A New Method for Constructing a Cyclically Adjusted Budget Balance: the Case of Sweden

Henrik Braconier and Tomas Forsfält

Working Paper No. 90, April 2004

Published by The National Institute of Economic Research Stockholm 2004 *NIER* prepares analyses and forecasts of the Swedish and international economy and conducts related research. NIER is a government agency accountable to the Ministry of Finance and is financed largely by Swedish government funds. Like other government agencies, NIER has an independent status and is responsible for the assessments that it publishes.

The *Working Paper* series consists of publications of research reports and other detailed analyses. The reports may concern macroeconomic issues related to the forecasts of the Institute, research in environmental economics in connection with the work on environmental accounting, or problems of economic and statistical methods. Some of these reports are published in final form in this series, whereas others are previous versions of articles that are subsequently published in international scholarly journals under the heading of *Reprints*. Reports in both of these series can be ordered free of charge. Most publications can also be downloaded directly from the NIER home page.

NIER Kungsgatan 12-14 Box 3116 SE-103 62 Stockholm **Sweden** Phone: 46-8-453 59 00, Fax: 46-8-453 59 80 E-mail: ki@konj.se, Home page: www.konj.se

ISSN 1100-7818

A New Method for Constructing a Cyclically Adjusted Budget Balance: the Case of Sweden

by

Henrik Braconier and Tomas Forsfält

The National Institute of Economic Research Address: NIER, Box 3116, SE-103 62 Stockholm, Sweden Phone: 46-8-453 59 00, Fax: 46-8-453 59 80 E-mail: henrik.braconier@konj.se, tomas.forsfalt@konj.se Home page: www.konj.se

Abstract

In this paper, we discuss a new method for constructing a cyclically adjusted budget balance. We use the method to evaluate the budget balance for Sweden during the period 1991–2005. Traditionally, methods for cyclical adjustment have focused on the output gap. In this paper we also adjust for deviations of tax bases from their trend levels. Furthermore, we adjust for effects of the unemployment gap on government spending. For Sweden, we find that these additional adjustments have a significant impact on the cyclically adjusted budget balance, especially for the periods 1992–1995 and 2000–2001.

Keywords: Fiscal Policy, Cyclically Adjusted Budget Balance.

JEL codes: H30, H61, O47.

1 Introduction

As a consequence of relatively large public sectors in many OECD countries, cyclical fluctuations have a significant impact on general-government net lending in the OECD area. When resource utilization is high so are tax revenues, while government expenditures on such items as labour-market-related transfer payments are low. Under these circumstances, general-government net lending is high in relation to when resource utilization is at a normal level. In order to avoid basing permanent tax cuts or expenditure hikes on levels of saving that are temporarily high because of cyclical factors, it is essential to assess the government's cyclically adjusted budgetary position.

General-government net lending is dependent not only on the state of the economy, but also on rules that are politically decided. For instance, a higher replacement level in the healthinsurance system will result in lower net lending in a given economic situation. Figure 1 provides a two-dimensional schematic classification of the factors determining general-government net lending. In the first dimension, the factors are divided into those that describe the economic situation and those related to rules based on political decisions. In the second dimension, there is a division into temporary and permanent factors.

Figure 1 Classification of Factors That Determine Net Lending

	Temporary	Permanent
Economy-dependent	А	С
Policy-dependent	В	D

The division into four quadrants in Figure 1 can be used for various analyses of generalgovernment net lending. Factors that can be linked to the cyclical state of the economy are included in the first column. For example, tax revenues that are temporarily low because of cyclically low employment would be placed in quadrant A, whereas a temporary increase in the volume of labour-market programmes due to political decisions belongs in quadrant B. Permanent factors are placed in the second column. Long-term economic factors such as the level of potential GDP fit in quadrant C, while politically set rules of a permanent nature belong in quadrant D. An example of the latter would be pension benefits in a defined-benefit system.

In this paper, the cyclically adjusted budget balance is defined as the net lending that would have been observed under currently applicable rules with a normal level of resource utilization and a normal composition of GDP. Thus, adjustments are made for factors in quadrant A corresponding to their deviation from cyclically normal, or average, levels. The (implicit) current rules for taxes and expenditure for each year are assumed to be independent of the cyclical situation. Thus, we do not attempt to adjust for pro- or counter-cyclical discretionary policies (quadrant B).

More precisely, net lending is adjusted for the following three factors in quadrant A:

- The difference between actual output and estimated potential output (the output gap).
- The difference between the actual unemployment rate and the estimated equilibrium unemployment rate (the unemployment gap).
- The deviation of principal tax bases from their normal proportion of GDP (composition effects).

