

Audit report

Decision: 29 February 2024

Document Registration Number: 2023/0451

Sveriges Riksdag
SE-100 12 Stockholm

Audit report for Sveriges Riksbank 2023

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Act on the Audit of Central Government Activities etc. (2002:1022), the Swedish National Audit Office has audited the annual report for Sveriges Riksbank for 2023, dated 14 February 2024.

Report on the annual report and decision on the allocation of profit for the year

Opinion

In the opinion of the Swedish National Audit Office, the authority has

- prepared the annual report in accordance with the Sveriges Riksbank Act (2022:1568) and in accordance with the rules for bookkeeping and annual accounts adopted by the Executive Board of the Riksbank
- in all material respects, given a true and fair view of Sveriges Riksbank's economic result, funding and financial position as at 31 December 2023
- provided an administration report and information in general that is consistent with and supports a true and fair view of the annual report as a whole.

The Swedish National Audit Office therefore recommends the Riksdag to adopt the balance sheet and the profit and loss account.

According to the National Audit Office, the General Council has decided on the allocation of profit for the year in accordance with the Sveriges Riksbank Act. The Swedish National Audit Office therefore recommends that the Riksdag approve the General Council's decision on the allocation of profit for the year.

Basis for opinion

The Swedish National Audit Office conducted its audit in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) and the Swedish National Audit Office's internal regulation for the audit of the profit and loss account and other information in the annual report, including management's assessment of internal control (IFRF).

Our responsibility under the standards is described in more detail in the section Responsibility of the auditor. We are independent in relation to the authority in accordance with ISSAI 130 Code of Ethics and have otherwise fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with these ethical rules. We believe that the audit evidence we have received is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the Swedish National Audit Office's opinion.

Opinion concerning administration and discharge from liability

According to the National Audit Office, the Riksbank has essentially complied with applicable regulations¹ in its administration.

On the basis of the audit procedures undertaken, the Swedish National Audit Office recommends that the Riksdag grant discharge from liability to the General Council and the Executive Board of the Riksbank for 2023.

Basis for opinion

We carried out this audit in accordance with ISSAI and relevant parts of RevR 209: Management audit. Our responsibility under these is described in more detail in the section Responsibility of the auditor.

We believe that the audit evidence we have received is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the Swedish National Audit Office's opinion.

¹ The Sveriges Riksbank Act (2022:1568)

Opinion concerning management's assessment of internal control

In our audit of the annual report, we have found nothing to indicate that management's assessment of internal control has not complied with the Sveriges Riksbank Act.

Basis for opinion

The Swedish National Audit Office has conducted the audit in accordance with ISSAI for financial auditing and IFRF. Our responsibility under these standards is described in more detail in the section Responsibility of the auditor. We believe that the evidence we have received is sufficient and appropriate as a basis for the Swedish National Audit Office's opinions.

Responsibilities of the Executive Board

The Executive Board is responsible for the Riksbank's operations and shall ensure they are conducted in accordance with the Sveriges Riksbank Act.

The Executive Board is also responsible for preparing an annual report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Sveriges Riksbank Act and in accordance with the rules for bookkeeping and annual accounts adopted by the Executive Board of Sveriges Riksbank. The Executive Board is also responsible for the presence of internal controls to ensure the annual report can be compiled without material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Executive Board's responsibilities also include ensuring the Riksbank has internal controls that function adequately. The responsibilities include providing an assessment of the internal controls at the authority. This is stipulated in the Sveriges Riksbank Act.

In preparing the annual report, the authority's management shall assume that the authority will continue its operations. They shall disclose, where applicable, deviations and the reasons for those deviations.

Responsibilities of the General Council

The General Council is responsible for monitoring the work of the Executive Board and the Riksbank's operations and for deciding on the allocation of profit for the year. This is stipulated in the Sveriges Riksbank Act.

Responsibility of the auditor

Our responsibility is to examine the annual report. Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance that the annual report as a whole does not contain material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to present an auditor's report containing the opinions of the Swedish National Audit Office. Reasonable assurance is a high degree of assurance but is no guarantee that an audit conducted in

accordance with ISSAI and IFRF will always discover material misstatement if such is present. Misstatement may arise due to fraud or error and is considered to be material if, together or separately, it can reasonably be expected to affect the economic decisions made by users on the basis of the annual report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAI, we use professional judgement and apply an approach of professional scepticism throughout the entire audit.

Furthermore,

- we identify and assess the risk of material misstatement in the annual report, whether due to fraud or error. We then design and perform our audit procedures on the basis of these risks, among others, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than it is for one caused by error, as fraud may involve collusion, falsification, wilful omission, false information or neglect of internal control
- we obtain an understanding of that part of the authority's internal controls that is significant to our audit so as to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- we evaluate the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of estimates used by management in the annual report and related disclosures
- we draw a conclusion on the correctness of the authority's management using the going concern assumption in the preparation of the annual report. We also draw a conclusion, with basis in the acquired audit evidence, as to whether there is any material uncertainty related to such events or conditions that may lead to significant doubts about the authority's ability to continue operations. If we conclude that there is a material element of uncertainty, our auditor's report shall draw attention to the disclosures in the annual report concerning this material uncertainty and the assessment made or, if such information is insufficient, we shall modify our opinion on the annual report
- we evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual report, including the disclosures, and whether the annual report reasonably represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that provides fair presentation.

As part of the audit in accordance with the IFRF, we plan and perform the audit so as

- for essential information of financial or non-financial nature given in the administration report, to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence that such information has been prepared, together with the other parts of the annual report, with a view to providing an accurate picture of operations based on the rules

- for other information, to assure ourselves that this is consistent with the other parts of the annual report and free from material misstatement, based on our knowledge of the authority.

Our communication with the authority's management includes the planned scope and focus of the audit, and significant findings during the audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

The responsibility of the Swedish National Audit Office is to express an opinion, with reasonable assurance, on the discharge from liability of the members of the General Council and the Executive Board, based on its audit. The Swedish National Audit Office carried out this audit in accordance with ISSAI, with the application of relevant parts of RevR 209: Management audit.

As a basis for the Swedish National Audit Office's opinion concerning discharge from liability, the Swedish National Audit Office has examined significant decisions, actions taken and circumstances of the Riksbank to be able to determine the liability, if any, to the Riksbank of any member of the General Council or Executive Board. Our audit has covered

- the Rules of Procedure, instructions and any division of duties
- the essential administrative measures undertaken by the Chairperson of the General Council and the Governor of the Riksbank
- supervision of the organisation to ensure that bookkeeping, management of funds and economic conditions in general are subject to satisfactory internal control. Supervision also covers risk-taking, other risk exposures and protection against risks
- measures to ensure the legal accounting and prudent management of funds, including the appropriate organisation, including responsibilities, systems and procedures for handling receipts and accounts, monitoring, supervision and control of accounting records and financial statements including adaptation to new conditions
- management's ongoing assessment of the bank's financial situation
- the work of the General Council and the Executive Board on minutes, decisions and decision-making material
- individual management measures which, with regard to the scope and nature of the bank's activities, are of an unusual nature and of major importance
- other areas resulting from the bank's operations and the provisions of the Sveriges Riksbank Act.

The auditor in charge, Charlotte Ehrengren, made the decision on this matter. Engagement leader Hannah Engqvist presented the report.

Charlotte Ehrengren

Copy for information

Sveriges Riksbank

The General Council of the Riksbank