

# Cash situation in Sweden – what have worked out best?

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June 4, 2024



# Jan Bertoft/Swedish Consumers' Association

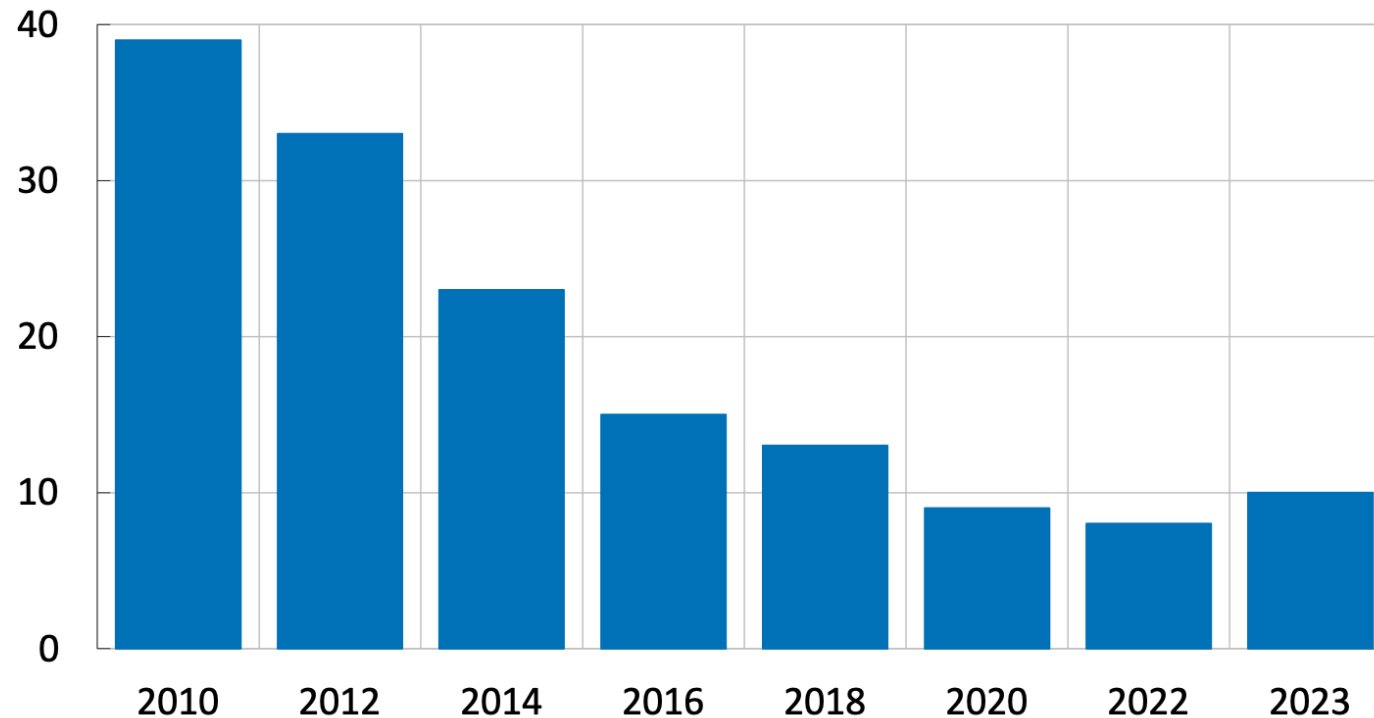
- Education in Journalism and Social Science
- Consumer rights since 1987, journalist, Communication Officer
- Secretary General 2004 – 2024
- Sveriges Konsumenter – independent NGO since 1992, "the consumer voice"
- Umbrella with 20 member organisations, many members affected
- Lobbying EU and Sweden – and campaigning
- Publisher of the test magazine Råd & Rön
- Part of the "Cash Uprise"
- Often find lack of consumer perspective



# USE OF CASH – Sweden's Central Bank, Report 2024 (latest purchase)

## Diagram 5. En av tio betalade senast med kontanter vid köp i butik

Andel som har betalat med kontanter vid sitt senaste köp i butik, andelar i procent.