Traditionally, international organizations and national government agencies have constructed cyclically adjusted budget balances (CAB:s) by adjusting actual government net lending for an estimated output gap.¹ Consequently, these measures also adjust for factors in quadrant A, thus answering the question, "What would net lending be if the output gap were zero?". In contrast to other measures of the CAB, our indicator captures not only the effects of the degree of resource utilization (*i.e.* the output gap and the unemployment gap), but also the relationship of the principal tax bases to GDP. This method was initially proposed by Braconier and Holden (1999). The fact that the composition of GDP varies over the economic cycle is of significance for general-government net lending. This variation in composition is not stable across cycles, however, but depends on the type of shocks that affect the economy. For example, a positive domestic demand shock, driven by household consumption, would contribute to a temporarily high level of general-government net lending since household consumption is subject to relatively heavy taxation. Our indicator of CAB takes these effects into account by adjusting primary revenues for deviations from long-run levels of major tax-bases.

In this paper, we present estimates of the cyclically adjusted budget balance for Sweden during the period 1991 to 2005. The results indicate that the actual budget balance and the cyclically adjusted budget balance diverge during the severe downturn in the early 1990's as well as during the 2000 boom. Furthermore, we find that our indicator performed in a way significantly different from the OECD's CAB during parts of the studied period. One principal explanation for this difference is that the composition effects are important and that the OECD indicator fails to adjust for these effects.

The paper is organized as follows: the model is presented in the next section, Section 3 describes data and the results are discussed in Section 4. The paper ends with some concluding remarks.

¹ One example is the OECD. See Van den Noord (2000) for a description.

2 The Model

The cyclically adjusted budget balance is defined as the level of general government net lending that would be observed under current fiscal rules if resources were fully utilized and GDP had a normal composition. Cyclical adjustment is made for three groups of fiscal variables: taxes, unemployment-related government expenditures and other government expenditures. For these groups we define currently applicable rules as subject to the following conditions:

- Implicit tax rates are independent of the cyclical state of the economy and are measured as actual tax revenue from a certain tax in relation to a relevant tax base.
- Unemployment-related government expenditures in relation to unemployment are independent of the cyclical state of the economy.²
- Other expenditures (in relation to potential GDP) are independent of the cyclical state of the economy.

Given this set of fiscal rules, we then proceed to compute cyclically adjusted revenues and expenditures. The cyclical adjustment entails three components:

- Adjustment due to deviations between actual and potential GDP.
- Adjustments due to deviations between actual and equilibrium unemployment.
- Adjustments due to deviations between actual and normal (trend) tax base as ratios to GDP.

2.1 Revenues

In general, revenues from a certain tax (T_i) can be written as the product of an implicit tax rate (denoted T_i/B_i) and a relevant tax base (B_i) . Formally, if there are *n* different taxes, then

$$T_i = \left(\frac{T_i}{B_i}\right) \cdot B_i, \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$
(1)

Multiplying the right-hand-side of equation (1) by Y/Y, where Y is actual GDP, yields

$$T_i = \left(\frac{T_i}{B_i}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{B_i}{Y}\right) \cdot Y, \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$
(2)

Thus, revenues depend on three variables: the implicit tax rate, the base-to-GDP ratio and GDP. According to equation (2), revenues change when any of the three variables change. We denote these changes as policy-, composition- and level-effects, respectively.

² These expenditures are defined as unemployment-related transfers and expenditure on active labor-market programs.

We divide government revenues into six categories:³

- Direct taxes paid by households, which are proportional to pre-tax household incomes.⁴
- Capital-gains taxes, proportional to (net) capital gains.
- Direct taxes paid by the business sector, proportional to gross profits.⁵
- Social security contributions, proportional to total earnings.
- Indirect taxes, proportional to household consumption.
- Other primary revenues, which are proportional to GDP.

Under currently applicable rules, tax revenues are assumed to be proportional to their respective tax bases. For the last four taxes listed above, this is not a strong assumption. However, for direct taxes on households, the assumption might be controversial, given the progressivity of the tax code. The progressivity facing individual wage-earners does not directly transform into a non-proportional relationship between the tax base and tax revenues, however.⁶ Thus, an elasticity of one could be a fair first approximation.

Applying our definitions of fiscal policy to the expression in equation (2), we compute cyclically adjusted revenues by assuming that $Y = Y^*$ and $B/Y = (B/Y)^*$, where Y^* is potential GDP and $(B/Y)^*$ is the normal (trend) base-to-GDP ratio. Thus, the cyclically adjusted revenue (T^*) for category *i* is

$$T_i^* = \left(\frac{T_i}{B_i}\right) \left(\frac{B_i}{Y}\right)^* Y^*, \qquad i = 1, 2, ..., 6.$$
 (3)

Finally, summing all six types of revenue, we obtain an expression for cyclically adjusted total revenue

$$T^{*} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{T_{i}}{B_{i}} \left(\frac{B_{i}}{Y}\right)^{*} Y^{*}.$$
(4)

³ This is a modification of the classification made by Braconier & Holden (1999) for improved accuracy.

⁴ Excluding capital-gains taxes.

