## Credit Research



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### **Swedavia**

# Solid topline growth but declining passenger volume in Q4

- Net sales increased with +2.2% y/y
- Negative passenger volume growth in the quarter
- Heavy investment phase expected to continue in 2019

### Net sales increased with +2.2% y/y

Swedavia reported net sales of SEK 1,498m (1,466m) in Q4-18, an increase of +2.2% y/y driven by the aviation business and commercial services. Operating profit in the seasonally weak fourth quarter amounted to SEK 16m (-123m), resulting in an operating margin of 1.1%. The result was positively affected by external costs decreasing SEK 35m y/y, mostly explained by a cost-cutting initiative implemented during Q1-18. For the full year, operating profit was up +4.8 y/y to SEK 682m. Funds from operations (FFO) amounted to SEK 266m in Q4-18 and SEK 1,496m on a full year basis. Looking at FFO/net debt, this metric continued to decrease due to the increased indebtedness to 17.7% (still at a strong level).

### Negative passenger volume growth in the quarter

For eight straight years, Swedavia has experienced increasing passenger volumes but this trend changed in Q4-18 where passenger volumes declined with -1.5%. Passenger volume in the domestic market fell with -4.8% while international passengers increased with +0.3% in the quarter. This was a slowdown in terms of percentage growth compared to previous quarters (+1.2% 3Q, +2.0% 2Q and +5.4% 1Q), implying that the increase in international passengers could no longer compensate the decline in domestic volumes. On a full year basis, domestic passenger volume fell with -3.4% while international passengers increased with +2.1%. There are several reasons for this development, but the two most present reasons are the Swedish aviation tax and the climate debate. Swedavia has taken measures to meet the changed market conditions and announced in January to lay off 125 employees which will be implemented by the end of June 2019. We expect the current passenger trend to continue in 2019 but also note that passenger growth in 2017 was extremely strong at +6.1%, making comparison figures high.

#### Heavy investment phase expected to continue in 2019

The year was intensive in terms of capex which amounted to SEK 3.2bn, somewhat lower than SEK 3.9bn in 2017 but significantly up from SEK 2.1bn in 2016. Going forward we expect capex to be around SEK 4.0bn per year as the company continues to invest in capacity improvements. As a result of the high investment phase net liabilities increased to SEK 9.2bn (7.3bn), an increase of SEK 1.9bn, increasing net debt/EBITDA to 4.6x (3.8x) and debt-to-equity to 1.1x (1.0x). The company's financial target includes debt-to-equity in the range of 1.0x-1.5x.

We expect the heavy investment phase to continue to weaken credit metrics going forward. Additionally, we believe that the negative passenger trend will continue but that the announced increase in airport charges (+12.6%) will compensate for the decline in passenger volumes. Looking at Swedavia's SEK bonds we argue that the bonds are priced at fair levels compared to peers. We reiterate Marketweight.

#### Swedavia

#### **Industrial Transportation**

Bloomberg Equity: 0256996D SS
Bloomberg Debt: SWEDAV

#### **Corporate Ratings**

Moody's: S&P: Fitch -

#### Recommendations

Marketweight

#### **Credit Strengths**

- Strong ownership structure (government controlled through Sweden Aaa/AAA)
- Solid competitive position being the owner of basically all major airports in Sweden
- Predictable regulatory regime in the region

#### **Credit Weaknesses**

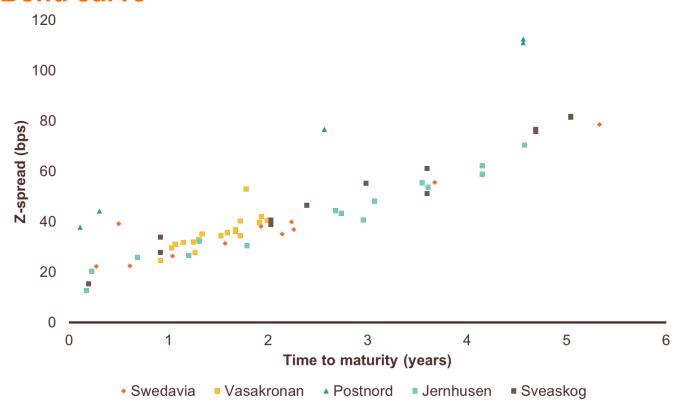
- Increasing leverage due to high capital expenditure
- Significant customer concentration through exposure on SAS
- Political risk related to environmental concerns surrounding the airline industry

