

# Nordic Research

## A helicopter look at energy dependence

- **Energy inputs in to production varies significantly across the Nordics. The Danish manufacturing sector runs on far less energy compared to the OECD average. The Norwegian runs on a lot more.**
- **The direct energy consumption share is relatively low in the Nordics. Taking indirect energy input in to account, the energy intensity of consumption reflects the Nordics' production patterns.**
- **A model experiment confirms findings and shows DK/SWE/FIN production is less sensitive to an oil price shock. The same goes for private consumption, which is only affected by half as much as the euro area.**

### The importance of efficient energy usage has been pushed further forward by high energy prices

Energy prices have soared over the last eight months along with carbon emission prices. That leaves many businesses with large bills of which they might decide to pass all or some on in the value chain and to their customers. Having as energy efficient a production as possible is both a short term and long-term priority for businesses. We have taken a helicopter look at the energy intensity of the Nordic economies. We have used OECD's TiVA (Trade in Value Added) database, which maps global supply chains in a way not possible with conventional trade data.

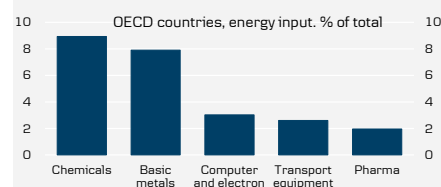
### The energy input in the Nordic manufacturing sectors varies significantly across countries

Among OECD countries, the energy input is particularly high in the production of chemicals and basic metals. Low energy intensive production includes pharmaceuticals, transport equipment and computers and electronics. The composition of production is key to a country's overall energy dependence.

**Norway** has a much higher energy input in its manufacturing exports compared to other countries, reflecting a large production of basic metals and refined petroleum products; both energy intensive production. Cheap hydropower gives Norway an edge here, and the electricity/gas input in production is also significantly higher than the OECD average. Zooming in on basic metals production, particularly the electricity/gas input is high. It constitutes 10.3% of total input in Norway compared to the 3.3% OECD average.

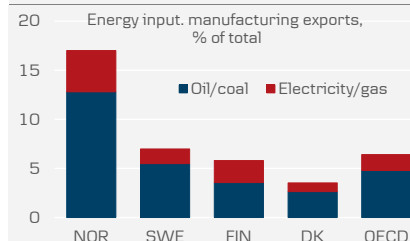
**Sweden** is slightly above the 6.4% OECD average, largely due to its production of refined petroleum products. Its large transport equipment production on the other hand pulls down in the overall energy intensity of manufacturing with Swedish transport equipment production being more energy efficient than the OECD average.

#### Most and least energy intensive manufacturing



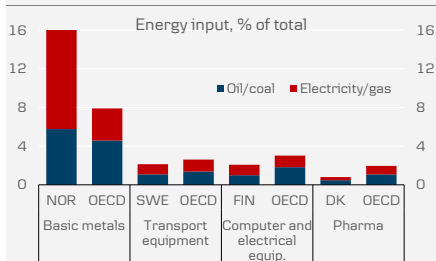
Sources: OECD TiVA data, Danske Bank

#### Norwegian production by far the most energy intensive among Nordics



Source: OECD TiVA data, Danske Bank

#### Energy efficiency in key production sectors.



Source: OECD TiVA data, Danske Bank

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**Finland** overall has a lower than average energy input in its manufacturing production, which is largely due to a large machinery and computer and electrical equipment production running on very little energy input.

**Denmark** has a significantly smaller energy input in manufacturing exports compared to the OECD average. Actually, it is the lowest among peers. A key reason is a large production of low energy input pharmaceuticals; a production that is even more energy efficient compared to peers. Energy efficiency in machinery and food production is also quite low.

Producer prices reflect the energy dependence in production. The increase in prices traded for Norwegian, Swedish and German manufactured goods have risen a lot more than Danish prices. Finnish prices have also increased sharply, largely due to a surge in prices on basic metals.

### Energy inputs in to consumption reflect production patterns

If instead we look at it from the consumers' perspective, HICP weights show that all the Nordics use a smaller proportion of total consumption on energy compared to the euro area. This is true both when including and excluding heat energy, which has varying input from fossil fuels. In that sense, the Nordics come out less energy intensive when looking from the demand side compared to the supply side.

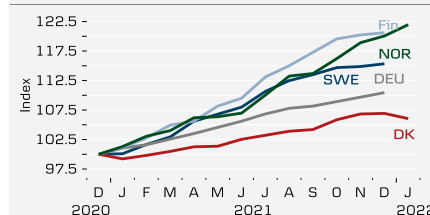
The picture is different when using the input-output approach and thus accounting for the indirect energy input as well. Then the data indicates that indirect energy inputs are quite large in the Nordics. Finnish and Swedish energy inputs in to consumption are slightly below the euro area average but above the OECD average. In Norway, the energy input is larger compared to both the euro area and OECD, even though the direct consumption of energy is not, reflecting the high energy dependency of production. Danish consumption remains less energy intensive than the rest of the pack, something that can also help explaining the economy's strong performance in 2022 despite surging energy prices.

### Model experiment confirms findings

Running an experiment with a 50USD increase in oil prices in Oxford's Economics' global economic model reflects the lower oil dependence in the manufacturing sector and consumption in the Nordics as a whole (excluding Norway).

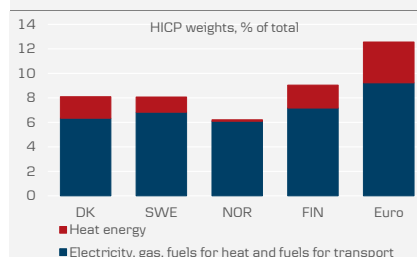
Industrial production declines by only about half as much in the first year in DK/SWE/FIN compared to the euro area. The effect converges with time, though. Real consumption in DK/SWE/FIN is also much less affected compared to the euro area. After one year, private consumption is down 0.4% in the Nordics, only half of the decline in the euro area.

#### Producer prices for manufactured goods



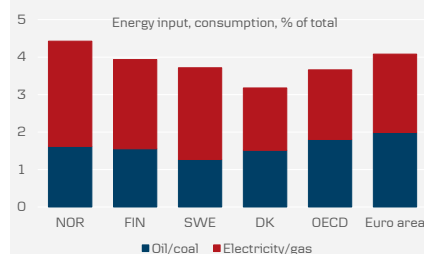
Source: Macrobond Financial, Danske Bank

#### Direct energy consumption share relatively low among Nordics



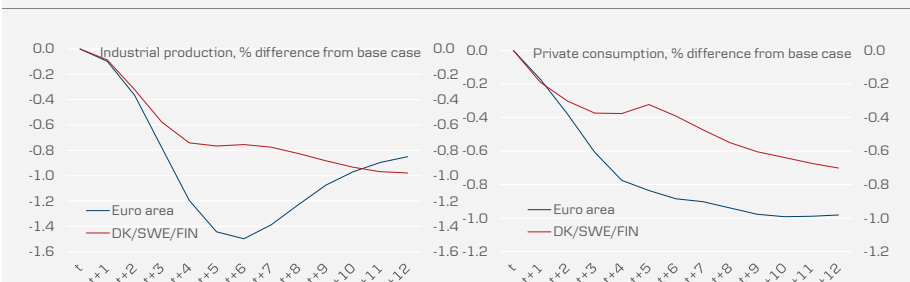
Source: Eurostat, Danske Bank

#### Nordic consumption more energy intensive when accounting for indirect consumption



Source: OECD TiVA data, Danske Bank

#### Reaction to USD50 oil price increase



Source: Oxford Economics global economic model, Danske Bank

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