⁵ Gross profits are defined as GDP (at market prices) minus total earnings.

⁶ One example could be the expansion of household incomes during economic upturns that typically consists of two counteracting effects. Firstly, individuals tend to receive higher wages; thus, in a given progressive tax system, the average tax rate tends to increase as well. Secondly, aggregate earnings increase as more people become employed. Since these individuals typically are taxed at a lower than average rate, their entry into the ranks of the employed will tend to decrease the average tax rate. See Roedseth (1984) and Giorno et al (1995).

2.2 Expenditures

Primary government expenditures are divided into two categories. One is unemployment-related expenditures (transfer payments and expenditure on active labor market programs), which by assumption are proportional to unemployment. Let G_U denote actual total expenditures related to unemployment. Furthermore, denote unemployment and equilibrium unemployment as U and U^* respectively. The cyclically adjusted unemployment-related expenditures (G_U^*) are

$$G_U^* = \frac{G_U}{U} U^*.$$
(5)

The other category is general-government consumption and other expenditures, which are assumed to be predetermined and independent of the cyclical state of the economy. These expenditures are unchanged in nominal terms if resource utilization or the composition of GDP changes during a certain year; thus

$$G_O^* = G_O. \tag{6}$$

2.3 The CAB and the Actual Budget Balance

From equations (4)–(6) we can derive the CAB as

$$S^{*} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{T_{i}}{B_{i}} \left(\frac{B_{i}}{Y}\right)^{*} Y^{*} - \frac{G_{U}}{U} U^{*} - G_{O} - rD,$$
(7)

where rD denotes (net) interest expenditure.

A corresponding expression for the actual budget balance is given by

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{T_i}{B_i} \left(\frac{B_i}{Y}\right) Y - \frac{G_U}{U} U - G_O - rD.$$
(8)

Hence, in order to compute the CAB for a given set of policy rules, we adjust for potential GDP, equilibrium unemployment and the equilibrium composition. Combining equations (7) and (8) yields

$$S - S^* = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{T_i}{B_i} \left(Y \left(\frac{B_i}{Y} \right) - Y^* \left(\frac{B_i}{Y} \right)^* \right) - \frac{G_U}{U} \left(U - U^* \right).$$
⁽⁹⁾

Equation (9) shows that the difference between the actual and the cyclically adjusted budget balance depends on the output gap, the unemployment gap, and deviations of base-to-GDP ratios from their equilibrium levels (the composition effect). Of particular interest is the difference in relation to GDP. In the Appendix we show that this difference can be expressed as a weighted sum of the output gap, the unemployment gap and composition deviations (measured as the gaps in base-to-GDP ratios), where the weights are equal to expenditure ratios and implicit tax rates,

$$\frac{S}{Y} - \frac{S^*}{Y^*} = \left(\frac{G + rD}{Y}\right) \left(\frac{Y - Y^*}{Y^*}\right) - \frac{G_U/U}{Y^*} \left(U - U^*\right) + \sum_{i=1}^6 \frac{T_i}{B_i} \left(\left(\frac{B_i}{Y}\right) - \left(\frac{B_i}{Y}\right)^*\right),\tag{10}$$

with $G = G_0 + G_U$. It follows from the first term on the right-hand side of equation (10) that the effect of the output gap is to increase in the size of the public sector as a share of GDP, measured as the expenditure ratio (G/Y). Thus, cyclical fluctuations have a stronger impact on public finances in countries with larger public sector. The second term shows that the effect of the unemployment gap is larger, the larger the unemployment compensation (G_U/U). The third term on the right-hand side shows that the composition effect is stronger for high taxed components.

Regarding the interpretation of the CAB, it is important to note that the implicit tax rates are constructed from observed outcomes. Thus, temporary changes in the tax rate will affect the CAB. A temporary lowering of the tax rate at time t will therefore lead to a fall in the CAB at time t, while the CAB will improve at t +1 when the tax rate is raised again.

The method does not consider adjustments of (net) interest payments. While permanent shifts in the cyclically adjusted balance have cumulative effects on future levels of net lending, our indicator focuses on the level of net lending that would prevail if cyclical effects were removed. If one wants to gauge the long-term budgetary effects of structural changes in revenues and spending, then these cumulative effects should be included.⁷ Another question is whether (net) government interest payments should be cyclically adjusted. As a cyclically adjusted interest rate for government net interest payments is hard to determine, we do not try to address this issue in the current version of the indicator. To the extent that government borrowing and lending are of a fairly long-term nature, the impact is likely to be limited.

3 Data and Construction of Variables

Annual data from 1970 to 2002 are taken from the National Accounts, which are compiled by Statistics Sweden. As mentioned above, total primary revenues are divided into six subgroups: household direct taxes, household capital-gains taxes, business direct taxes, indirect taxes, payroll taxes, and other revenues. Adjustments have been made for non-recurring effects on business

⁷ Braconier and Holden (1999) suggest how such computations could be done.

direct-tax revenue in the form of reimbursement from the SPP insurance company (SEK 10 billion in 2000). Likewise, other revenues were adjusted for revenues from privatization of the real-estate holdings of the National Pension Fund (SEK 19 billion in 1998). The implicit tax rates for Sweden are presented in Table 1 in the Appendix.

