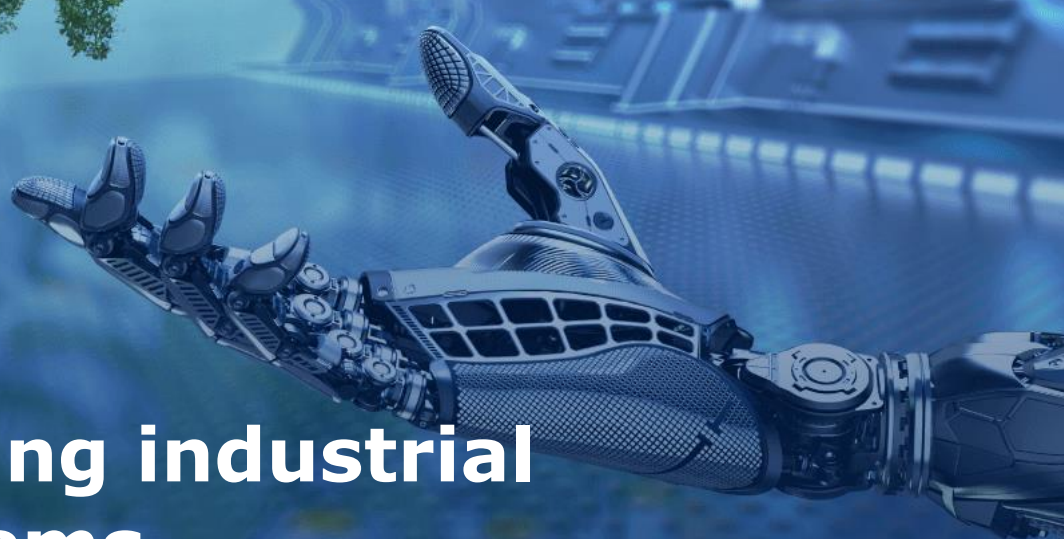




European
Commission



Monitoring industrial ecosystems

EU MEMBER STATES FACT SHEETS

Sweden

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Directorate D – Networks & Governance
Unit GROW.D.2 – Industrial Forum, Alliances, Clusters

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PDF	ISBN: 978-92-9469-742-4	doi: 10.2826/316486	EA-06-24-017-EN-N
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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2024
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Key Highlights

This country report has been developed as part of the 'European Monitor of Industrial Ecosystems' project of the European Commission, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency. It provides data insights into the twin transition and the technological performance of industrial ecosystems. The key findings of the report are summarised below:



Technological performance in industrial ecosystems:

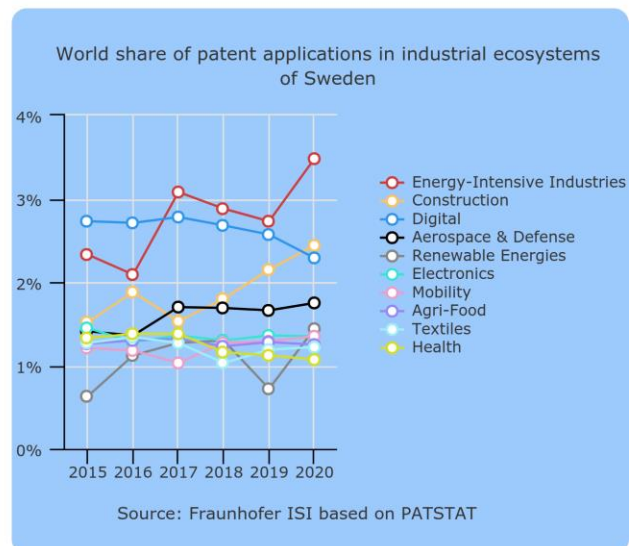
- Sweden had by far the highest country share of its patent applications in the **Energy Intensive Industries** industrial ecosystem, where it also shows some strengths within the EU27.

