

LATVIA 2016

STATISTICS IN BRIEF

Devoted to facts and people



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

LATVIA. STATISTICS IN BRIEF 2016

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The brochure “Latvia. Statistics in Brief 2016” gives an insight into the recent development trends of Latvia. The informative publication of the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) introduces field experts, business partners, foreign guests, and other interested parties to social and economic processes that have taken place in Latvia in the reference period. Each section begins with a short theme summary, followed by informative data tables and graphs. Some indicators for international comparisons are taken from *Eurostat* databases. All data contained in the publication are available on the CSB website at <http://www.csb.gov.lv>.

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Explanation of Symbols

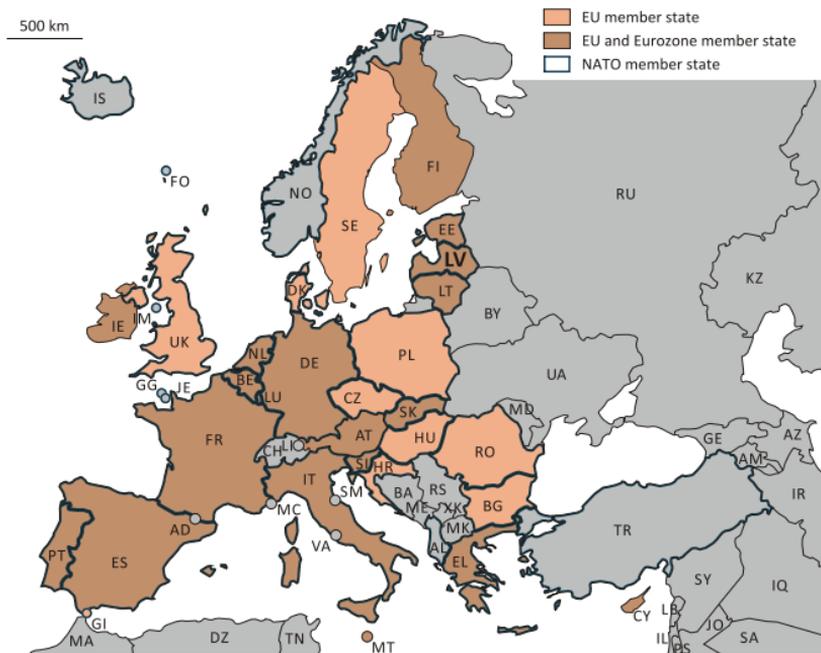
-	magnitude zero
...	data not available or too uncertain for presentation
•	data are not published due to confidentiality requirements
pers.	person
°C	Degree Celsius
Data source	indicates the code of the respective Eurostat table used (for example, [tec00114])
euro/€	euro is the official currency used in 19 Member States of the European Union. Since 1 January 2015, Euro is used in Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.
EU-28	28 Member States of the European Union: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Croatia (HR), Czech Republic (CZ), Cyprus (CY), Denmark (DK), Estonia (EE), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Hungary (HU), Ireland (IE), Italy (IT), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), United Kingdom (UK)
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
GJ	gigajoule
GWh	gigawatt hour
ha	hectare
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	information and communication technologies
IT	information technologies
km	kilometre
km²	square kilometre
quintile	one fifth (20 %) of the number of surveyed households grouped in increasing sequence according to the disposable income per one household member.
kWh	kilowatt hour
m	metre
m³	cubic metre
mm	millimetre
mln	million
bln	billion
MW	megawatt
MWh	megawatt hour
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States: Armenia (AM), Azerbaijan (AZ), Belarus (BY), Kazakhstan (KZ), Kyrgyzstan (KG), Moldova (MD), Russia (RU), Tajikistan (TJ), Turkmenistan (TM), Ukraine (UA), Uzbekistan (UZ)
PJ	peta joule
t	ton
TJ	tera joule
tkm	ton-kilometre
thsd	thousand