Total primary expenditures are divided into two subgroups: unemployment-related expenditures and other primary expenditures. Other expenditures have been adjusted for financial assistance to the banking sector (SEK 65 billion in 1991–1993).

The variables in the second group – represented by the level of potential GDP and the level of equilibrium unemployment – are based on the NIER's overall assessments, which are published regularly in reports.⁸ The output- and unemployment gaps of Sweden, which show the deviations of GDP and unemployment from their potential levels, are presented in Diagram 1.





Finally, we need to estimate the equilibrium base-to-GDP ratios. Currently, this is done with the help of an HP-filter ($\lambda = 100$).⁹ The time series are extended with NIER's current forecast to 2005, see *The Swedish Economy – December 2003*. Certain variables are extended to 2010 to reduce end-point problems in the HP-procedure. Diagram 2 shows the original data as well as the filtered series.

⁸ See e.g. The Swedish Economy, December 2003.

⁹ There are a number of different ways to measure empirically the effects of the cycle. E.g. the term "normal" level of capacity utilization can mean either a historical average, a forward-loking prediction or some type of mechanical assessment. In the future, these ratios will be based on the NIER's medium-term projections.





4 Results

The economic crisis in the early 1990's led to a significant decrease in capacity utilization, which is shown by widening output and unemployment gaps (see Diagram 1). After adjustment for these factors and for composition effects, cyclically adjusted net lending was about –5 percent of GDP in 1993; compared to actual net lending of about –12 percent (see Diagram 3). From 1993 until 2000, net lending improved, partly because the output and unemployment gaps were closed and partly because of rules changes that reduced expenditure and increased taxes. The latter measures resulted not only in higher actual net lending, but also in higher cyclically adjusted net lending. Since 2000, actual net lending has decreased considerably more than cyclically adjusted net lending.



Diagram 3 Actual and Cyclically Adjusted Net Lending Percent of GDP and percent of potential GDP

Sources: Statistics Sweden and NIER.

In the mid-1990's, actual general-government revenues were lower than cyclically adjusted revenues (see Diagram 4). The gap was about 2 percent of GDP in 1995. Revenues then increased until 2000, owing to rapid growth in total earnings as well as household capital gains.







For most of the 1990's, actual expenditures were much higher than their cyclically adjusted counterparts, but the difference gradually decreased, primarily because of the diminishing unemployment gap (see Diagrams 1 and 4).



Percent of GDP and percent of potential GDP



Source: NIER.

As illustrated in Diagram 5, there is a strong correlation between the output gap and the cyclically dependent portion of general-government net lending. This is naturally the case since the cyclical adjustment is based partly on the size of the output gap and the unemployment gap, where the latter is strongly linked to the output gap, according to the so-called Okun's Law. Relationships of this kind serve as the basis for various ways to calculate cyclically adjusted net lending, such as the OECD's CAB indicator. As shown in Diagram 5, a rule of thumb like this one can often provide a fair approximation of the more rigorous calculation of cyclical adjustment carried out in this study.

When GDP-composition effects are significant, however, such a simple rule of thumb will yield misleading results. For example, both the output gap and the unemployment gap were close to zero in 2001. A simple rule of thumb would lead to the conclusion that cyclically adjusted net lending was equal to actual net lending. However, as noted above, household income and total earnings were above normal that year, thus temporarily maintaining tax revenue at a higher level. In Diagram 6 we compare our indicator to the OECD's CAB. Our cyclically adjusted net lending differs significantly from the OECD's estimate for the period 1993–1997 and is on average 2.1 percentage points higher than the OECD measure during this period. The principal explanation for this difference is the composition effect resulting from unusually high exports in relation to GDP in these years, an effect which is not captured by the OECD indicator.





Source: NIER and OECD.

Finally, Diagram 7 shows how cyclical adjustment can be divided between composition effects and the effects of the unemployment and output gaps. For example, the output and

unemployment gaps were important components during 1993–1998, while the composition effect was substantial during 1992–1995 and 2000–2001.



Diagram 7 Difference Between Actual and Cyclically Adjusted Net Lending Percent of GDP

Note: The total difference consists of the composition effect, the effect of the unemployment gap, the effect of the output gap, and nonrecurring effects. Source: NIER.

5 Concluding Remarks

This paper presents a new method for adjusting government net lending for cyclical factors. The method adjusts for the output gap, the unemployment gap and deviations in the major tax bases from their equilibrium levels.