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## **Bond curve**



Sources: Bloomberg, Swedbank Research



## **Quarterly Results**

| Income Statements (SEKm)                            | 2017Q1 | 2017Q2 | 2017Q3 | 2017Q4 | 2018Q1 | 2018Q2 | 2018Q3 | 2018Q4 | Q/Q    | Y/Y    |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Net sales   | 1 347  | 1 480  | 1 452  | 1 466  | 1 403  | 1 511  | 1 511  | 1 498  | -0,9%  | 2,2%   |
| EBITDA  | 338    | 527    | 577    | 261    | 295    | 536    | 587    | 368    | -37,3% | 41,0%  |
| EBITDA margin                                       | 25,1%  | 35,6%  | 39,7%  | 17,8%  | 21,0%  | 35,5%  | 38,8%  | 24,6%  | -36,8% | 38,0%  |
| EBIT  | 117    | 303    | 355    | -123,0 | 58,0   | 274    | 335    | 16,0   | -95,2% | +chg   |
| EBIT margin   | 8,7%   | 20,5%  | 24,4%  | -8,4%  | 4,1%   | 18,1%  | 22,2%  | 1,1%   | -95,2% | +chg   |
| Cash Earnings in Operations/Net Sales               | 16,6%  | 29,1%  | 33,3%  | 13,2%  | 13,3%  | 35,0%  | 34,1%  | 17,8%  | -47,9% | 34,9%  |
| Free Cash Flow/Net Sales                            | -31,6% | -25,7% | -40,2% | -63,5% | -35,4% | -31,4% | -27,7% | -28,7% | -chg   | +chg   |
| Cash Flow Post Dividends/Net Sales                  | -30,7% | -35,3% | -39,8% | -63,0% | -35,4% | -39,5% | -27,7% | -28,7% | -chg   | +chg   |
| LTM Net sales                                       | 5 594  | 5 649  | 5 691  | 5 745  | 5 801  | 5 832  | 5 891  | 5 923  | 0,5%   | 3,1%   |
| LTM EBITDA  | 1 912  | 1 802  | 1 802  | 1 703  | 1 660  | 1 669  | 1 679  | 1 786  | 6,4%   | 4,9%   |
| LTM EBITDA margin                                   | 34,2%  | 31,9%  | 31,7%  | 29,6%  | 28,6%  | 28,6%  | 28,5%  | 30,2%  | 5,8%   | 1,7%   |
| LTM EBIT  | 959    | 855    | 862    | 652    | 593    | 564    | 544    | 683    | 25,6%  | 4,8%   |
| LTM EBIT margin                                     | 17,1%  | 15,1%  | 15,1%  | 11,3%  | 10,2%  | 9,7%   | 9,2%   | 11,5%  | 24,9%  | 1,6%   |
| Shareholder's equity                                | 7 439  | 7 517  | 7 818  | 7 665  | 7 715  | 7 859  | 8 113  | 8 066  | -0,6%  | 5,2%   |
| Total Liabilities                                   | 6 101  | 6 967  | 7 165  | 8 433  | 8 825  | 9 415  | 9 451  | 10 224 | 8,2%   | 21,2%  |
| Total Interest Bearing Debt                         | 4 695  | 5 279  | 5 636  | 6 618  | 7 175  | 7 832  | 8 013  | 8 440  | 5,3%   | 27,5%  |
| Equity/(Equity+Liabilities)                         | 49,5%  | 47,0%  | 47,4%  | 43,6%  | 42,8%  | 41,9%  | 42,6%  | 40,9%  | -4,0%  | -6,2%  |
| Equity/(Equity+Total Interest Bearing Debt)         | 61,3%  | 58,7%  | 58,1%  | 53,7%  | 51,8%  | 50,1%  | 50,3%  | 48,9%  | -2,9%  | -8,9%  |
| Last 12m Credit ratios                              | 2017Q1 | 2017Q2 | 2017Q3 | 2017Q4 | 2018Q1 | 2018Q2 | 2018Q3 | 2018Q4 | Q/Q    | Y/Y    |
| LTM EBITDA/LTM Interest (x)                         | 13,9   | 13,1   | 14,5   | 14,4   | 15,1   | 18,3   | 17,0   | 18,6   | 9,7%   | 28,9%  |
| FFO/Total Interest Bearing Debt                     | 28,8%  | 26,3%  | 25,4%  | 18,4%  | 16,6%  | 16,6%  | 16,6%  | 16,6%  | 0,2%   | -9,5%  |
| FFO/Net Debt  | 30,1%  | 27,7%  | 25,5%  | 18,5%  | 16,8%  | 17,0%  | 16,6%  | 16,7%  | 0,2%   | -10,2% |
| FOCF/Total Interest Bearing Debt                    | -18,6% | -23,3% | -30,7% | -34,7% | -33,0% | -31,0% | -28,0% | -18,9% | +chg   | +chg   |
| FOCF/Net Debt                                       | -19,4% | -24,5% | -30,9% | -35,0% | -33,6% | -31,8% | -28,0% | -18,9% | +chg   | +chg   |
| Total Interest Bearing Debt / LTM EBITDA (x)        | 2,5    | 2,9    | 3,1    | 3,9    | 4,3    | 4,7    | 4,8    | 4,7    | -1,0%  | 21,6%  |
| Net Debt / LTM EBITDA (x) Source: SNL, company data | 2,3    | 2,8    | 3,1    | 3,9    | 4,2    | 4,6    | 4,8    | 4,7    | -1,0%  | 22,5%  |