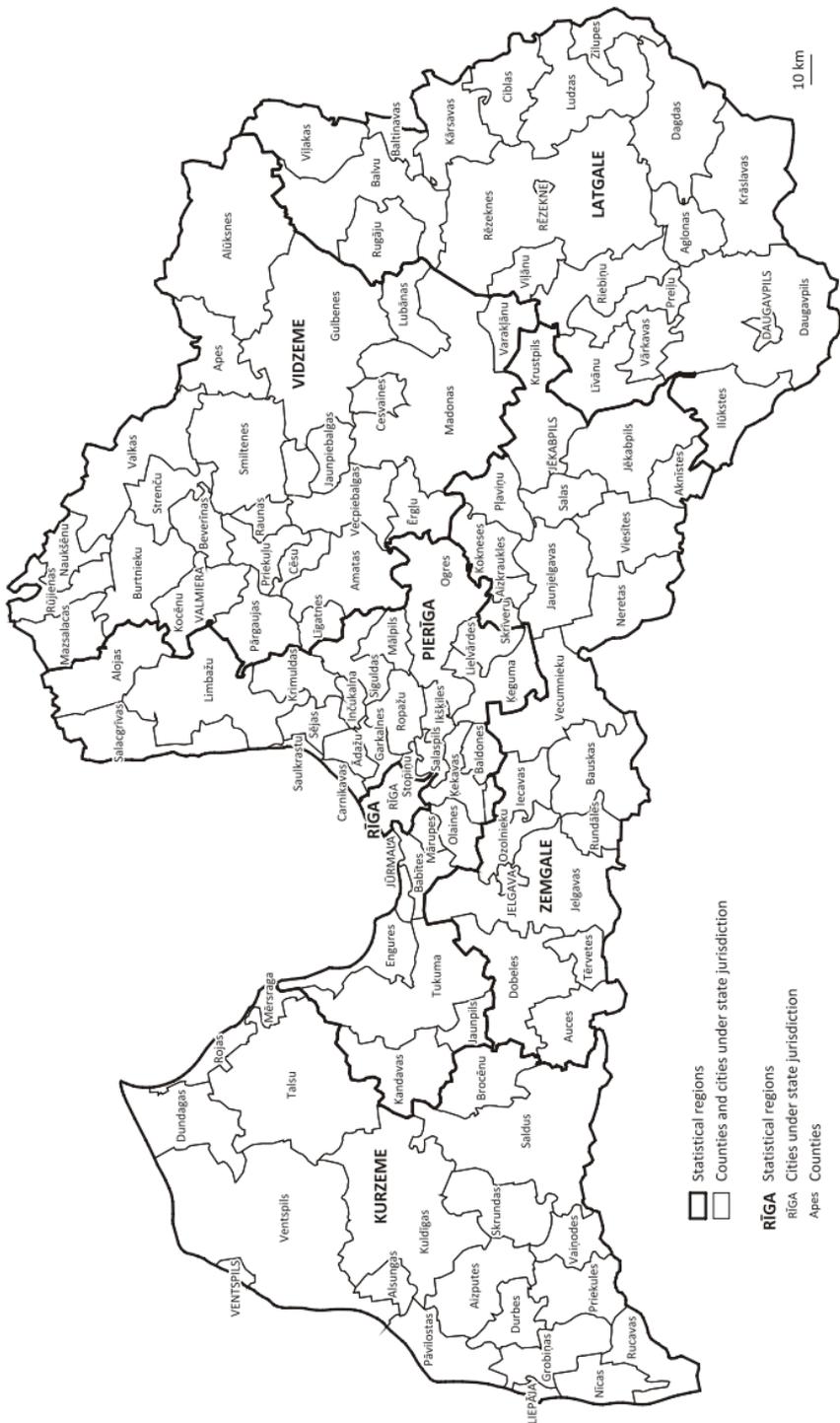
General Information

Official name of the country	Republic of Latvia
Capital city	Riga (32 % of total population)
Official language	Latvian
State system	parliamentary republic
Independence proclaimed	on 18.11.1918 (restored on 04.05.1990)
President	Raimonds Vējonis (since 08.07.2015)
Parliament	Saeima
Composition of Saeima	100 members
Accession to NATO	on 29.03.2004
Accession to the European Union	on 01.05.2004
Territory	64.6 thousand km ²
Administrative territories	119 local governments
Cities under state jurisdiction	9 (largest – Riga)
Counties	110
Towns	67
Parishes (<i>pagasti</i>)	497