We apply the method to Swedish data for the period 1991–2005 and compare and explain our results with reference to actual net lending as well as to the OECD's indicator of cyclically adjusted net lending. Though largely consistent with the OECD indicator, the results differ substantially for some years, owing to the properties of our more refined indicator. The target for general-government net lending set by the Swedish parliament is 2 percent over a business cycle. From this perspective, the CAB is a natural instrument for gauging whether fiscal policy is in line with the target. Our method shows that the CAB on average is 1.2 percent of GDP for the years 2002–2005, compared to (forecasted) actual net lending of 0.4. All factors considered, the fiscal contraction that is predicted for 2004 and 2005 in Sweden is consistent with a continued focus on the medium-term target for net lending.

The current stabilization regime in Sweden is based on an inflation-targeting central bank and a floating exchange rate. In this regime, there is little scope for fiscal policy to stabilize the economy. Hence, fiscal policy should focus on medium and long-term targets, for which our CAB would seem a natural indicator. Potentially, fiscal policy could be used in extreme situations where monetary policy has little leverage.

In a regime with a fixed exchange rate, however, an active countercyclical fiscal policy could play a more prominent role in stabilizing the economy. Under such circumstances, the CAB would be low in an economic downturn and correspondingly higher when the economy is at a peak. Therefore, in a balanced assessment of fiscal policy from a short-term as well as a mediumterm perspective, it would then be even more appropriate to use the CAB as one tool of analysis.

16

References

Braconier, H. and Holden, S. (1999). "The Public Budget Balance – Fiscal Indicators and Cyclical Sensitivity in the Nordic Countries", NIER WP 67.

Giorno, C., P. Richardson, D. Roseveare and P. van den Noord (1995). "Potential output, output gaps and structural budget balances". <u>OECD Economic Studies 24</u>, 167-209.

Van den Noord (2000). "The Size and Role of Automatic Fiscal Stabilizers in the 1990s and Beyond", OECD WP 230.

Roedseth, A. (1984). "Progressive taxes and automatic stabilization in an open economy". Journal of Macroeconomics 6, no 3, 265-282.

The Swedish Economy – December 2003, NIER, www.konj.se.

Appendix

We show here how the total difference between the actual and cyclically adjusted budget balance can be written as the sum of three components: the effect of the output gap (OE), the effect of the unemployment gap (UE), and the composition effect (CE), that is,

$$\frac{S}{Y} - \frac{S^*}{Y^*} = OE + UE + CE,$$

where the components are defined below. The total difference can be written as

$$\frac{S}{Y} - \frac{S^{*}}{Y^{*}} = \frac{S - S^{*}}{Y^{*}} - \frac{S}{Y} \left(\frac{Y - Y^{*}}{Y^{*}}\right),$$

where the second term on the right-hand side represents the direct effect of the output gap on the budgetbalance ratio (shown by the deviation in the denominator). The first term is given by equation (9), rewritten as

$$\frac{S-S^*}{Y^*} = \sum_{i=1}^6 \frac{T_i}{B_i} \left(\frac{Y}{Y^*} \left(\frac{B_i}{Y} \right) - \left(\frac{B_i}{Y} \right)^* \right) - \frac{G_U/U}{Y^*} \left(U - U^* \right). \tag{9}$$

<u>The composition effect</u> (*CE*) is defined as the difference between the actual and cyclically adjusted budget balances as if $Y = Y^*$ and $U = U^*$ from equation (9[°]),

$$CE = \frac{S - S^*}{Y^*} \bigg|_{Y^*, U^*} = \sum_{i=1}^6 \frac{T_i}{B_i} \left(\left(\frac{B_i}{Y} \right) - \left(\frac{B_i}{Y} \right)^* \right).$$

<u>The effect of the unemployment gap</u> (*UE*) is defined as the difference between the actual and cyclically adjusted budget balances as if $Y = Y^*$ and $(B_i/Y) = (B_i/Y)^*$ from equation (9'),

$$UE = \frac{S - S^*}{Y^*} \bigg|_{Y^*, \left(\frac{B_i}{Y}\right)^*} = -\frac{G_U/U}{Y^*} \left(U - U^*\right).$$

<u>The effect of the output gap</u> (OE) is defined as the difference between the actual and cyclically adjusted budget balances that is not explained by either the unemployment gap or the composition of GDP.

$$\begin{split} OE &= \frac{S}{Y} - \frac{S^*}{Y^*} - CE - UE \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^6 \frac{T_i}{B_i} \bigg(\frac{Y}{Y^*} \bigg(\frac{B_i}{Y} \bigg) - \bigg(\frac{B_i}{Y} \bigg)^* \bigg) - \frac{S}{Y} \bigg(\frac{Y - Y^*}{Y^*} \bigg) - \sum_{i=1}^6 \frac{T_i}{B_i} \bigg(\bigg(\frac{B_i}{Y} \bigg) - \bigg(\frac{B_i}{Y} \bigg)^* \bigg) \\ &= \bigg(\frac{T - S}{Y} \bigg) \bigg(\frac{Y - Y^*}{Y^*} \bigg) \\ &= \bigg(\frac{G + rD}{Y} \bigg) \bigg(\frac{Y - Y^*}{Y^*} \bigg), \end{split}$$
 where $T = \sum_{i=1}^6 T_i$ and $G = G_O + G_U$.

