

FI Analysis No. 48

Share of consumer credit in debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increases during economic recessions



By: Michael K. Andersson and Mehmet Üye *



Summary

In 2020, almost 130,000 individuals had a new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority that was related to consumer credit. Since the end of 2020, the general price level has increased (inflation) by almost 20 per cent. The Riksbank raised the policy rate during the same period, making it significantly more expensive to borrow money. In 2023, just over 160,000 individuals with consumer credit had new debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, which represents an increase of 23 per cent since 2020. The new debts that were related to consumer credit were 51 per cent higher than they were in 2020, measured in SEK.

Other debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority that were not related to consumer credit increased less. This shows that the share of consumer credit debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increases during economic recessions. The consumer credit debt measured in SEK increased more than the number of borrowers with new debts. This shows that the larger consumer credits have made a significant contribution to the increase in debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

There are two primary explanations for why consumer credit accounts for a larger share of the debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority. First, consumer credit institutions *issued more consumer credit* in 2023 than they did in 2020. As a result, more borrowers had debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority since a large share of customers experienced serious payment problems. Second, the *share* of borrowers that had debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased among customers of both the major and the niche banks. These banks often issue large loans. Even though they did not significantly increase their lending, more of their customers had debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority in 2023 compared to in 2020.

27 February 2025, FI Ref. 25-2664

* Andersson is employed at FI and Üye at the Swedish Enforcement Authority. The authors would like to extend special thanks to Cecilia Hegethorne Mogensen, Anna Hult, Magnus Karlsson, Maria Feldt, Marie Olausson, Moa Langemark, Mona Matsson, Lars Olausson and Davor Vuleta.

The FI Analysis series has been presented at an internal seminar at FI. The reports are

The share of customers that had a new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority was still largest for consumer credit institutions, but the largest volumes in SEK of unpaid consumer credit debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority is from the niche banks. Payment problems associated with consumer credit increased for borrowers of all ages except the youngest women. For middle-aged borrowers, payment problems increased the most.

Weak economic development in recent years

Households' finances have been under more stress since 2020. This FI Analysis aims to show how economic downturns impact the amount households borrow for consumption and how the downturn impacts the to the payment problems from consumer credit.

In the analysis, we have used information from FI's data collections and the Swedish Enforcement Authority's register. However, we have not combined data about individuals from the two authorities. The analysis does not include mortgages. Mortgages constitute a very large portion of total borrowing, but only a small portion of payment problems. This is because credit checks are more extensive for mortgages. Therefore, payment problems associated with other types of loans would be hidden by mortgage data.

We have previously analysed lending and payment problems. These analyses show that life events such as a divorce, low income and limited credit checks contribute to individuals with consumer credit experiencing payment problems (see Andersson, et al., 2021, and Andersson and Üye, 2021). In addition, the analyses show that there is a large difference between lenders in terms of the percentage of their customers that later experience payment problems.

In the previous analyses, we studied payment orders in 2020 that were associated with a loan and the percentage of these that were still registered as a debt with the Swedish Enforcement Authority in March 2022. The large banks had the smallest percentage of borrowers with such a debt – approximately one out of 1,000.¹ Consumer credit institutions had the largest percentage of borrowers with payment problems. Almost one out of 40 of these borrowers had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority (see Andersson and Üye, 2021). However, since niche banks have the most customers with consumer credit, their customers constitute the largest share of borrowers that have debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

In 2020, young men in particular experienced early payment problems (debt collection notice) due to loans (see Andersson and Üye, 2022). It was also more common for men under the age of 45 to experience severe payment problems (debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority) than women in the same age group. Among borrowers over the age of 45, however, there was a higher

¹ We describe the lender groups later in the document.

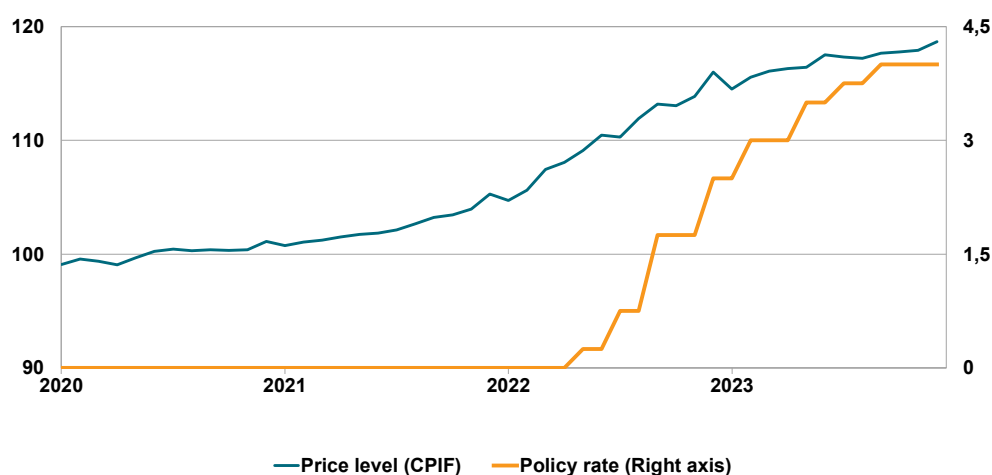
percentage of women who had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Larger debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority in 2023 than in 2020

Household expenses have increased (inflation) since our previous analyses, and prices in general were 17 per cent higher in 2023 than in 2020 (Diagram 1). At the same time, the Riksbank raised the policy rate several times during the period, from 0 to 4 per cent. Overall, this means that borrowers experienced much higher costs of living since their salaries did not increase at the same rate. They therefore had smaller margins in their finances in 2023 than they did in 2020.

