

# Jernkontoret

The Swedish Steel Producers'  
Association



Jernkontoret advances the steel industry's interests through working actively to achieve the best possible operating conditions for the industry in Sweden.

Steel as a material is the core of a technically advanced and research-intensive industry where Sweden is a global leader within several market segments.



## Serving the iron and steel industry since 1747

Jernkontoret has been active as the steel industry's trade association ever since 1747. The very first statutes of this organisation were ratified by King Frederick I of Sweden. At that time, there were some 450 ironworks in the country and all of these were co-owners of Jernkontoret.

Steel today is manufactured at only twenty or so locations in Sweden. Jernkontoret works to ensure that that its co-owners and stakeholder companies achieve the best possible preconditions for running their operations in Sweden.

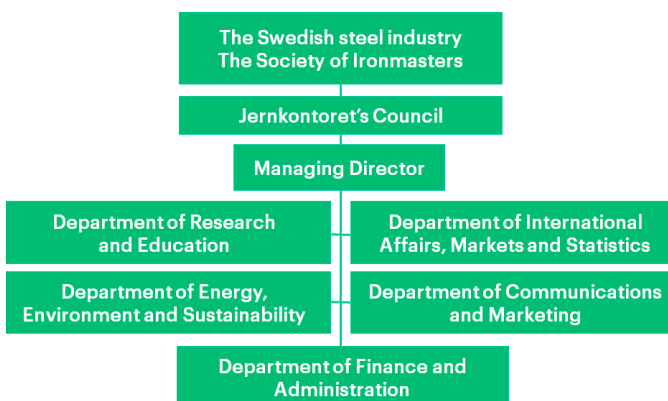
## Co-owners and stakeholders

The structure of Jernkontoret is unique. It can best be described as a body governed by public law with private co-ownership. This co-ownership is not tied to either persons or companies but rather directly to each metal production or manufacturing site. Even where operations are closed down, the co-ownership stake in Jernkontoret is not phased out but may be assigned to another plant that carries out steelmaking or metal manufacturing.

Just over 180 plants are counted as being Jernkontoret co-owners, though the majority of these are inactive. The production of steel has been concentrated in fewer but larger companies. Nowadays, operations directly linked to the steel industry are carried on in some twenty or so different localities across Sweden.

Companies pay an annual service fee that funds parts of Jernkontoret's operations. Those companies that are not co-owners but still wish to make use of Jernkontoret's services may apply to become a stakeholder.

The co-owners of Jernkontoret exercise their influence through the so-called Swedish Ironmasters' Association. This corresponds to the Shareholders' Meeting in a joint stock company. The Ironmasters' Association appoints twelve to eighteen persons to the Jernkontoret Council that thereby constitutes its board of directors. It is from amongst these Council members that the Council chairman is designated.



## What Jernkontoret does

Jernkontoret's task is to advance the steel industry's interests through working to achieve the best possible preconditions for the industry to operate successfully in Sweden. Jernkontoret also acts as a representative organisation for the purposes of co-operation with the state administration, in respect of various issues of importance for the Swedish steel industry.

### Councils and committees of Jernkontoret

- Research and Education Council
- Standardisation Council
- Energy Council
- Environment Council
- Product Ecology Council
- Historical Metallurgy Group



This work extends over many different areas: trade policy, research and education, standardisation, energy, the environment and sustainability as well as transportation issues.

Jernkontoret's Council and committees play an essential role in its operations. The Council includes a broad representation from the companies. They monitor developments within their respective areas of responsibility, initiate strategies for different activities and prepare formal statements of opinion on important issues.

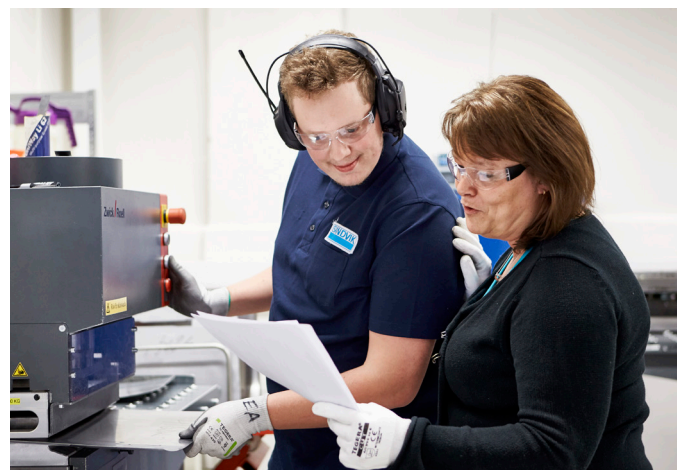
Matters that relate to Sweden's participation in international collaborative organisations such as the World Steel Association and the European Steel Association (Eurofer) are also handled by Jernkontoret.

Jernkontoret does *not* however represent the industry's interests where the relationship between employer and employee is concerned. Instead, issues relating to employment and the working environment are handled by the Employers Association of the Steel and Metal Industry, an integral part of the Swedish Association of Industrial Employers.

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### Research and education

Jernkontoret conducts extensive steel-related research relating to the development of processes, materials, products, markets and quality inputs as well as within the energy and environmental area. This research is carried out in close collaboration with the Nordic steel companies, industry-related companies and research





institutes. It is also noteworthy that Jernkontoret carries out historical research into mining and metallurgy in Sweden.