Digital and green transition technologies:

- Among the digital technologies monitored in this project, Sweden had the highest country share of patent applications in **Advanced Manufacturing**. In the field of green transition technologies, Sweden has generated most technologies related to **Energy Saving Technologies**.
- Trends over time in Sweden's share in the world patent applications show an overall increase in green transition technologies, especially in Energy Saving Technologies.
- In the field of digital technologies, an oscillating trend can be observed with a recent surge in the world share of Sweden in the **Internet of Things** from 2016 to 2020.

Capacity to produce goods based on digital and green technologies:

- Sweden's share of production in digital technologies over global production indicates that it created the highest value by the deployment of **Digital Mobility** technologies across all manufactured goods in the economy in 2021.
- Over the period from 2010 to 2021, Sweden's share has decreased across all digital technologies, and since 2018 it has started to increase again in Digital Mobility.
- In the field of green transition technologies, Sweden created the highest value by the deployment of **Renewable Energy Technologies**.



1. Introduction

This country report has been prepared within the '**European Monitor of Industrial Ecosystems**' (EMI) project, initiated by the European Commission, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). The overall goal of the project is to **analyse the green and digital transformation of industrial ecosystems**.

The EU's updated industrial strategy from May 2021¹ has outlined 14 industrial ecosystems that are in the focus of the project. The 14 industrial ecosystems include *aerospace and defence, agri-food, construction, cultural and creative industries, digital, electronics, energy intensive industries, energy-renewables, health, mobility – transport – automotive, proximity, social economy and civil security, retail, textile and tourism*. The industrial strategy defined industrial ecosystems as encompassing all players operating in a value chain: from the smallest startups to the largest companies, from academia to research, service providers to suppliers².

The objective of this report is to **present key findings from data** collected within the framework of this project at country level notably on **patent applications, production data, trade** (available only for ten industrial ecosystems), **private equity and venture capital** investments. Nonetheless, this report does not aim to be comprehensive; the data presented here only complement other important statistics on technology development in each country.

The monitoring framework has a technological focus. Industrial transition is driven by technological, economic, and social changes, and in particular by digital technologies and the shift to a green and circular economy. The green and digital technologies that have been taken into account are presented in the table below.

Table 1: Technologies monitored in the project by patent, trade and prodcom data

Green technologies	Digital technologies
Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology	Advanced Manufacturing & Robotics
Biotechnology (for sustainability)	Advanced Manufacturing
Energy Saving Technologies	Robotics
Renewable Energy Technologies	Artificial Intelligence
Solar Power	Big Data
Wind Power	Digital Security & Networks/ Cybersecurity
other (geothermal, hydropower, biomass)	Digital Technology for Mobility
	Internet of Things
	Micro- and Nanoelectronics & Photonics
	Micro- and Nanoelectronics
	Photonics

Source: Technopolis Group, IDEA Consult and Fraunhofer ISI

The methodological report that sets the conceptual basis and explains the technical details of each indicator is available on the [EMI website](#). This report was prepared by Cecilia Rolla, Technopolis Group, for the European Commission. However, it does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

¹ European Commission (2021). Communication on Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy, COM(2021)350 final https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-05/communication-industrial-strategy-update-2020_en.pdf

² European Commission (2020). A New Industrial Strategy for Europe, COM/2020/102 final [Commission Communication: A New Industrial Strategy for Europe | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

2. Advanced technologies fostering the green and digital transition of industrial ecosystems

2.1. Data sources

This chapter outlines a set of indicators that capture the capacities of EU Member States to generate technologies that foster the green and digital transformation of industrial ecosystems. Industries that are underpinned by a strong technology basis and supported by vibrant entrepreneurial communities have better conditions for success. The production of technology-based products indicates that technologies are commercialised, while a positive trade balance in technologies is a sign of international competitiveness.