Diagram 1. Price level and policy rate, 2020–2023

Index, 2020=100 and per cent



Source: The Riksbank and Statistics Sweden.

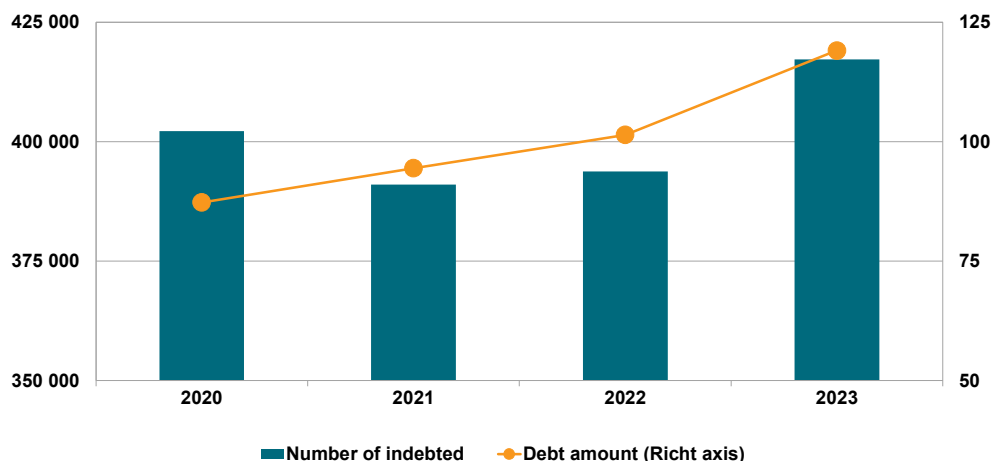
Compared to our figures from previous analyses, the number of individuals that have a debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased from 402,000 to 417,000 between 2020 and 2023 (Diagram 2).² This corresponds to an increase of almost 4 per cent.³ The total debt amount increased by 36 per cent during the period 2020–2023.

² Here, we refer to all debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority and not just unpaid loans.

³ The population also increased. Overall, the percentage of the adult population (registered at a Swedish address) that has a debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased from 3.8 per cent in 2020 to 3.9 per cent in 2023.

Diagram 2. Number of individuals with debt and total debt amount registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority

Number and SEK billion



Source: Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: The diagram shows the number and volume at the end of each year.

Unpaid loans are a common type of debt at the Swedish Enforcement Authority. However, there are many different types of debt. Debt to the government and municipalities – tax liabilities, maintenance allowances, unpaid student loans, and vehicle-related liabilities – account for one-fifth of the total volume. Other liabilities are to private firms or individuals. These liabilities include, for example, (unpaid) loans, mobile telephone bills, debts to the Swedish Motor Insurers, and parking fines.

The analysis is structured as follows. First, we present *the change* in the number of borrowers and consumer debt volumes between the years 2020 and 2023. We have broken down lending into several lender groups and by the borrowers' age and gender. Finally, we combine the change in lending and payment problems and show the *percentage* of borrowers that experienced problems paying their loans in 2023 compared to in 2020.

Payment problems increased more than lending

Both lending and payment problems differ for the customers at the different lenders. This applies both to levels and growth rates between 2020 and 2023. Andersson and Üye (2022) use the number of borrowers and volume in SEK to discuss differences in lending and payment problems between various borrower groups in 2020. Here, we study the common payment problems in relation to loans in 2023 compared to in 2020.

There are big differences between the lenders, so we have divided them into six groups. *Large banks* offer loans both with and without collateral and in general have a more comprehensive range of products than other lenders. The large banks also offer many different types of savings options. *Niche banks* are often specialized in one or a few areas, for example consumer credit. *Non-property-backed financing companies* issue primarily loans that are collateralised by something other than a home – for example, cars and boats. *Credit card companies* mainly offer credit cards. *Sales-financing companies* provide loans when purchasing a product or service online or in a brick-and-mortar store. *Consumer credit institutions* offer loans without collateral to consumers. They often lend smaller amounts for a shorter period of time and at a high interest rate.

The payment problems we analyse in this report are debt collection notices, application for payment orders, and debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority. The first stage in payment problems is when a person does not pay a bill.⁴ If this happens, they will almost always receive payment reminders (Figure 1).⁵ Reminders incur a cost of SEK 60. If the borrower does not pay despite receiving the reminders, some lenders will send a bill for the debt collection notice. Other lenders opt to sell the loan or allow a debt collection company to pursue the claim. If there is a debt collection notice for the claim, the cost increases for the borrower, who must pay a fee of SEK 180. Debt collection notices are the second step in the chain of payment problems.

