the U.S. constitutes an important outlet for Swedish exporters. Sweden is a traditional supplier of fur skins to the U.S. which is her most important single market for this commodity.