

IFN, the Research Institute of Industrial Economics, is an independent research institute. Our goal is to conduct research of the highest international quality in areas of central importance for industrial development within Sweden and beyond.



The Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN) is a private and independent foundation devoted to pursuing highly relevant research for trade and industry. In today's world of intense, knowledge-driven competition, research is duly increasing in specialization, yet so is the need for a broad societal perspective. The researchers at IFN are united in their belief that economic methods offer a powerful tool for understanding society.

IFN is one of Sweden's leading research environments within the field of economics. We undertake research relevant to policy without sacrificing scientific quality, which is the only way to win the confidence of researchers, experts, and decision-makers.

We believe that IFN's status as a private institute is one of its strengths. Public sector grants and priorities have always played a large role in deciding economic research. In contrast, IFN has ensured the existence of industry-specific economic research in Sweden

throughout the decades. We were, for example, among the first institutes to examine the connection between entrepreneurship and economic growth.

We have a long tradition of conducting high-quality research with integrity. Our research topics evolve with time, and we strive to address the most pressing issues as early as possible. In so doing, we remain an important figure in the research world as well as in the public debate.

*Magnus Henrekson, Professor and President*

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## Our mission

The **Research Institute** of Industrial Economics (IFN) is a private, non-profit research institute. The Institute was founded in 1939 by the Federation of Swedish Industry (SI) and the Swedish Employers' Confederation (SAF) in order to encourage research on economic and social issues steeped in significance for industrial development. The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise is currently the Institute's principal.

Our mission is to:

- Conduct independent economic research of the highest international academic standing.
- Contribute high-quality analyses and policy recommendations to public and private decision-makers regarding issues of great relevance for Swedish trade and industry.
- Disseminate research results to the academic world and to society as a whole.

## Our research

**We focus on four research programs:**

**The Economics of Entrepreneurship.** Entrepreneurship is of crucial importance for realizing new ideas in well-functioning enterprises and contributing to economic growth. In spite of its significance, entrepreneurship is still a relatively unexplored area within the field of economics. We want to change that by examining the underpinnings of entrepreneurship, including patent issues and policies regarding research and development.

**Globalization and Corporate Restructuring.** Today's increasing international economic integration gives rise to both opportunities and threats for Swedish corporations and employees. Economic integration also influences society as a whole in a number of different ways. By studying trade agreements, economic policy, and ownership issues, among other topics, we offer new understandings of how globalization's positive effects are best harnessed and how its negative effects can likewise be assuaged.

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**Economics of the Service Sector.** The bulk of Sweden's labor force is employed in the service sector, including business services, personal consumption services and services financed by the public sector. Research on topics ranging from immaterial investments and the differences between the production of services under private and public management combine to provide a deeper understanding of the economy's service industry.

**Economics of Electricity Markets.** A dependable, cost-efficient electricity supply is among the foundations of a modern society. Yet many people wonder how well the electricity supply is functioning in Sweden and in other countries that have deregulated the electricity market. In this research program, we study the formation of electricity prices, electricity supply networks, and investment incentives with the aim of identifying possible improvements to the structure of the electricity market.

*Our researchers are also engaged in a number of individual research projects in addition to these four programs.*

#### **Non-partisan and independent research**

Our research is non-partisan and independent. Professional integrity and objectivity characterize all research and analysis conducted at the Institute. No research funding, neither personal nor institutional, is accepted for projects with predetermined results or specific policy stances.

## Our work

#### **Research publications**

IFN's researchers produce articles published in Swedish and international research journals, in addition to our own publication series. The researchers also write books and regularly conduct research assignments for government agencies, ministries and organizations such as the Centre for Business and Policy Studies (SNS) and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA).

#### **Conferences**

IFN regularly arranges research conferences. As articles within a given research area are presented at these conferences, they are mostly aimed at academics.

#### **Seminars**

IFN offers two forms of seminars: policy seminars directed at the larger public that address current social issues, and research seminars where IFN's own researchers or invited guests present new research within their fields.

#### **Newsletter**

IFN's electronic newsletter is published three to four times per year. The newsletter, which is directed toward the greater public interested in policy issues, varies in theme and contains overviews of our latest research findings and introductions to other areas of topical research.

#### **Website**

You can visit our website at [www.ifn.se](http://www.ifn.se) to read about our contributors, acquaint yourself with our research and receive information on future and past events. The English site is mostly aimed at researchers, while the Swedish site is directed toward everyone interested in our work.

#### **Our collaborations**

Collaborating with others is a matter of course for us as a research institute. Our researchers co-author articles with colleagues from other institutes, and many of them also teach at various universities and colleges. As part of our extensive program of guest researchers, leading Swedish and foreign researchers also visit the institute for some period of time, thereby contributing to our work.

We also collaborate with figures outside of the academic sphere. In conjunction with the Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, we award the annual prize *Global Award for Entrepreneurship Research*, the world's leading research prize in the field.