Lenders must send one payment reminder; after this, some send several reminders while others send a collection notice after the first reminder. Collection notices are more serious because they incur a higher cost for the borrower. Unpaid debt collection notices also lead to the next step in the chain of payment problems for the borrower.

If the company pursuing the debt collection case does not receive payment, at this stage it can choose to apply to the Swedish Enforcement Authority for a payment order, i.e., apply for assistance to have their claim determined. This will incur a cost of SEK 680 for the application and legal fees.⁶ For a borrower, the order can refer to a single payment or an entire loan.

⁴ If the payment is for a loan, the payment normally comprises interest, amortisation and any fees. This debt can also be an entire loan that has fallen due for payment.

⁵ Although one reminder could be a sign of a temporary payment problem, it can also be a sign of carelessness or a decision by the borrower to delay the payment. However, multiple reminders for the same loan are a first indication of recurring payment problems.

⁶ There is usually a representative for the person that would like to receive payment, but it is the person who must pay the debt that pays the fee for this representative.

A borrower who disregards their payment orders receives a so-called verdict.⁷ This is the fourth step. A basic enforcement fee of SEK 600 is then added upon implementation. Implementation is the Swedish Enforcement Authority's measure to forcibly implement a decision.⁸ If the debt is identified for collection, the borrower may also be assigned a record of non-payment with the credit rating agencies.⁹ In addition, a debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority will continue to increase due to interest and fees even after a decision. See Kronofogden (2008) for a complete review of the process and procedure in the event of payment problems.

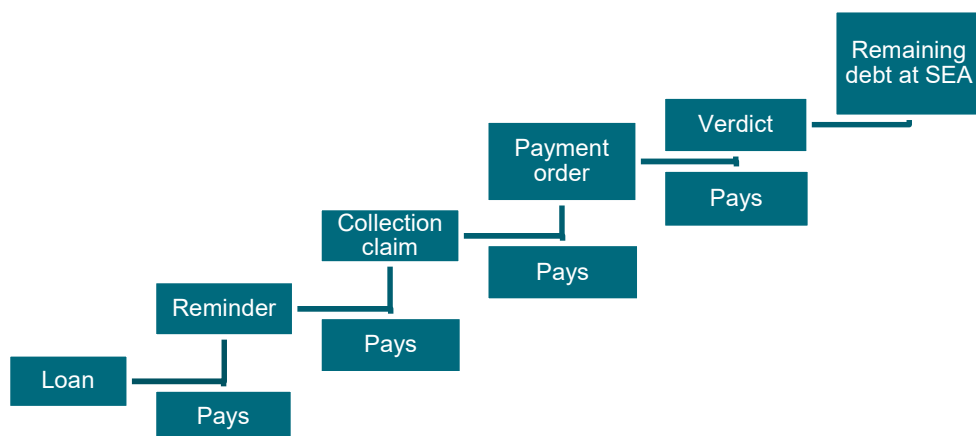
One important difference between this analysis and FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority's previous analyses is that we are now studying the borrowers who received a *verdict* from the Swedish Enforcement Authority instead of borrowers who still had a registered debt fourteen months after 2020. This difference is because the date on which we obtained the data for this analysis was less than fourteen months after 2023. In this analysis, we use the verdicts even in comparisons to 2020. The percentage of borrowers that receive a verdict is larger than the percentage that still have a registered debt after the verdict. This is because borrowers can still pay their debt or be subject to collection after the verdict. In this report, we use the word *verdict* to refer to debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

⁷ A verdict is the Swedish Enforcement Authority's decision that an individual is obligated to pay and can be viewed as equivalent to a court ruling. A verdict entails that, as the next step, the person who would like to receive payment can apply to the Swedish Enforcement Authority to collect the debt. The recipients of orders to pay can dispute the orders. The person who would like to receive payment can then request that the matter be turned over to the district court for continued examination.

⁸ Examples of implementation include attachment of earnings and eviction.

⁹ A record of non-payment shows that the person has not managed their payments. This may, for example, result in the person not being able to borrow money, rent an apartment or get a phone subscription.

Figure 1. Steps in the payment problem chain



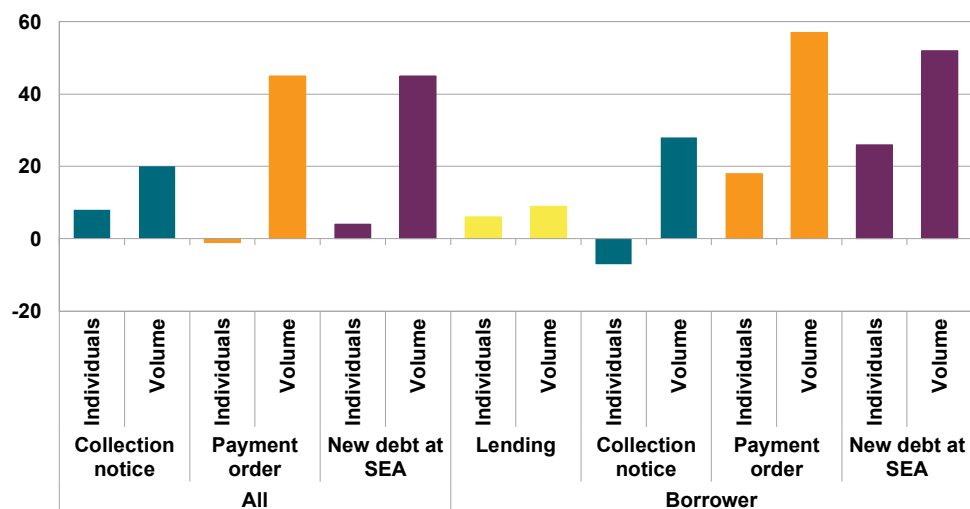
Source: Own illustration.

