

Sweden Ranked Number 1 for Mining – Fraser Institute

The Fraser Institute, the internationally recognised research organisation with a focus on mining, published its most recent survey of mining companies and the jurisdictions in which they operate in March 2014.

The top ten nations all retained their ranking in the top ten but, at the number one spot, Sweden replaced Finland as the preferred country for mining companies and investors.

Sweden came number one in the Policy Perception Index which rates 112 countries for factors which impact investment decisions such as the administration of regulations, environmental regulations, tax regimes, legal systems, infrastructure, trade barriers, labour and skills and political stability. Although no country came top in every one of these categories, Sweden had the highest overall score.

Sweden also ranked very highly in the Investment Attractiveness Index, coming in just behind Western Australia, parts of Canada and Finland. Meanwhile, Uruguay, Venezuela and parts of Argentina were ranked very lowly.

The Current Practices Mineral Potential ranks countries according to whether a jurisdiction's current policy encourages or discourages investment. Sweden came eighth – behind Western Australia but ahead of much of Canada and the USA.

Some 43 per cent of respondents said that, assuming current regulations continued to apply, Sweden encouraged investment in mining. No respondents saw the current regime as being something which would deter them from investing in mining in Sweden.

Sweden also scored very highly when it came to the question of whether miners and investors could rely on the legislative regime being consistently applied and interpreted. Nearly 90% of respondents saw this as either encouraging or not deterring investment.

Across the whole range of criteria surveyed, no respondent identified any factor which would deter them from investing in mining in Sweden.

The survey quotes a mining executive who says, *"Several areas in Sweden show good policy. Regional Authorities, the Mining Inspectorate of Sweden and land owners follow the law and the regulations which are set up."*

The Fraser Institute's survey was compiled based on responses from 4,100 executives involved in mining and exploration around the world and was carried out between September and December 2013.