Table 1 Difference Between Actual and Cyclically Adjusted Net Lending

Percent of GDP and percent of potential GDP

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Actual net lending	5.1	2.9	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.0
Cyclically adjusted net lending	3.1	2.5	0.3	1.0	1.6	2.0
Total difference	2.0	0.4	-0.2	-0.7	-1.2	-1.1
of which:						
Effect of output gap ¹	0.5	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4
Effect of unemployment gap ²	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4
Composition effect ³	0.8	0.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4
Non-recurring effect	0.5					
1) Output gap	1.0	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9	-0.7
Weight %	53.2	53.5	55.0	55.3	54.8	54.0
2) Unemployment gap	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.8	1.3	1.0
Weight %	-48.2	-45.4	-44.1	-38.4	-36.9	-36.5
3) Composition (Tax bases):						
Household consumption, % of GDP	49.1	48.9	48.9	49.1	48.9	48.8
Deviation from trend	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1
Weight % (Indirect taxes)	28.9	29.1	29.7	30.1	29.6	29.3
1 – Total earnings ("Profit share")	58.7	57.7	58.0	58.6	58.7	59.0
Deviation from trend	-0.3	-1.2	-0.8	-0.2	0.0	0.2
Weight % (Business taxes)	5.6	5.2	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0
Total earnings, % of GDP	41.3	42.3	42.0	41.4	41.3	41.0
Deviation from trend	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.0	-0.2
Weight % (Payroll taxes)	41.5	41.5	41.7	42.2	41.9	41.8
Pre-tax income, % of GDP	69.4	70.7	69.7	69.1	68.6	67.9
Deviation from trend	-0.5	1.1	0.3	-0.2	-0.5	-1.0
Weight % (Household taxes)	24.6	23.4	22.3	23.6	23.8	24.2
Capital gains, % of GDP	5.8	2.8	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2
Deviation from trend	2.9	-0.1	-1.0	-0.5	-0.2	0.0
Weight % (Capital-gains taxes)	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0

Note: Weights are equal to implicit expenditure shares and implicit tax rates (tax revenue/tax base) The composite effect is given by the sum of the products of the weight and tax-base deviations from trend. Source: NIER.

Titles in the Working Paper Series

No	Author	Title	Year
1	Warne, Anders and Anders Vredin	Current Account and Business Cycles: Stylized Facts for Sweden	1989
2	Östblom, Göran	Change in Technical Structure of the Swedish Economy	1989
3	Söderling, Paul	Mamtax. A Dynamic CGE Model for Tax Reform Simulations	1989
4	Kanis, Alfred and Aleksander Markowski	The Supply Side of the Econometric Model of the NIER	1990
5	Berg, Lennart	The Financial Sector in the SNEPQ Model	1991
6	Ågren, Anders and Bo Jonsson	Consumer Attitudes, Buying Intentions and Consumption Expenditures. An Analysis of the Swedish Household Survey Data	1991
7	Berg, Lennart and Reinhold Bergström	A Quarterly Consumption Function for Sweden 1979- 1989	1991
8	Öller, Lars-Erik	Good Business Cycle Forecasts- A Must for Stabilization Policies	1992
9	Jonsson, Bo and Anders Ågren	Forecasting Car Expenditures Using Household Survey Data	1992
10	Löfgren, Karl-Gustaf, Bo Ranneby and Sara Sjöstedt	Forecasting the Business Cycle Not Using Minimum Autocorrelation Factors	1992
11	Gerlach, Stefan	Current Quarter Forecasts of Swedish GNP Using Monthly Variables	1992
12	Bergström, Reinhold	The Relationship Between Manufacturing Production and Different Business Survey Series in Sweden	1992
13	Edlund, Per-Olov and Sune Karlsson	Forecasting the Swedish Unemployment Rate: VAR vs. Transfer Function Modelling	1992
14	Rahiala, Markku and Timo Teräsvirta	Business Survey Data in Forecasting the Output of Swedish and Finnish Metal and Engineering Industries: A Kalman Filter Approach	1992
15	Christofferson, Anders, Roland Roberts and Ulla Eriksson	The Relationship Between Manufacturing and Various BTS Series in Sweden Illuminated by Frequency and Complex Demodulate Methods	1992
16	Jonsson, Bo	Sample Based Proportions as Values on an Independent Variable in a Regression Model	1992
17	Öller, Lars-Erik	Eliciting Turning Point Warnings from Business Surveys	1992
18	Forster, Margaret M	Volatility, Trading Mechanisms and International Cross-Listing	1992
19	Jonsson, Bo	Prediction with a Linear Regression Model and Errors in a Regressor	1992
20	Gorton, Gary and Richard Rosen	Corporate Control, Portfolio Choice, and the Decline of Banking	1993
21	Gustafsson, Claes- Håkan and Åke Holmén	The Index of Industrial Production – A Formal Description of the Process Behind it	1993
22	Karlsson, Tohmas	A General Equilibrium Analysis of the Swedish Tax Reforms 1989-1991	1993
23	Jonsson, Bo	Forecasting Car Expenditures Using Household Survey Data- A Comparison of Different Predictors	1993