## Financial statements and analysis

| P&L (SEKm)                                  | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Net sales                                   | 5 384  | 5 416  | 5 546  | 5 745  | 5 923  |
| Other revenues                              | 501    | 1 059  | 284    | 36,0   | 274    |
| Operating expenses                          | -3 534 | -3 805 | -4 029 | -4 223 | -4 411 |
| Selling expenses                            | -2 009 | -2 121 | -2 252 | -2 270 | -2 366 |
| Administrative costs                        | -1 476 | -1 675 | -1 761 | -1 911 | -2 029 |
| Other operating costs                       | -49,0  | -9,0   | -16,0  | -42,0  | -16,0  |
| EBITDA                                      | 2 351  | 2 670  | 1 801  | 1 558  | 1 786  |
| Depreciation of property, plant & equipment | -946   | -915   | -961   | -1 051 | -1 103 |
| EBITA                                       | 1 405  | 1 755  | 840    | 507    | 683    |
| Goodwill amortisation                       | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| EBIT  | 1 405  | 1 755  | 840    | 507    | 683    |
| Write-downs                                 | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Capital gains                               | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Restructuring charges and provisions        | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Other non-recurring items                   | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Operating profit                            | 1 405  | 1 755  | 840    | 507    | 683    |
| Income from associated companies            | 0,0    | 22,0   | 42,0   | 36,0   | 52,0   |
| Net interest                                | -242   | -230   | -140   | -114   | -92,0  |
| Interest Income                             | 6,0    | 4,0    | 5,0    | 4,0    | 4,0    |
| Interest expenses                           | -248   | -234   | -145   | -118   | -96,0  |
| Interest on convertible bonds.              | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Other financial items                       | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Foreign exchange items                      | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Dividends                                   | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Other financial items                       | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Reported pre-tax profit                     | 1 163  | 1 547  | 742    | 429    | 643    |
| Recurring pre-tax profit                    | 1 163  | 1 547  | 742    | 429    | 643    |
| Total tax                                   | -236   | -136   | -152   | -167   | -126   |
| Minority interests                          | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Reported net profit                         | 927    | 1 411  | 590    | 262    | 517    |

