How can the government contribute to the greening of the industry through promoting resource efficient systems for materials and metals?

Nancy Steinbach

Joint UNECE/OECD seminar on SEEA Implementation

March 2021



Who are Growth Analysis?

- Also known as a Productivity Commmission
- A small (about 40 people) government agency reporting to the ministry of enterprise and innovation
- that analyse and evaluate Swedish growth policy via:
- Structural transformation, innovation capacity, infrastructure for innovation and business dynamics, internationalisation and greening of the economy
- Also responsible for some official statistics (startups, bankruptcies etc)



Swedish policy emphasise circularity and sustainability

• The swedish government sets circularity as a top priority to solving both climate pressure and resource management.

The process industry at the heart of these initiatives.

• But in order to meet the expectations – can the market live up to them?





Issues at hand:

- How well-functioning is the market for recycled, secondary, materials and how well-functioning is the end market where the primary and secondary materials are traded?
- What economic significance does the recycling industry have for Sweden and what competitive advantages and disadvantages does the Swedish recycling industry have compared with other countries?
- Which policy and which instruments affect the secondary and primary market and are the instruments coherent?
- The framework project also aims to shed light on the differences in market conditions and policy implications for a bulk material and an innovation-critical material.

Data and building an understanding

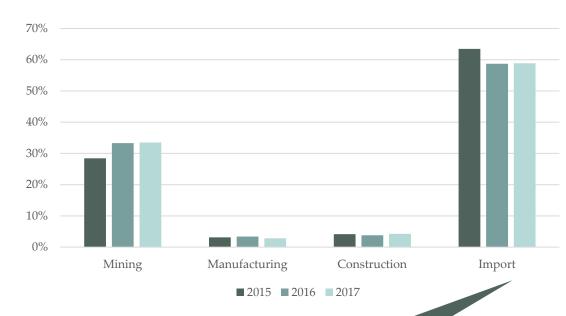
- Looking high and low for data nationally and internationally
- Economic data
- Data on metals
- Data on economic instruments
- Data on emissions (waste and CO₂)



- → Eurostat, IMF, OECD, USGS, interest organisations, Statistics Sweden, Swedish EPA, London metal exchange, etc.
- →using micro data as well as aggregated statistics!

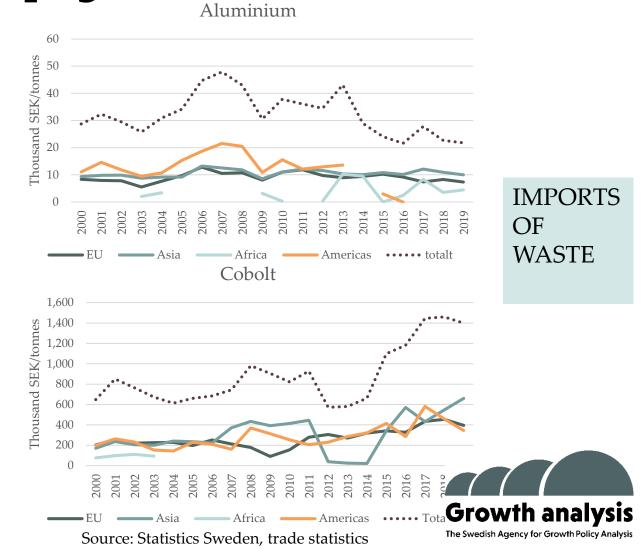
Now some examples on the basic understanding

Where does the supply come from?

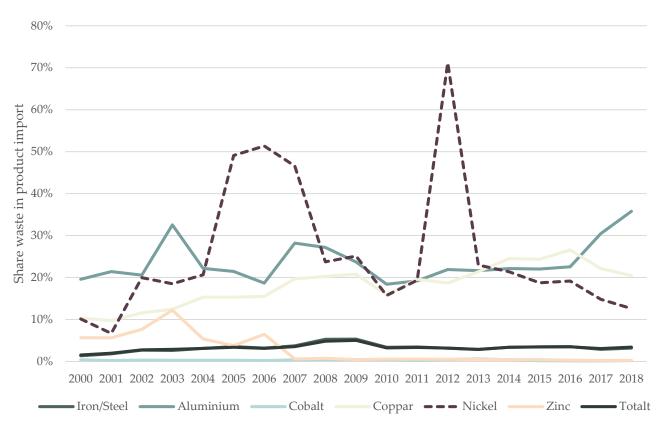


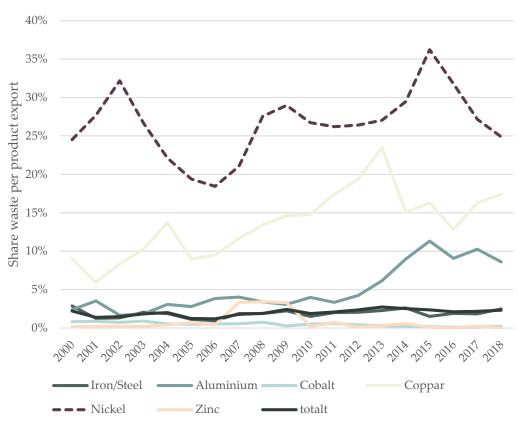
Source: Statistics Sweden, national accounts, supply of metals and mineral products

A large portion are imported, cobolt from Asia on the rise and so are prices



How much secondary metals are traded?