24	Gennotte, Gerard and Hayne Leland	Low Margins, Derivative Securitites and Volatility	1993
25	Boot, Arnoud W.A. and Stuart I. Greenbaum	Discretion in the Regulation of U.S. Banking	1993
26	Spiegel, Matthew and Deane J. Seppi	Does Round-the-Clock Trading Result in Pareto Improvements?	1993
27	Seppi, Deane J.	How Important are Block Trades in the Price Discovery Process?	1993
28	Glosten, Lawrence R.	Equilibrium in an Electronic Open Limit Order Book	1993
29	Boot, Arnoud W.A., Stuart I Greenbaum and Anjan V. Thakor	Reputation and Discretion in Financial Contracting	1993
30a	Bergström, Reinhold	The Full Tricotomous Scale Compared with Net Balances in Qualitative Business Survey Data – Experiences from the Swedish Business Tendency Surveys	1993
30b	Bergström, Reinhold	Quantitative Production Series Compared with Qualiative Business Survey Series for Five Sectors of the Swedish Manufacturing Industry	1993
31	Lin, Chien-Fu Jeff and Timo Teräsvirta	Testing the Constancy of Regression Parameters Against Continous Change	1993
32	Markowski, Aleksander and Parameswar Nandakumar	A Long-Run Equilibrium Model for Sweden. The Theory Behind the Long-Run Solution to the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1993
33	Markowski, Aleksander and Tony Persson	Capital Rental Cost and the Adjustment for the Effects of the Investment Fund System in the Econometric Model Kosmos	1993
34	Kanis, Alfred and Bharat Barot	On Determinants of Private Consumption in Sweden	1993
35	Kääntä, Pekka and Christer Tallbom	Using Business Survey Data for Forecasting Swedish Quantitative Business Cycle Varable. A Kalman Filter Approach	1993
36	Ohlsson, Henry and Anders Vredin	Political Cycles and Cyclical Policies. A New Test Approach Using Fiscal Forecasts	1993
37	Markowski, Aleksander and Lars Ernsäter	The Supply Side in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1994
38	Gustafsson, Claes- Håkan	On the Consistency of Data on Production, Deliveries, and Inventories in the Swedish Manufacturing Industry	1994
39	Rahiala, Markku and Tapani Kovalainen	Modelling Wages Subject to Both Contracted Increments and Drift by Means of a Simultaneous- Equations Model with Non-Standard Error Structure	1994
40	Öller, Lars-Erik and Christer Tallbom	Hybrid Indicators for the Swedish Economy Based on Noisy Statistical Data and the Business Tendency Survey	1994
41	Östblom, Göran	A Converging Triangularization Algorithm and the Intertemporal Similarity of Production Structures	1994
42a	Markowski, Aleksander	Labour Supply, Hours Worked and Unemployment in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1994
42b	Markowski, Aleksander	Wage Rate Determination in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1994
43	Ahlroth, Sofia, Anders Björklund and Anders Forslund	The Output of the Swedish Education Sector	1994
44a	Markowski, Aleksander	Private Consumption Expenditure in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1994