Patent analysis is a widely used method for tracking technological development activities. With a view to industrial ecosystems under study in this project, technology generation and hence patenting takes place in a relatively limited number of ecosystems, while others mainly profit from technologies generated elsewhere. Technology development drives industrial transformation in a general way. The patent analysis is based on transnational patents, notably those filed through the WIPO PCT procedure³ or at the European Patent Office⁴ directly. They have been localised based on the address of the applicant. The different advanced technologies have been identified based on International Patent Classification (IPC) codes and keyword searches.

Trade data, more specifically export data, is a further relevant indicator to document industrial development at higher technology readiness levels. It informs on countries' competitive advantage in specific technology-based product areas. While somewhat simplistic, export strengths in certain technological areas still mark a specific relevance of technology relevant goods for the economy and remain among the reliable indicators of performance. The analysis focuses on trade balances based on UN Comtrade⁵ statistics processed specifically for the purposes of this project. The trade balance can help reveal how nations are intricately involved in supply chains with substantial imports and relevant exports. By putting exports in relation to parallel imports, it is possible to assess whether a country displays strength in production.

Prodcom data⁶ allows the monitoring of technology diffusion. Prodcom provides statistics on the production of manufactured goods carried out by enterprises on the national territory of the reporting countries. It helps measuring the uptake of technology through the production of manufactured goods by focusing on the specific components and elements enabled by green and digital technologies. Production data allows to measure to what extent technology-related products are being produced in the country. The production indicators are calculated based on product-level data from the Eurostat's Prodcom database.

Crunchbase data⁷ were used to analyse entrepreneurial dynamics and private equity and venture capital investment. Crunchbase is a widely trusted source of information on venture capital backed innovative companies. Technology startups represent key building blocks in the transition towards a more digital, green and resilient economic model. Entrepreneurial activity helps accelerate the diffusion of technologies in industrial ecosystems and startups that provide green and digital solutions are relevant indicators of how the industrial ecosystem is transforming itself to reach environmental sustainability objectives. More information about these data sources can be found in the methodological report of the project.

³ World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/>

⁴ European Patent Office Fostering Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection <https://www.epo.org/en>

⁵ UN Comtrade Database International Trade Statistics <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>

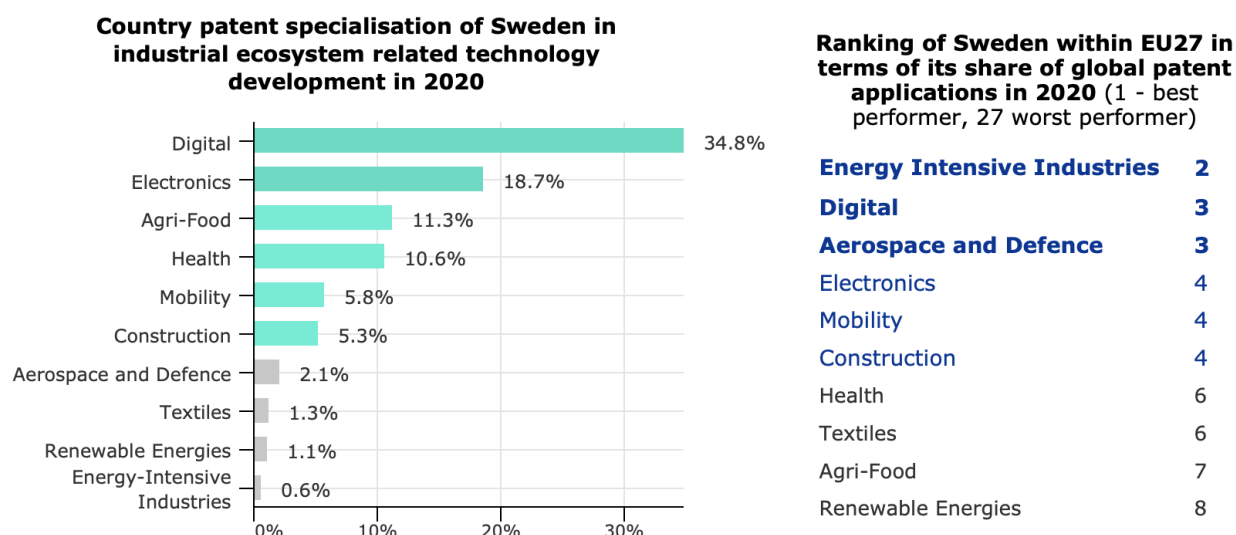
⁶ Eurostat European Industrial Production and Trade Statistics <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/prodcom>

