

PRESS RELEASE

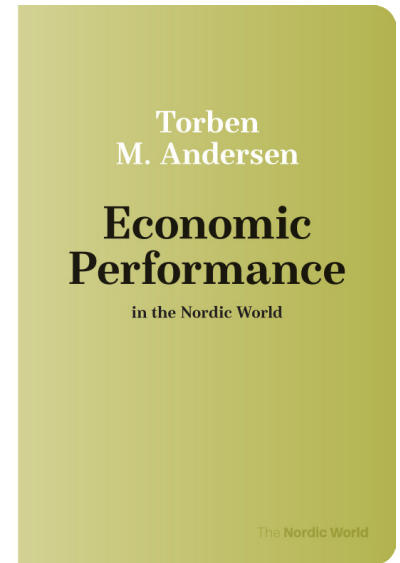
Economic Performance

The Nordic welfare model is often heralded for its ability to reconcile a high living standard with a relatively equal distribution of income. As explained in *Economic Performance in the Nordic World*, while the public sector is large, the private sector is relatively liberal, so the model does not “pit politics against markets.” Moreover, welfare arrangements have a strong and active focus on supporting labour market participation and human capital acquisition. The financial viability of the Nordic welfare model critically depends on maintaining international competitiveness and a high employment level, and therefore the conflict between welfare objectives and economic performance is not as stark as it may first appear.

In an era with growing inequality, policy discussions increasingly focus on how to ensure inclusive growth. The Nordic countries regularly pop up in such discussions as examples of how to balance these concerns. It is therefore important to take a closer look, as this book does, at the economic performance of the Nordic countries to better understand the policy approaches behind it, and how they have evolved to safeguard key welfare state objectives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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