Consumer credit lending increased slightly

The number of individuals with new consumer credit in 2023 was 6 per cent higher than in 2020 (Diagram 3). And their loans were 9 per cent larger measured in SEK. When households have smaller margins, their need (demand) for loans increases. In contrast, when the interest rate increases, their demand for loans decreases. In addition, there are differences between individuals. Those with slightly larger margins can delay, or completely avoid, borrowing money at the higher interest rates. Those with smaller margins may be forced to borrow even though the cost is higher. Another factor is the credit assessment. It has become more difficult to obtain a loan from the companies that conduct a more extensive credit check since the margin between income and expenses has decreased for most households. Therefore, more individuals may have chosen to borrow from companies that conduct limited credit checks.

Diagram 3. Change in lending and payment problems between 2020 and 2023

Per cent



Source: FI, Swedish Enforcement Authority and Svensk Inkasso.

Note: The diagram shows the change in each variable between 2020 and 2023. *New debt at SEA* refers to verdicts from the Swedish Enforcement Authority. *All* refers to all types of debt, and *Borrower* refers to persons with unpaid loan debt.

The interest rate explains the changes in each company's lending between 2020 and 2023. The large banks decreased their lending, in both number of individuals (-19 per cent) and lending volume (-27 per cent) (Diagram 4). This is most likely because fewer customers at the large banks wanted to borrow money (lower demand) since the interest rate increased by 3–4 percentage points between 2020 and 2023.¹⁰ Relatively speaking, the interest rate on loans from the large banks increased the most. In addition, it is also possible that fewer individuals passed the large banks' credit check and thus were not *allowed* to borrow, even though they *wanted* to.

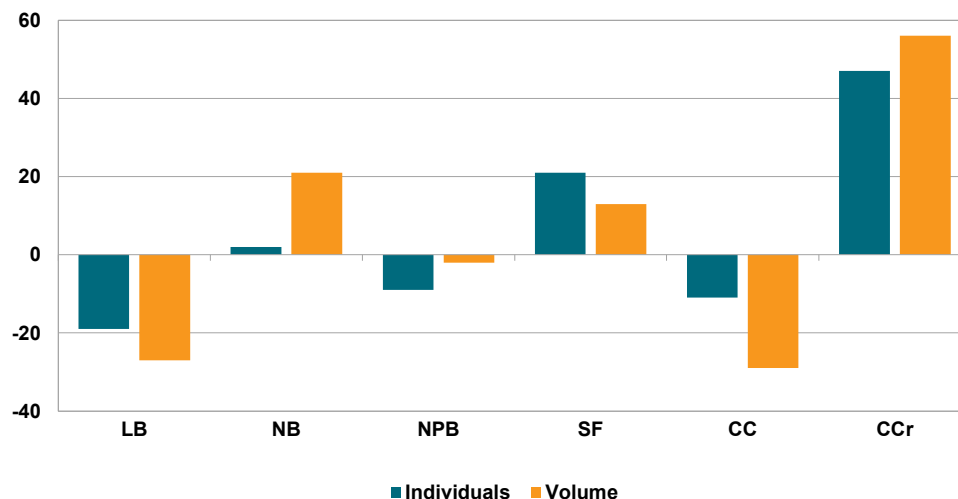
Approximately the same number of individuals borrowed from the niche banks in 2023 as in 2020. However, they borrowed more on average, which is reflected in the niche banks' total lending increasing by just over 20 per cent. The largest increase was among consumer credit institutions, where approximately 50 per cent more borrowers borrowed amounts that were approximately 50 per cent larger. This means that their average loan size was approximately the same in both 2020 and 2023. The large increase is probably due to their borrowers often having smaller margins in their finances. Therefore, their borrowers may have needed to

¹⁰ In 2020, the interest rate on an unsecured loan was approximately 5 per cent at the large banks and 8 per cent at the niche banks (see Andersson and Üye, 2022a). We then assume that the interest rate increased by almost as much as the policy rate – the annual average of which increased by just over 3.5 per cent.

borrow more to pay their expenses during the economic downturn. At the same time, the interest rate on loans from consumer credit institutions did not increase as much, relatively speaking, due to the interest rate ceiling.¹¹

Diagram 4. Change in lending between 2020 and 2023, broken down by lender

Per cent



Source: FI.