⁷ Crunchbase - Discover innovative companies and the people behind them <https://www.crunchbase.com/>

2.2. Technology development in industrial ecosystems

Regarding technology development, Sweden has been the most specialised in the Digital, Electronics and Agri-Food industrial ecosystems in 2020 as captured by patent data. In a global comparison, it ranked second within the EU27 countries in Energy Intensive Industries, and third in Aerospace and Defence and also in Digital.

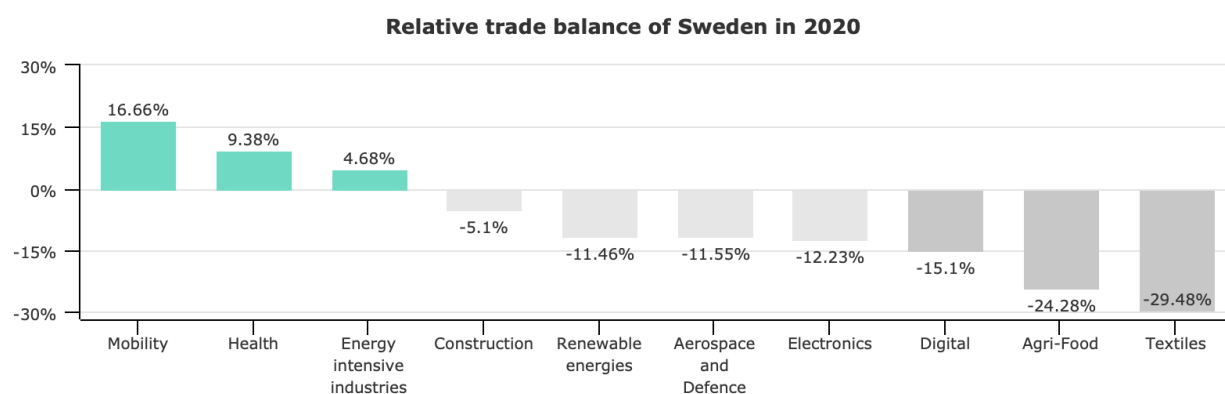
Figure 1: Country specialisation and world share (expressed in terms of ranking) in patent applications in industrial ecosystems related technologies



Source: Fraunhofer ISI based on Patstat

Trade is a common indicator of international competitiveness because it shows how attractive a country's products are outside of its domestic market. Total exports provide evidence about a country's role as a producer, and trade balance captures its sovereignty in certain areas of production. Figure 2 displays the trade balance in relation to overall trade volume by technology development in industrial ecosystems. Sweden registered a trade surplus in technology-based products related to Mobility, Transport and Automotive, Health and Energy Intensive Industries.