Sources: Swedavia and Swedbank Research



| Balance Sheet (SEKm)             | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Other intangible assets          | 621    | 615    | 632    | 618    | 777    |
| Tangible assets                  | 10 625 | 10 781 | 11 897 | 14 741 | 16 257 |
| Other fixed financial assets     | 108    | 988    | 1 091  | 1 089  | 1 192  |
| Fixed assets                     | 11 354 | 12 384 | 13 620 | 16 448 | 18 226 |
| Inventories                      | 42,0   | 45,0   | 43,0   | 44,0   | 47,0   |
| Receivables                      | 424    | 451    | 420    | 571    | 575    |
| Cash and liquid assets           | 112    | 6,0    | 170    | 58,0   | 10,0   |
| Non-trade receivables            | 3 334  | 372    | 463    | 467    | 867    |
| Current assets                   | 3 912  | 874    | 1 096  | 1 140  | 1 499  |
| Total Assets                     | 15 265 | 13 259 | 14 716 | 17 587 | 19 725 |
| Shareholder's equity             | 5 571  | 6 863  | 7 351  | 7 665  | 8 066  |
| Minority interest                | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Convertible debt                 | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,0    |
| Long-term interest bearing debt  | 3 107  | 2 412  | 3 321  | 4 426  | 6 064  |
| Other long-term liabilities      | 390    | 218    | 169    | 104    | 99,0   |
| Total long-term liabilities      | 3 497  | 2 630  | 3 490  | 4 530  | 6 163  |
| Deferred tax liability           | 363    | 447    | 447    | 496    | 488    |
| Other provisions                 | 983    | 945    | 1 048  | 993    | 947    |
| Total provisions                 | 1 346  | 1 392  | 1 495  | 1 489  | 1 435  |
| Short-term interest bearing debt | 3 800  | 1 315  | 1 010  | 2 192  | 2 376  |
| Accounts and notes payable       | 333    | 372    | 601    | 854    | 651    |
| Other short-term liabilities     | 717    | 685    | 770    | 857    | 1 034  |
| Total short-term liabilities     | 4 850  | 2 372  | 2 381  | 3 903  | 4 061  |
| Total Liabilities & Equity       | 15 265 | 13 259 | 14 716 | 17 587 | 19 725 |

Sources: Swedavia and Swedbank Research



| Cash flow (SEKm)                                | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating profit                                | 1 405  | 1 755  | 840    | 507    | 683    |
| Depreciation & amortisation                     | 946    | 915    | 961    | 1 051  | 1 103  |
| Other non-cash adjustments                      | -229   | -906   | -54,0  | 53,0   | -63,0  |
| Net financial items                             | -242   | -230   | -140   | -114   | -92,0  |
| Paid taxes                                      | -115   | -137   | -124   | -167   | -135   |
| Funds from operations (FFO)                     | 1 765  | 1 397  | 1 483  | 1 330  | 1 496  |
| Change in working capital                       | 1 545  | -560   | 213    | -1 478 | 201    |
| Operating cash flow (CFO)                       | 2 109  | 1 374  | 1 645  | 1 530  | 1 359  |
| Capex   | -754   | -1 096 | -2 071 | -3 828 | -2 956 |
| Free cash flow (FOCF)                           | 1 168  | 256    | -468   | -2 320 | -1 821 |
| Other investments/divestments                   | 376    | 3 039  | 221    | -25,0  | -168   |
| Other net investments in fixed financial assets | 563    | -793   | -12,0  | -3,0   | 1,0    |
| Free cash-flow after Div & Acq                  | 1 731  | 3 317  | -205   | -2 323 | -1 765 |
| Dividend paid                                   | -10,0  | -231   | -232   | -117   | -122   |
| Change in short-term debt                       | 1 583  | -2 485 | -305   | 1 182  | 184    |
| Change in long-term debt                        | -3 201 | -695   | 909    | 1 105  | 1 638  |
| Change in interest-bearing liabilities          | -1 662 | -3 185 | 593    | 2 235  | 1 825  |
| Others  | 1,0    | -8,0   | 9,0    | -1,0   | 14,0   |
| Net change in cash                              | 60,0   | -107   | 165    | -206   | -48,0  |
| Sources: Swedavia and Swedbank Research         |        |        |        |        |        |
| Ratios (SEKm)                                   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   |
| Net Debt/EBITDA                                 | 2,9    | 1,4    | 2,3    | 4,2    | 4,7    |
| EBITDA/interest                                 | 9,5    | 11,4   | 12,4   | 13,2   | 18,6   |
| Interest coverage                               | 5,8    | 7,7    | 6,3    | 4,8    | 8,0    |
| EBITDA-CAPEX                                    | 1 597  | 1 574  | -270   | -2 270 | -1 170 |
| Equity/(Equity+Liabilities)                     | 36,5%  | 51,8%  | 50,0%  | 43,6%  | 40,9%  |
| Equity/(Equity+Total Interest Bearing Debt)     | 44,6%  | 64,8%  | 62,9%  | 53,7%  | 48,9%  |
| Cash Earnings in Operations/Net Sales           | 32,8%  | 25,8%  | 26,7%  | 23,2%  | 25,3%  |
| Free Cash Flow/Net Sales                        | 21,7%  | 4,7%   | -8,4%  | -40,4% | -30,7% |

Sources: Swedavia and Swedbank Research

Cash Flow Post Dividends/Net Sales

21,5%

0,5%

-12,6%

-42,4%

-32,8%



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#### Major shareholdings in Swedbank held by the Company

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