Note: LB is large banks, NB niche banks, NPB non-property-backed financing companies (car and boat loans), SF sales-financing companies (invoices and instalments), CC credit card companies, and CCr consumer credit institutions. In terms of invoices, we only considered invoices that entailed an extra cost. This primarily has an impact on the sales-financing companies' calculations since they issue a lot of invoices. If we had considered all invoices, their share would have been considerably lower.

Large increase in payment problems

In terms of *total debt*, payment problems have increased more in SEK than in number of individuals (Diagram 3). The number of individuals that had a *new debt* (regardless of the type of debt) registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, for example, increased by 4 per cent compared to in 2020. But their debt amount was 45 per cent larger in 2023.

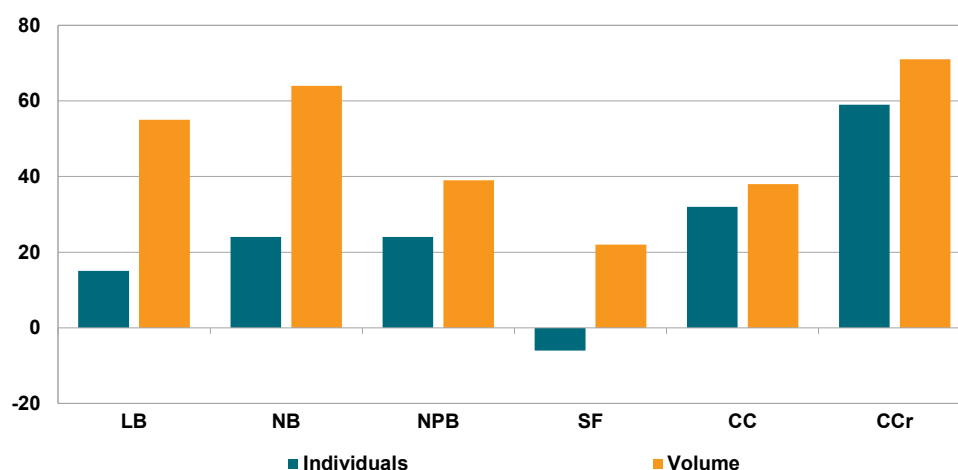
The number of borrowers experiencing payment problems increased by 26 per cent – from 130,000 in 2020 to 160,000 in 2023. At the same time, their new debts were 51 per cent larger. This clearly shows that serious payment problems that are associated with loans have increased more than for other types of debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority. The greater increase in volume than in

¹¹ The interest rate ceiling sets an upper limit – 40 per cent plus a reference rate – for the variable interest rate on a loan. The ceiling increased from 40 per cent in 2020 to 42.5 per cent in 2023.

the number of individuals shows that the problems increased the most among individuals with large loans. It also shows that the payment problems increased for loans from large banks and non-property-banked financing companies even though their lending decreased (Diagrams 4 and 5). The niche banks' customers borrowed more in 2023 than they did in 2020. And their debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased significantly more during the period. Three of the lender groups – large banks, non-property-backed financing companies, and niche companies – often issue large loans. We see the same differences over time in debt collection notices and orders to pay as in the debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority (Table A1 of Appendix A).

Diagram 5. Change in debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority between 2020 and 2023, broken down by lender

Per cent



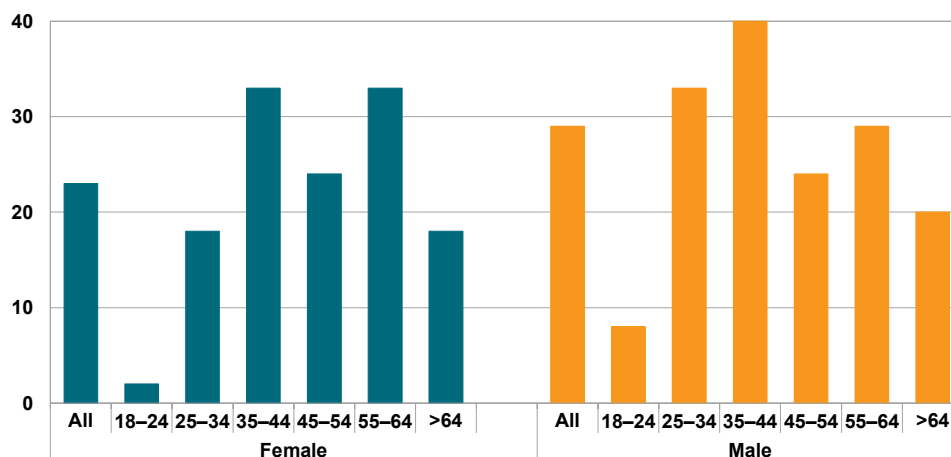
Source: Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: LB is large banks, NB niche banks, NPB non-property-backed financing companies (car and boat loans), SF sales-financing companies (invoices and instalments), CC credit card companies, and CCr consumer credit institutions. In terms of invoices, we only considered invoices that entailed an extra cost. This primarily has an impact on the sales-financing companies' calculations since they issue a lot of invoices. If we had considered all invoices, their share would have been considerably lower.