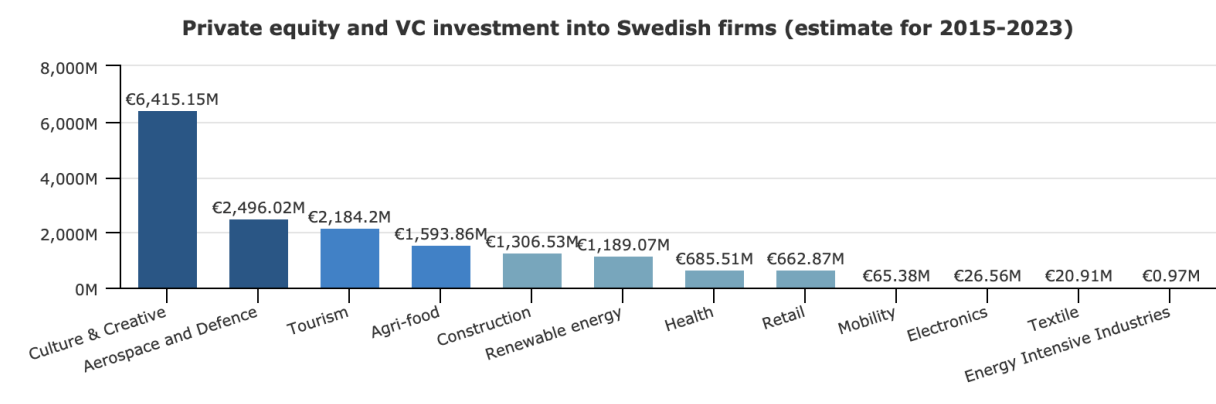
Figure 2: Trade balance in relation to overall trade volume $((exp - imp)/(exp+imp))$ (2020)



Source: Fraunhofer ISI based on UNCOMTRADE

Most private equity and venture capital investment went into innovative Swedish tech companies operating in the field of Cultural and Creative industries and Aerospace and Defence over the period from 2015 to 2023 as identified by Crunchbase data.

Figure 3: Private equity and venture capital investment into tech companies related to industrial ecosystems in Sweden

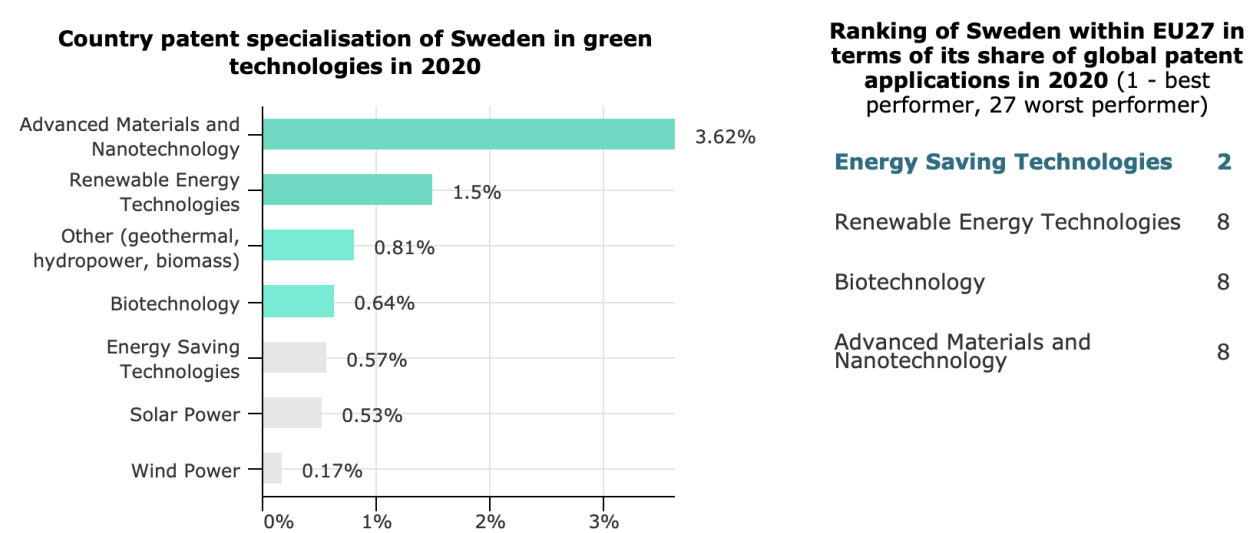


Source: Technopolis Group based on Crunchbase

2.3. Green transformation

Sweden has been the most specialised in generating technologies related to Energy Saving Technologies within its economy, which have the potential to drive the green transformation of its industries. Similarly, Sweden ranked at second place among the EU27 Member States in Energy Saving Technologies regarding its world share of patent applications.

