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the Swedish Welfare State""; ""3 The Swedish Growth Experience""; ""4
Growth, Government, and the Welfare State""; ""5 Labor Market
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Pressures on the Welfare State""; ""9 Achievements, Lessons, and the
Way Ahead""; ""Appendix A Primer on Marginal and Average Effective
Rates of Capital Income Taxation""; ""Bibliography""; ""Index""; ""The
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Sommario/riassunto

Sweden has long been viewed as epitomizing a particular approach to
economic and social policy. To its advocates, the Swedish welfare state
builds on a strong social consensus favoring extensive state
intervention to ensure a high quality of life for all Swedes. To its critics,
the Swedish system is marked by excessive government intervention
and attendant inefficiencies. These contrasting views are captured in
imagery used by Prime Minister Göran Persson: "Think of a bumblebee.
With its overly heavy body and little wings, supposedly it should not be
able to fly--but it does." The Swedish welfare state is the bumblebee
that has managed to fly. This book draws on many years of IMF
surveillance and policy advice to explain how it has done so, to assess
the challenges that the Swedish model faces in the new century, to
propose a strategy for dealing with those challenges, and to draw
lessons for the many other countries that face similar challenges from
globalization and demographics.