The extent to which women and men experience payment problems differs (see Andersson and Üye, 2022). Payment problems associated with loans increased for borrowers of all ages (Diagram 6). The number of borrowers that have debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased the least among the youngest age groups and measured in SEK the debt even decreased for the youngest women (Table B1 of Appendix B). The problems increased the most for middle-aged individuals. See Appendix B for more information about lending and payment problems of women and men in different age groups.

Diagram 6. Change in borrowers with new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority between 2020 and 2023, broken down by gender

Per cent



Source: Swedish Enforcement Authority.

There are several reasons for the increase in payment problems

In 2019, loans served as the basis for 40 per cent of the orders to pay (see Andersson, et al., 2021). The corresponding figure for 2023 was 46 per cent. This shows once again that the weak economic development has had a greater impact on individuals with consumer loans than those that do not have such loans. The serious payment problems associated with loans increased significantly more than lending. This is in part because older loans can also lead to payment problems. Some of the individuals that borrowed at low (variable) rates may have experienced difficulty paying once the interest rate went up.

The development in lending and payment problems shows that *the share of* borrowers that had new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased for all company types except sales-financing companies.¹² The relative increases in the shares were largest among the customers who borrowed from the large banks, the non-property-backed financing companies, and the credit card companies (Diagram 7).¹³ But, at the same time, the percentage of borrowers that had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority in 2023 was lowest

¹² Sales-financing companies mainly issue loans in the form of invoices and instalments when purchasing goods and services – online or in stores.

¹³ Credit card companies' primary product is credit cards. Non-property-backed financing companies issue loans that use collateral other than the home. This kind of collateral is often a car.

among those that borrowed from the large banks and the non-property-backed financing companies.

The increase in the share that had new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority was smaller among the customers of consumer credit institutions than those of the large banks and niche banks. But those borrowing from the consumer credit institutions still represented the largest share that had new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority in 2023. One out of twenty of these borrowers received a verdict in 2023.¹⁴ This is in line with those that borrow from consumer credit institutions often have lower income (see Andersson and Üye, 2021). And those that have lower income more often experience serious payment problems (see Andersson et al., 2021).

Diagram 7. Share of borrowers that have new debt registered with the Enforcement Authority, broken down by lender

Per cent



Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: LB is large banks, NB niche banks, NPB non-property-backed financing companies (car and boat loans), SF sales-financing companies (invoices and instalments), CC credit card companies, and CCr consumer credit institutions. In terms of invoices, we only considered invoices that entailed an extra cost. This affects in particular the sales-financing companies' calculations since they issue a lot of invoices. If we had considered all invoices, their share would have been considerably lower.

The number of borrowers from a given lender that has new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority is dependent on

- how *many* borrow from the company.
- the *percentage* of the borrowers from the company that has debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

¹⁴ This percentage cannot be compared with the percentage that still had the debt in 2022 due to an order to pay in 2020 – one out of 40 borrowers – from Andersson and Üye (2022). This is because some individuals pay their debt after having received a verdict or the debt has been withdrawn.

The increase in borrowers' new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority is related to both that some types of borrowers are borrowing more and that the share that have debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority has increased among other borrowers. And the link is through the lender groups.

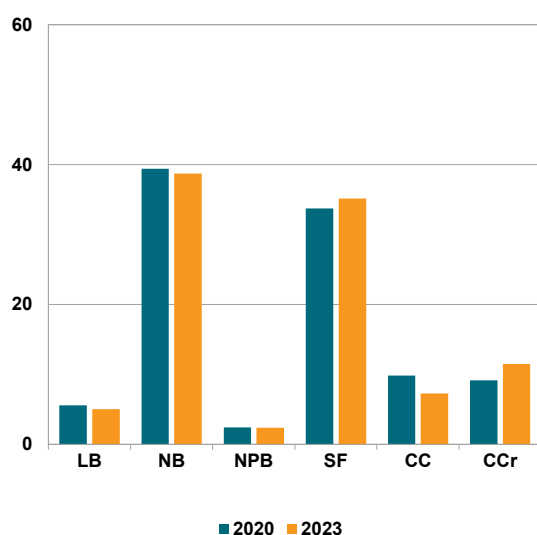
More lending from the consumer credit institutions contributes to more debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

The increase in the loans' share of debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority is partly related to the increase in lending from consumer credit institutions. The share of their customers that had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority only increased slightly. Therefore, it is primarily the *increase in lending* from the consumer credit institutions that resulted in more of their customers having debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

The borrowers from consumer credit institutions still have the largest *share* that have new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority. But the institutions' borrowers only constitute 2 per cent of all borrowers. In terms of all borrowers that had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, 12 per cent derived from the consumer credit institutions in 2023 (Diagram 8).