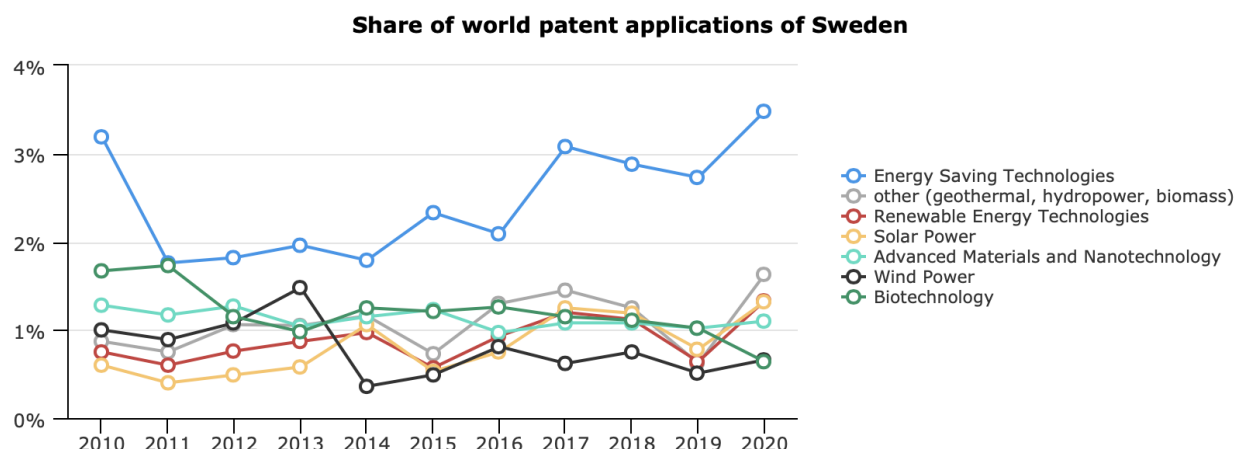
Figure 4: Country specialisation and world share (expressed in terms of ranking) in patent applications of Sweden



Source: Fraunhofer ISI based on Patstat

Trends in the world’s patent applications show that Sweden increased its global share in various fields including Other Renewable Energies such as geothermal, hydropower and biomass, in Wind Power and Solar Power. In the field of Energy saving technologies, the results of the analysis show a decreasing trend in Sweden’s global position.

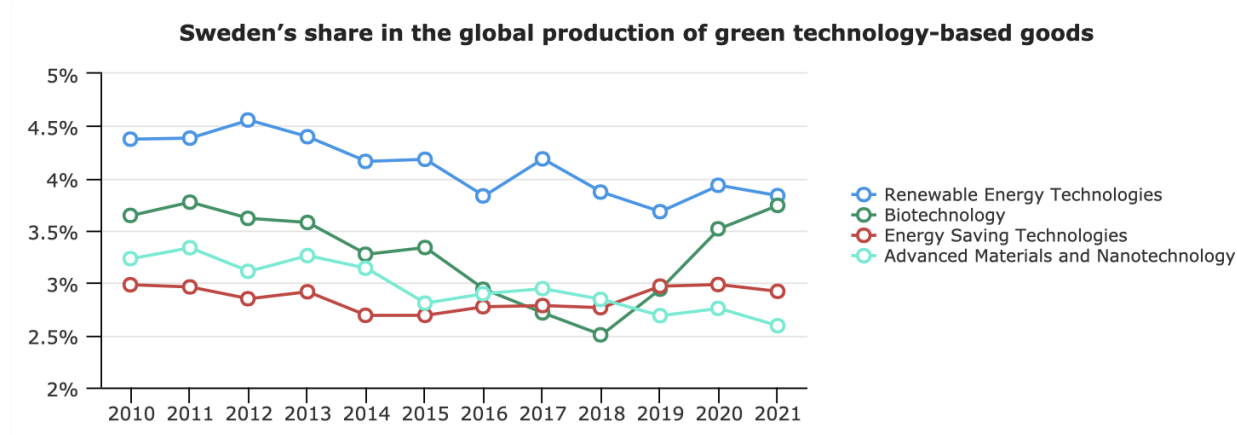
Figure 5: Trends over time in Sweden's share in world patent applications