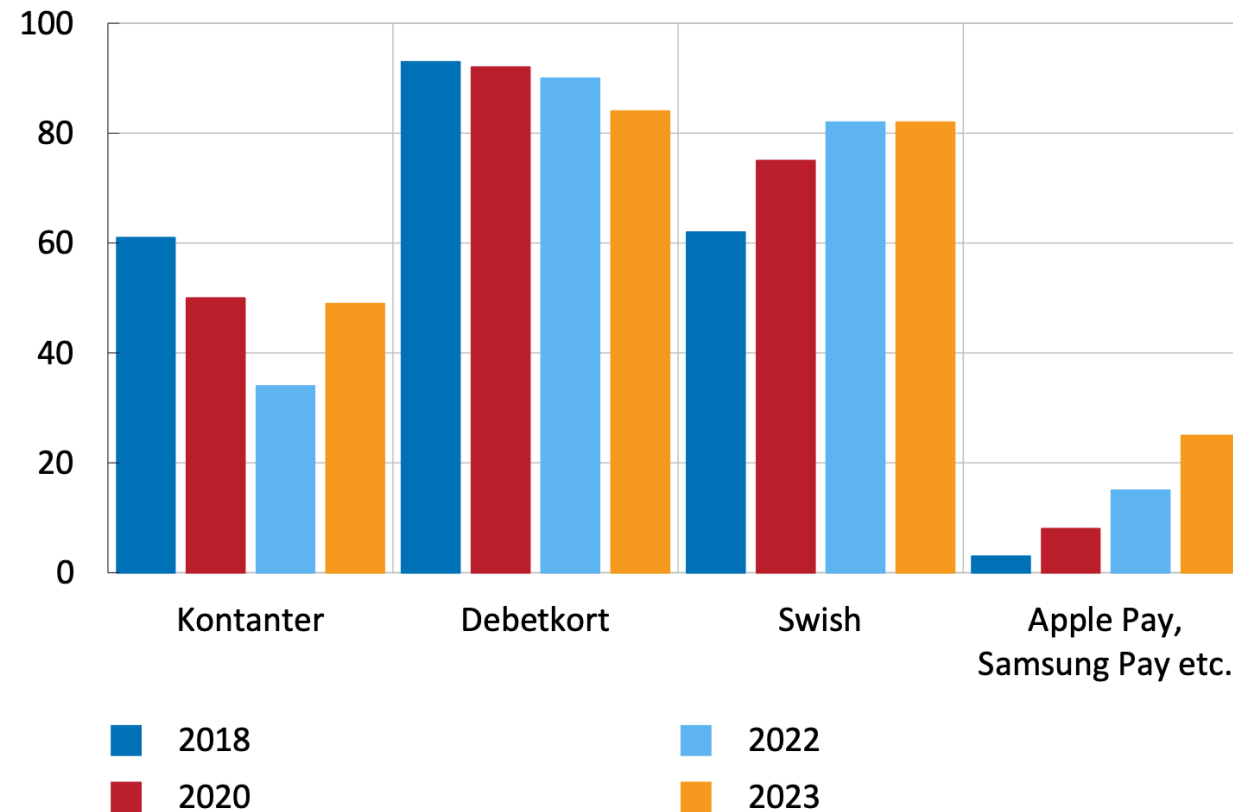


Källa: Riksbanken.

# PAYMENTS – Sweden's Central Bank Report 2024 (last 30 days)

## Diagram 1. Vanligast att betala med kort och Swish

Andel av de svarande som betalat med respektive betalsätt under de senaste 30 dagarna, andelar i procent.



Anm. Flera svarsalternativ möjliga.

Källa: Riksbanken.

## In everyday life...

- Bills and coins are legal means of payment – but banks and retailers can refuse to deal with them
- “Cash-Free” – a popular sign
- Means “Cash Prohibited”



## Our concerns

- Inclusion – vulnerable groups, digital exclusion, rural areas, immigrants
- Privacy – non tracability
- Preparedness. cybersecurity –stronger relevance since 2022
- Competition – cash the only non commercial mean of payment
- Not only ACCESS to cash – you must be able to USE it (at least to buy essential goods like medicines, food, clothing, fuel)
- Want guarantess for the future – by legislation (Danish model)



## Political action in Sweden

- Many years without action...
- 2016 – Parliamentary Committee, Investigation on the Central Bank.
- Proposition 2018: Largest banks have to provide/receive cash. Reality 2021.
- Preparedness – 2023 new legislation on payment in crisis and war, where cash is crucial. Recommendations to households to store cash.
- Governmental Investigation on Payment, 2023: State and pharmacies should be obliged to take cash.
- Ministerial Investigation 2024 – Obligation extended for "critical goods to consumers" – but which? Pending.



# How is regulation working so far?

## Swedish Post and Telecommunication Authority, Report in May 2024

- *0.24 percent of Sweden's population has more than 25 km to the nearest place for cash withdrawals. According to the regulations, this proportion may not exceed 0.3 percent.*
- *0.92 percent of the population has a distance of more than 25 km to the nearest place for daily cash deposits. In this case, the requirement is a maximum of 1.22 percent.*





## Kontantupproret – "The Cash Uprise"

- **Elderly:** PRO, SPF Seniorerna, SKPF, SeniorNet
- **Rural areas:** "Hela Sverige Ska Leva" "Sveriges Hembygdsförbund"
- **Consumers:** Sveriges Konsumenter
- **Market retailers:** Torg och Marknadshandlarna
- **SME:s** :Småföretagarnas Riksförbund
- **Young people:** Förbundet Vi Unga
- **Spokesman;** Björn Ericsson



# How we worked through the years

- Legitimacy – our member organisations
- Debate articles
- Participation in live and web panels, i hearings etc
- Being expert in the payment investigation
- Comments on reports and investigations
- Lobbying ministers and MP:s
- Working with BEUC



The Consumer Voice in Europe



# What have worked out best – legislation or war?

*The combination of both*

*They are interconnected*

*Media appearance is crucial*

*Legitimacy – “you represent someone”*

*...and we have still a long way to go*

# Thank you! Questions?

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