Diagram 8. Distribution of borrowers that have new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, broken down by lender

Per cent of individuals

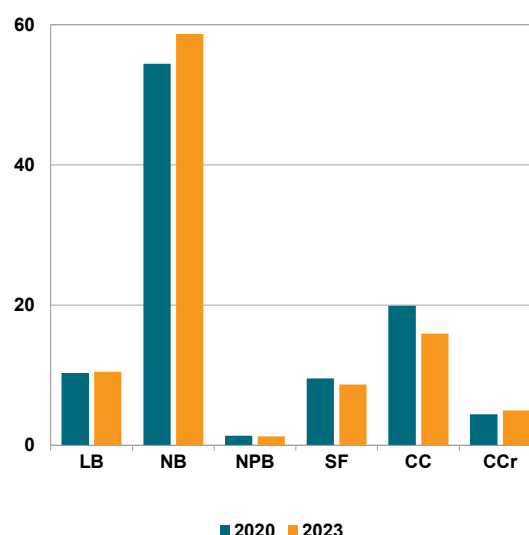


Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: The columns total 100 per cent for each respective colour. LB is large banks, NB niche banks, NPB non-property-backed financing companies (car and boat loans), SF sales-

Diagram 9. Distribution of volume of new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, broken down by lender

Per cent of SEK



Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: See the note to Diagram 8.

financing companies (invoices and instalments), CC credit card companies, and CCr consumer credit institutions. In terms of invoices, we only considered invoices that entailed an extra cost. This primarily has an impact on the sales-financing companies' calculations since they issue a lot of invoices. If we had considered all invoices, their share would have been considerably lower.

Larger share of indebted borrowers from large and niche banks contribute to more debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

More large loans, particularly from major and niche banks, have also led to serious payment problems. In these cases, it is primarily the *share* of the large loans that has become new debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority that has increased even if the lending has not increased as much. The niche banks often issue large unsecured loans, and they account for the largest volume of loans (in total) that lead to debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority. Even the debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority that is associated with loans from the large banks increased between 2020 and 2023 even though their lending decreased. Many of the large loans that end up at the Swedish Enforcement Authority are probably older loans. This shows that it is important for the credit check to consider increased costs and a higher interest rate.

Niche banks account for six out of ten Swedish krona of loan debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority

Of the borrowers who have debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, most have borrowed from a niche bank. They constituted almost 40 per cent of all borrowers that had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority (Diagram 8). This was slightly less than in 2020. Sales-financing companies accounted for almost one-third of the borrowers who had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority in 2023. Even if there were more borrowers at the large banks that had new debts registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority, their share of the total number of indebted decreased.

In terms of loan volume, the niche banks account for an even larger share of the most serious payment problems – almost six out of ten Swedish krona that were registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority were loans from niche banks (Diagram 9). This is a larger share than in 2020. The customers of the large banks and sales-financing companies accounted for 10 per cent each, and the customers of consumer credit institutions accounted for 5 per cent of the volume.

References

Andersson, M.K., A. Bergling and M. Üye (2021), “Loans, Repayment Problems and Debts with the Swedish Enforcement Authority”, FI Analys 32, Finansinspektionen.

Andersson, M.K. and M. Üye (2021), “Lender significance for repayment problems and debt at the Swedish Enforcement Authority”, FI Analysis 35, Finansinspektionen.

Andersson, M.K. and M. Üye (2022), ” Loans and payment problems among women and men”, FI Analys 38, Finansinspektionen.

Kronofogden (2008), “Alla vill göra rätt för sig – Överskuldsättningens orsaker och konsekvenser”.

Appendix A. Lending and payment problems – lender groups

Table A1. Change in new lending and payment problems between 2020 and 2023, broken down by lender

Per cent

		LB	NB	NPB	SF	CC	CCr	All
Lending	Indiv	-19	2	-9	21	-11	47	6
	Vol	-27	21	-2	13	-29	56	9
Debt collection notice	Indiv	-1	16	19	-18	-1	89	-7
	Vol	2	59	38	36	21	130	28
Order to pay	Indiv	29	14	31	-7	18	56	18
	Vol	78	69	49	21	34	74	57
Debt SEA	Indiv	15	24	24	-6	32	59	26
	Vol	55	64	39	22	38	71	52

Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: LB is large banks, NB niche banks, NPB non-property-backed financing companies (car and boat loans), SF sales-financing companies (invoices and instalments), CC credit card companies, and CCr consumer credit institutions. For the type of loan *invoices*, we only considered invoices that entailed an extra cost for the invoicee. *Debt SEA* refers to verdicts from the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Appendix B. Payment problems by gender

The increase in consumer credit for women and men was approximately the same between 2020 and 2023 (Table B1), and the increase in lending was relatively evenly distributed between the different age groups. However, if we look at the results broken down into both gender and age, we note differences between the groups – in terms of both the number of borrowers and the loan volume (in SEK).

Unpaid loan debt increased most among middle-aged borrowers

In terms of the number of borrowers, the increase was largest in the group Women 55+. In terms of volume, Men 35–44 and Women 55–64 borrowed more in 2023 than in 2020. Lending to young adults (18–24) increased the least in terms of SEK. Young women even borrowed less in 2023 than they did in 2020. The number of women in the oldest age group (64+) increased significantly more the size of their loans (in SEK). This indicates that more women in this age group took small loans in 2023 than in 2020.