Source: Fraunhofer ISI based on Patstat

The Prodcom-based indicator (as presented in the Figure below) measures the evolution of advanced technology-related production in Sweden for a given year. The share of production in a certain technology over Sweden's total production indicates a positive trend in Digital Mobility, the Internet of Things, Big Data and Digital Security technology-based products. However, it has decreased its share in Advanced Manufacturing from 2020 to 2021.

Figure 6: Production of advanced technology-based products in Sweden

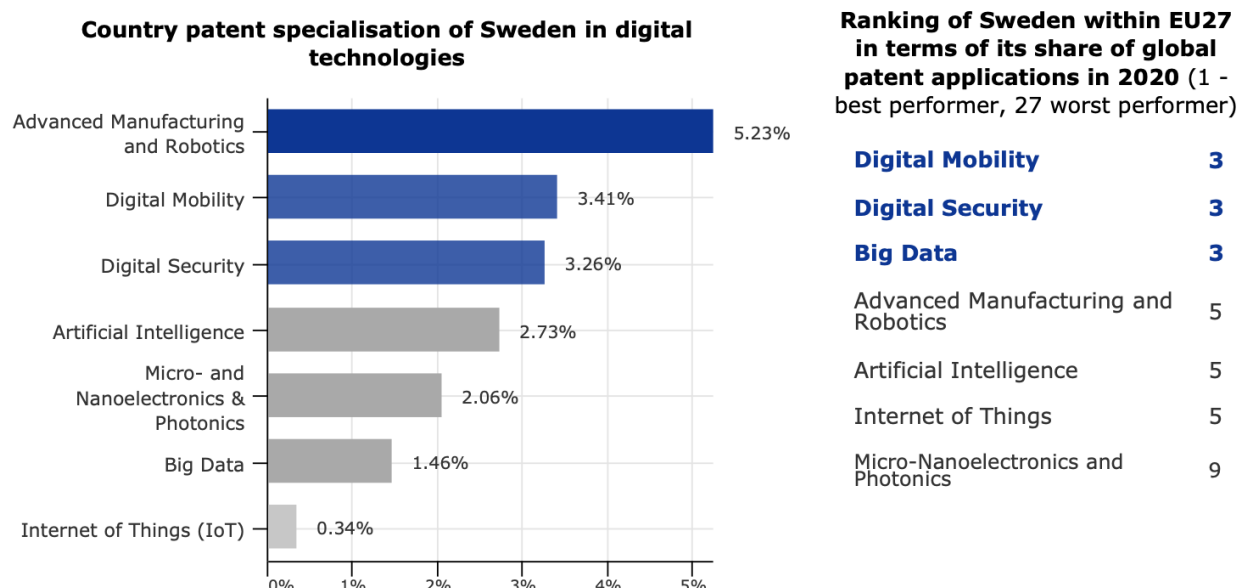


Source: IDEA Consult based on Prodcom data

2.4. Digital transformation

Among the digital technologies monitored in this project, Sweden has been the most specialised in Advanced Manufacturing Digital Mobility and Digital Security. In the latter two it had also ranked the highest in terms of its world share of patent applications among the EU27 Member States. It also demonstrates strengths in Big Data internationally.

