

Reporting continued to increase in 2020

The reporting of suspected money laundering or terror financing to the Swedish Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has increased gradually over the past few years. In 2020 the FIU received and processed just above 24 500 reports, which is an increase by 13 per cent compared to the previous year (see figure 1). The value of the suspicious transactions reported during 2020 amounted to more than SEK 15 billion in total.

Figure 1 Number of reports¹

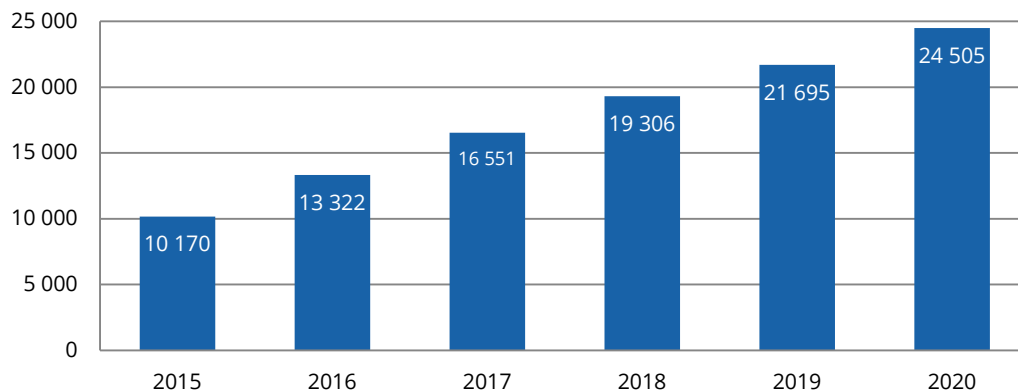
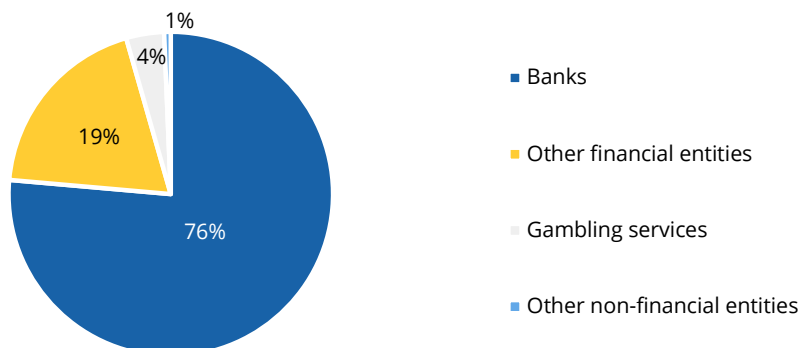


Figure 2 shows how the reporting is distributed over different sectors.² The banking sector provides the bulk of the reports. About three quarters of all suspicions are reported by banks, which is in line with previous years. The rest of the reports are mainly provided by other types of financial entities and gambling services, while the contribution from all other sectors constitutes less than 1 per cent of the reporting to the FIU.

Figure 2 Reporting by sector during 2020



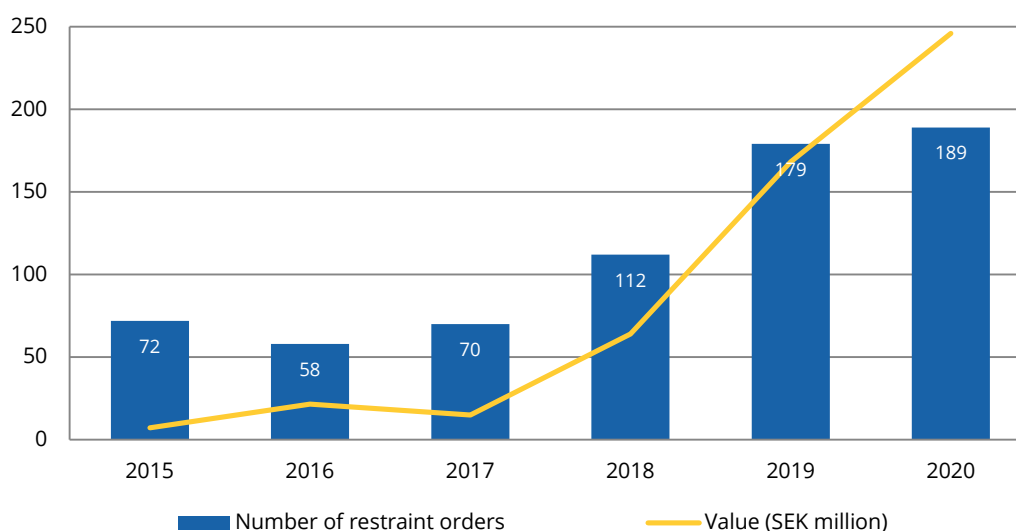
¹ Total number of reports for 2019 adjusted from 21 709 to 21 695.

² A large number of Swedish businesses are obliged to take measures to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing according to the Act on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (2017:630). Entities covered by the regulatory framework are also required to report suspicions of money laundering or terrorist financing to the Swedish FIU.

A record number of restraint orders

The FIU is authorised to issue restraint orders for property that is suspected to be subject to money laundering or terrorist financing. The restraint order is a temporary ban on moving or otherwise making use of the property. During 2020, the FIU decided on 189 restraint orders representing a total value of almost a quarter of a billion SEK (see figure 3). This is an increase of 46 per cent compared to 2019 and the highest amount so far.

Figure 3 Restraint orders



The Swedish FIU also filed a record number of police reports during 2020. The number of reports was more than twice the number filed in 2019 and more than three times as many as the year before, see table.

| Year | Filed police reports |
|------|----------------------|
| 2017 | 136 |
| 2018 | 165 |
| 2019 | 242 |
| 2020 | 609 |

More detailed statistics will be presented in the Financial Intelligence Unit Annual Report that is to be published in March 2021.

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