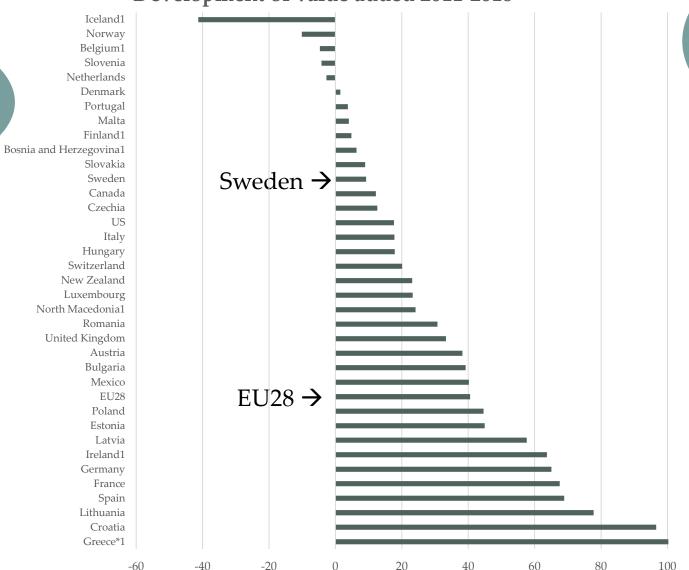
Source: Statistics Sweden, material flow accounts and trade statistics



The market for recycling

But this does not tell the story about other industries also involved in the trade





Waste management in Sweden account for 0.5% of GDP

Greece has grown its recycling industry by 276%



Source: OECD and Eurostat, 1: most recent year available

What about the waste?

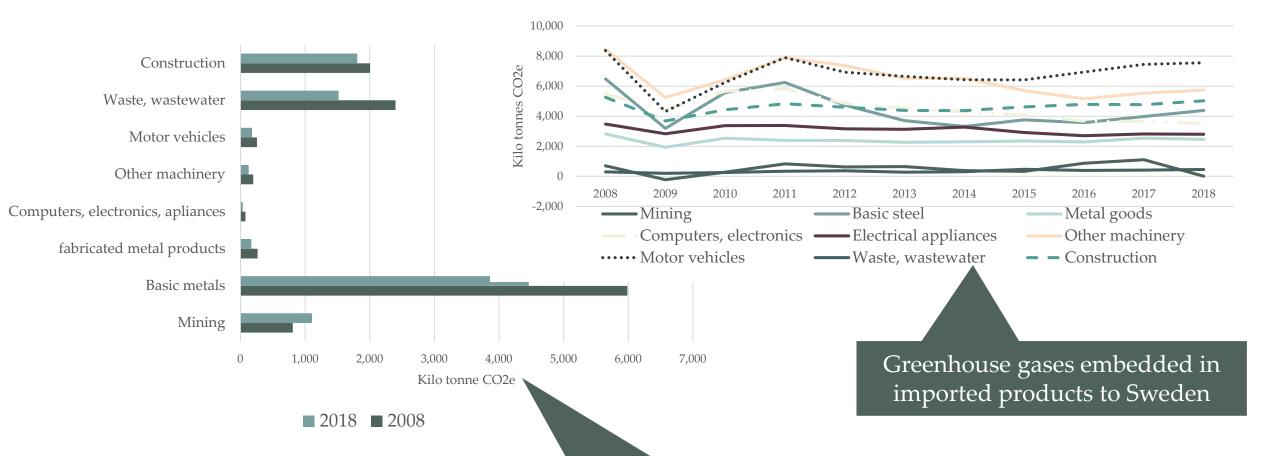
The majority of the waste treatment consist of sorting...



Source: Eurostat, waste statistics



Shifting the CO₂ around the world



Source: Statistics Sweden, Environmental accounts

Greenhouse gases emitted from the Swedish economy



Policy implications and next steps

- The waste management market is growing both in Europe and Sweden but slowly.
- More mature market for recycling of aluminium and steel products but less so for innovative metals.

- Are there different market barriers for different type of metals?
- Does Sweden has an interest in markets of recycling were there is no domestic use for the specific metal?
- Report to be published in 2021 covering the barriers. Final report due in 2022

Lessons learned thus far

Different definitions of "recyling": JRC, Eurostat, "industry associations"
→ are there any cooperations between you?

 Lacking data related to input materials into production: share of recycled materials! → Are there any work going on producing this?

- Form a cooherent data set that focus on the flow of materials (metals) through input-output including reuse/recycling → Can the statistical community assist or is it up to researchers/analysts to do?
- Do you know of any similar studies also related to economic instruments?



Thank you for listening!

Nancy.steinbach@tillvaxtanalys.se

- info@tillvaxtanalys.se
- www.tillvaxtanalys.se
- in www.linkedin.com/company/tillvaxtanalys/