44b	Markowski, Aleksander	The Input-Output Core: Determination of Inventory Investment and Other Business Output in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1994
45	Bergström, Reinhold	The Accuracy of the Swedish National Budget Forecasts 1955-92	1995
46	Sjöö, Boo	Dynamic Adjustment and Long-Run Economic Stability	1995
47a	Markowski, Aleksander	Determination of the Effective Exchange Rate in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1995
47b	Markowski, Aleksander	Interest Rate Determination in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1995
48	Barot, Bharat	Estimating the Effects of Wealth, Interest Rates and Unemployment on Private Consumption in Sweden	1995
49	Lundvik, Petter	Generational Accounting in a Small Open Economy	1996
50	Eriksson, Kimmo, Johan Karlander and Lars-Erik Öller	Hierarchical Assignments: Stability and Fairness	1996
51	Url, Thomas	Internationalists, Regionalists, or Eurocentrists	1996
52	Ruist, Erik	Temporal Aggregation of an Econometric Equation	1996
53	Markowski, Aleksander	The Financial Block in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1996
54	Östblom, Göran	Emissions to the Air and the Allocation of GDP: Medium Term Projections for Sweden. In Conflict with the Goals of SO_2 , SO_2 and NOX Emissions for Year 2000	1996
55	Koskinen, Lasse, Aleksander Markowski, Parameswar Nandakumar and Lars- Erik Öller	Three Seminar Papers on Output Gap	1997
56	Oke, Timothy and Lars-Erik Öller	Testing for Short Memory in a VARMA Process	1997
57	Johansson, Anders and Karl-Markus Modén	Investment Plan Revisions and Share Price Volatility	1997
58	Lyhagen, Johan	The Effect of Precautionary Saving on Consumption in Sweden	1998
59	Koskinen, Lasse and Lars-Erik Öller	A Hidden Markov Model as a Dynamic Bayesian Classifier, with an Application to Forecasting Business-Cycle Turning Points	1998
60	Kragh, Börje and Aleksander Markowski	Kofi – a Macromodel of the Swedish Financial Markets	1998
61	Gajda, Jan B. and Aleksander Markowski	Model Evaluation Using Stochastic Simulations: The Case of the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1998
62	Johansson, Kerstin	Exports in the Econometric Model KOSMOS	1998
63	Johansson, Kerstin	Permanent Shocks and Spillovers: A Sectoral Approach Using a Structural VAR	1998
64	Öller, Lars-Erik and Bharat Barot	Comparing the Accuracy of European GDP Forecasts	1999
65	Huhtala , Anni and Eva Samakovlis	Does International Harmonization of Environmental Policy Instruments Make Economic Sense? The Case of Paper Recycling in Europe	1999
66	Nilsson, Charlotte	A Unilateral Versus a Multilateral Carbon Dioxide Tax - A Numerical Analysis With The European Model GEM-E3	1999

67	Braconier, Henrik and Steinar Holden	The Public Budget Balance – Fiscal Indicators and Cyclical Sensitivity in the Nordic Countries	1999
68	Nilsson, Kristian	Alternative Measures of the Swedish Real Exchange Rate	1999
69	Östblom, Göran	An Environmental Medium Term Economic Model – EMEC	1999
70	Johnsson, Helena and Peter Kaplan	An Econometric Study of Private Consumption Expenditure in Sweden	1999
71	Arai, Mahmood and Fredrik Heyman	Permanent and Temporary Labour: Job and Worker Flows in Sweden 1989-1998	2000
72	Öller, Lars-Erik and Bharat Barot	The Accuracy of European Growth and Inflation Forecasts	2000
73	Ahlroth, Sofia	Correcting Net Domestic Product for Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide Emissions: Implementation of a Theoretical Model in Practice	2000
74	Andersson, Michael K. And Mikael P. Gredenhoff	Improving Fractional Integration Tests with Bootstrap Distribution	2000
75	Nilsson, Charlotte and Anni Huhtala	Is CO ₂ Trading Always Beneficial? A CGE-Model Analysis on Secondary Environmental Benefits	2000
76	Skånberg, Kristian	Constructing a Partially Environmentally Adjusted Net Domestic Product for Sweden 1993 and 1997	2001
77	Huhtala, Anni, Annie Toppinen and Mattias Boman,	An Environmental Accountant's Dilemma: Are Stumpage Prices Reliable Indicators of Resource Scarcity?	2001
78	Nilsson, Kristian	Do Fundamentals Explain the Behavior of the Real Effective Exchange Rate?	2002
79	Bharat, Barot	Growth and Business Cycles for the Swedish Economy	2002
80	Bharat, Barot	House Prices and Housing Investment in Sweden and the United Kingdom. Econometric Analysis for the Period 1970-1998	2002
81	Hjelm, Göran	Simultaneous Determination of NAIRU, Output Gaps and Structural Budget Balances: Swedish Evidence	2003
82	Huhtala, Anni and Eva Samalkovis	Green Accounting, Air Pollution and Health	2003
83	Lindström, Tomas	The Role of High-Tech Capital Formation for Swedish Productivity Growth	2003
84	Hansson, Jesper, Per Jansson and Mårten Löf	Business survey data: do they help in forecasting the macro economy?	2003
85	Boman, Mattias, Anni Huhtala, Charlotte Nilsson, Sofia Ahlroth, Göran Bostedt, Leif Mattson and Peichen Gong	Applying the Contingent Valuation Method in Resource Accounting: A Bold Proposal	
86	Gren, Ing-Marie	Monetary Green Accounting and Ecosystem Services	2003
87	Samakovlis, Eva, Anni Huhtala, Tom Bellander and Magnus Svartengren	Air Quality and Morbidity: Concentration-response Relationships for Sweden	2004
88	Alsterlind, Jan, Alek Markowski and Kristian Nilsson	Modelling the Foreign Sector in a Macroeconometric Model of Sweden	2004

89	Lindén, Johan	The Labor Market in KIMOD	2004
90	Braconier, Henrik and Tomas Forsfält	A New Method for Constructing a Cyclically Adjusted Budget Balance: the Case of Sweden	2004