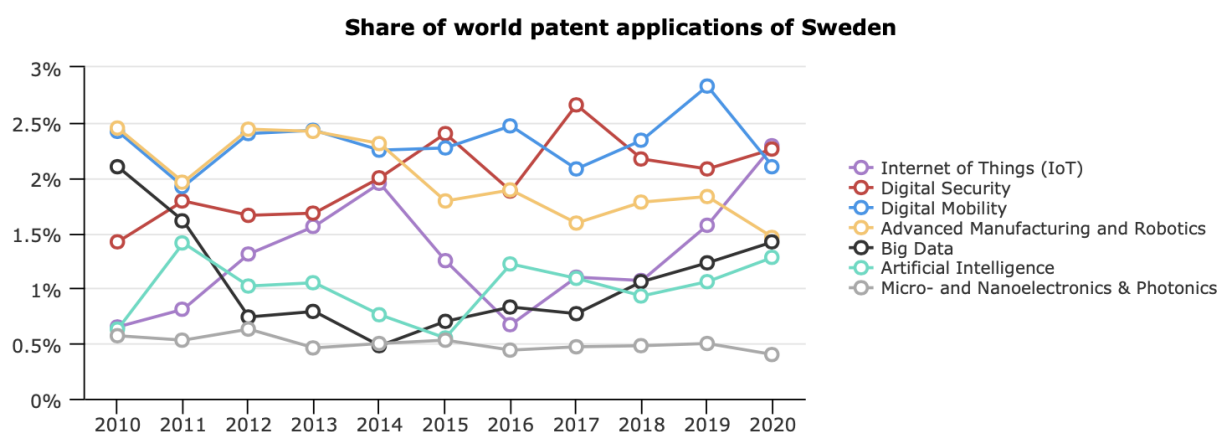
Figure 7: Country specialisation and world share (expressed in terms of ranking) in digital technology related patent applications of Sweden



Source: Fraunhofer ISI based on Patstat

Trends over time indicate that Sweden increased its global position in the fields of Digital Security, the Internet of Things, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence over the period from 2010 to 2020. Nevertheless, it has decreased its world share in the field of Digital Mobility, and in Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics.

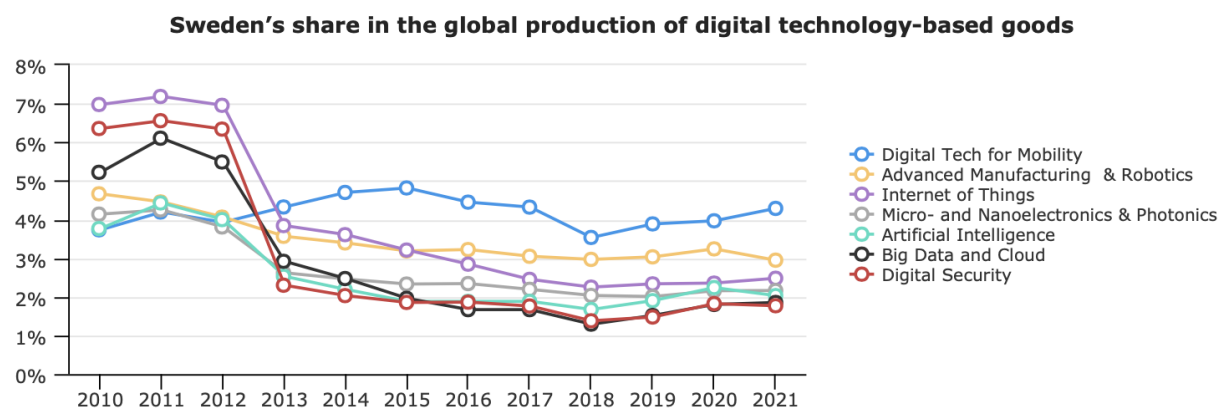
Figure 8: Trends over time in Sweden's share of world patent applications



Source: Fraunhofer ISI based on Patstat

The Prodcom-based indicator measures the share of Sweden in advanced technology-related production for a given year. The share of production in a particular technology over Sweden's total production indicates that it has the largest share in the field of Digital Mobility and Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics related products. In Digital Mobility it has increased its share of production from 2018 to 2021. Nonetheless, the production of Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics related products decreased over time.

Figure 9: Production of advanced technology-based products in Sweden



Source: IDEA Consult based on Prodcorn data