In total, the number of borrowers that received a debt collection notice decreased between 2020 and 2023 (Table 2). Debt collection notices decreased more for women than for men, and they decreased most notably for women older than 45.

The increase in the number of orders to pay (due to loans) was approximately twice as large for men than it was for women. This is mostly explained by many women taking small loans that often are easier to pay. The increase in the volumes is almost the same regardless of gender, though, which shows that the size of the women's orders to pay has increased more than it has for the men. We see approximately the same development for borrowers who had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority as we do for those who received an order to pay. In terms of the number of individuals, debt increased slightly more for men. And the volumes have increased equally between both women and men.

Neither lending nor payment problems increased notably among young borrowers between 2020 and 2023. Young women even borrowed less and experienced fewer payment problems in 2023. Middle-aged individuals (35–64) borrowed the most, and their loans are often larger than in other age groups. In addition, middle-aged individuals often have the highest costs of living. Therefore, both higher inflation and higher interest rates hit these age groups hardest. As a result, we are seeing that payment problems also increased the most in these groups.

Women older than 64 had the greatest increase in the number of borrowers, 16 per cent. Within this group, the number that had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased by approximately the same amount. The number of borrowers among men older than 64 increased less, 6 per cent, but those who had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority increased at the same extent as the women in the same age group.

Table B1. Change in lending and payment problems between 2020 and 2023, broken down by age and gender

Per cent

	Age	Loans		Debt collection		Order to pay		Debt SEA	
		Indiv	Vol	Indiv	Vol	Indiv	Vol	Indiv	Vol
Women	All	6	9	-7	28	12	53	23	51
	18–24	4	-5	-4	-2	-12	-13	2	-13
	25–34	2	2	1	26	7	38	18	34
	35–44	8	13	0	40	22	67	33	61
	45–54	1	7	-18	24	11	66	24	64
	55–64	12	15	-11	37	26	64	33	64
	>64	16	7	-24	3	27	30	18	29
	All	4	10	-3	18	24	59	29	53
Men	18–24	7	3	3	0	-3	2	8	1
	25–34	3	9	4	35	24	51	33	47
	35–44	7	18	6	38	34	84	40	68
	45–54	-3	6	-14	7	22	65	24	63
	55–64	6	11	-10	-3	26	51	29	49
	>64	6	4	-15	4	27	16	20	23
	All	5	10	-5	21	18	57	26	52
	Total	5	10	-5	21	18	57	26	52

Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority

Note: *Indiv* is the change in the number of individuals, and *Vol* is the change in volume (in SEK). *Debt SEA* refers to verdicts from the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Largest share of payment problems among young men

We have looked at the development in lending and payment problems in the text above. We will now describe the share of borrowers that experienced serious payment problems in 2023.

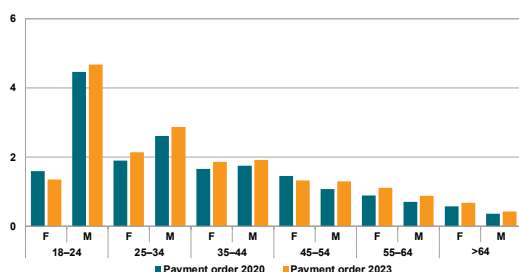
The percentage of borrowers that received an order to pay and had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority was higher in 2023 than in 2020

(Diagrams B1 and B2). The percentage of borrowers that experienced payment problems was higher in all age groups except the youngest women and the women in the age group 45–54. The largest increase in payment problems was for men under the age of 35. This is also the group where the percentage of those experiencing payment problems is largest.

Among the youngest men (ages 18–24), almost one in 20 borrowers (minimum) received an order to pay in 2023, and more than one in 40 had debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority.¹⁵ The corresponding figures for the youngest women was one in 75 and one in 125, respectively.

The percentage of borrowers experiencing payment problems decreases with age. The difference in payment problems between men and women also decreases with the borrower's age. Up to the age of 44, it is more common for a man to receive an order to pay and have a debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority. But after the age of 45, it is more common for women to experience these payment problems.

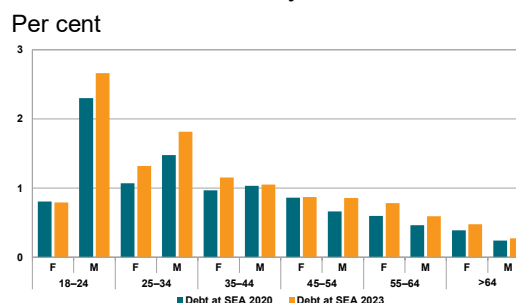
Diagram A1. Share of borrowers that have an application for an order to pay
Per cent



Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: The diagram shows the share of consumer credit borrowers that received an order to pay in 2020 and 2023. F denotes female and M male.

Diagram A2 Share of borrowers with debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority
Per cent



Source: FI and the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Note: Debt registered with the Swedish Enforcement Authority is debt for which a verdict has been issued due to an order to pay in 2020 or 2023. F denotes female and M male.

¹⁵ We have used verdicts in the calculation here. Therefore, the figures should not be compared to those in Andersson and Üye (2022).