Jernkontoret supports the industry's long-term development of professional competency and skills. Moreover, it looks after the industry's interests where education is concerned whether at the high school or university level.

### **Energy, environment and sustainability**

Issues relating to energy use, the impact on climate, sustainability and the environment as well as the associated taxes and charges are all managed by Jernkontoret. The relevant issues are co-ordinated by different committees and networks together with the steel companies but also with closely related industries and organisations, both nationally and internationally. Co-operation also takes place with R&D activities undertaken within Jernkontoret's own technical areas.

### **Trade policy and steel market issues**

Jernkontoret monitors and looks after the Swedish steel industry's interests where trade policy is concerned. Jernkontoret also represents the steel industry in matters relating to transportation and infrastructure

### **Industry statistics**

Jernkontoret prepares forecasts for the Swedish steel market and also contributes to international forecasting work. The business cycle and market conditions are monitored therefore on a continuous basis. Moreover, Jernkontoret draws up industry-specific statistics on production, foreign trade in steel products, deliveries and so on.

### **Communication and marketing**

Jernkontoret raises public awareness of steel and the steel industry in collaboration with the steel companies and associated industries and organisations.

### **Stipends and grants**

Jernkontoret administers foundations on behalf of which the Council decides on the disbursement of stipendiary awards and scholarships. These foundations offer grants and stipends for research, professional development, education and study trips. Furthermore, calls for applications for awards may be issued within several of Jernkontoret's technical areas.

### **Library and archives**

Jernkontoret's book collections are a longstanding aspect of this organisation. The library's shelves, extending over some 600 metres, hold documentary material

that covers such fields as the history of mining and metallurgy, research and development, environmental and energy issues as well as trade policy. The library premises include a collection of about 6 000 portraits of Swedish ore miners as well as picture collections featuring 7 000 illustrations of ironworks and mines at different periods.

### **Conference and banqueting facilities**

The time-honoured Jernkontoret building on Kungsträdgårdsgatan in central Stockholm houses modern conference premises of about 300 sq. m. These can be used for all types of conferences, meetings and social events for up to 150 persons.

### **Beehive on the roof**

Through the company Bee Urban, Jernkontoret sponsors a beehive on the roof of the Jernkontoret building. Honey bees in the hive (about 50 000 in number) contribute to creating a more ecologically sensitive city and to promoting biological diversity. What is more, these bees produce some 20 kg of honey per season.



## **Jernkontoret's history**

The name Jernkontoret has been in use ever since its foundation back in 1747. The establishment of the office as such had been under discussion since the 17th century. It was through the printer and book publisher by the name of Lars Salvius that the term "järnkontor" (Iron Office) first made a breakthrough in 1738.

Jernkontoret's first regulations were sanctioned in 1747 by King Frederick I, which means that Jernkontoret





is Sweden's oldest business organisation – and one of the oldest in Europe also.

According to the founding regulations, Jernkontoret, on the one hand, would work to ensure fair and reasonable prices for the products of the nascent iron industry and, on the other, facilitate the financing of the iron trade through paying the interest on the loans granted by the Bank of Sweden on weighed iron. Subsequently, all the Swedish ironworks would become co-owners of Jernkontoret.

In the 1760's Jernkontoret obtained the right to carry on its own money lending operations, a right that is no longer exercised. In strictly formal terms, Jernkontoret can even claim to be the country's oldest bank after the Bank of Sweden.

Already in its early years of operation, Jernkontoret started its advisory and research function in the technical area. This made a crucial contribution to the organisation's central position within the iron and steel industry. To be able to compete with foreign iron and to increase exports overseas the quality of the Swedish iron was of seminal importance.

The year 1817 saw the founding of a publication for the science of mining and metallurgy, Jernkontoret's Annals. Here originally were published technical studies and observations as well as reports from travel to foreign lands. Now, Jernkontoret's Annals constitutes one of the world's oldest trade publications. It is issued as an insert in the magazine Bergsmannen where Jernkontoret publishes industry notices.

**Jernkontoret's seal** since its foundation in the 1740's. The seal is still used in some contexts. The two horns filled with fruits and flowers symbolize wealth and abundance. The iron symbol shows that this prosperity is based on a foundation of iron. The box below with its long chain is a symbol of Jernkontoret's former banking activities.



## The Vision of Swedish steel industry

Every day the steel industry in Sweden contributes with its products to society worldwide. The steel industry now intends to become an even more active participant in the ongoing shift to a sustainable society – with a greater responsibility for people and the environment. Therefore, the steel industry in Sweden decided to adopt an industry-wide vision leading up to 2050:

## Steel shapes a better future

This vision implies three undertakings:

### We lead technical development

Our research and innovation revolutionise technology for tomorrow's society. Our steel constantly challenges the frontiers of engineering.



### We nurture creative individuals

Our working environment fosters new solutions for communities through global collaboration. Our creativity constantly challenges the limits of contemporary thinking.



### We create environmental benefits

Our production uses resources so efficiently that only products of value to the community leave our plants. Our ambition constantly challenges the limits of the possible.



With the accent on constant development and innovation, as well as the capability to identify opportunities in the challenges facing society, the steel industry can retain its leading role globally at the same time as production methods leave as small an environmental footprint as possible. Read more about how the steel industry is working to realise its vision on Jernkontoret's website, see [jernkontoret.se/visionen](http://jernkontoret.se/visionen)

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