Key indicators

In 2015	
Population (on 01.01.2016)	1 986.1 thousand
Population density per 1 km ²	31 persons
Number of households	823.3 thousand
Average size of household	2.4
Employment rate	62.0 %
Average net monthly wage	603 euros
Minimum wage	360 euros
Average monthly old-age pension	273 euros
Unemployment rate	9.9 %





Administrative territorial division

In line with the Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas, on 1 January 2016 in Latvia there were 119 administrative territories – 9 cities under state jurisdiction and 110 counties.

Statistical regions

There are six statistical regions in Latvia: Rīga, Pierīga, Vidzeme, Kurzeme, Zemgale and Latgale.

1. Territorial Characteristics

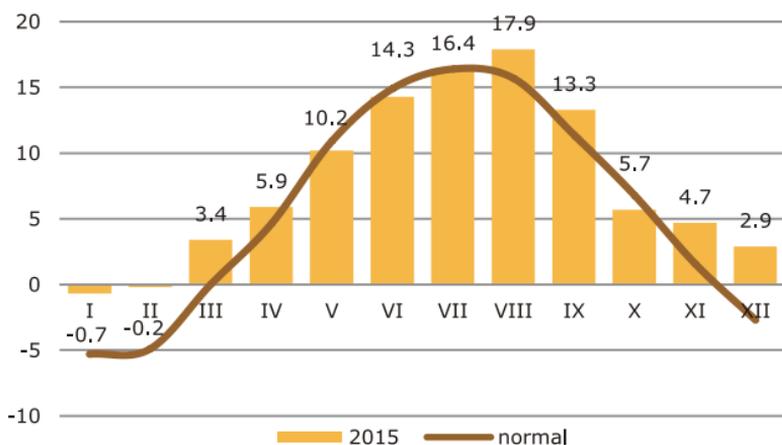
Territory of Latvia is ten times smaller than one of France, the largest country of the European Union, slightly smaller than territory of the neighbouring country Lithuania, but 1.4 times larger than territory of the other neighbour Estonia. Total border line of the country comprises 1.8 thousand km, of which land border constitutes 1.4 thousand. Latvia has land boundary with Estonia (343 km), Russia (292 km), Belarus (171 km), and Lithuania (576 km), as well as maritime boundary with Sweden, Lithuania and Estonia.

Total territory of Latvia comprises 64.6 thousand km² – 62.2 thousand km² are occupied by land (30.4 thousand km² of forests and 23.5 thousand km² of agricultural area), while 2.5 thousand km² are taken by inland waters.

Latvia is located in western part of the East European Plain; melting of glaciers has resulted in a relief rich in monticules and valleys facilitating water accumulation in lowlands. In Latvia there are more than 12 thousand rivers with total length of 38 thousand km. Gauja (452 km) and Daugava (1 005 km, 352 km of which running within the territory of Latvia) are the longest rivers. While lakes larger than 1 ha account for 2.3 thousand. Lubāns (80.7 km²) and Rāzna (57.6 km²) are the largest lakes, but Drīdzis (65.1 m) is the deepest one. The highest point of the country territory is located in Vidzeme Upland – 311.6 m above the sea level.

Climate

Latvia is located in the temperate climate zone; weather conditions thereof are affected by adjacency to the Baltic Sea and air masses of the Atlantic Ocean, thus main characteristics of the country are mild and humid climate and four distinct seasons. Annual average precipitation varies between 600 and 700 mm. In 2015, mean air temperature in January, the coldest month of the winter, constituted -0.7°C that is 4.6°C above the long-term normal, whereas in August, the hottest month of the summer, it constituted +17.9 °C that is 2.2 °C over the normal.



Weather conditions in Riga

	Normal	2010	2014	2015
Mean air temperature, °C	6.9	6.9	8.6	8.9
maximum	34.5	32.0	33.0	30.7
minimum	-34.9	-23.2	-16.5	-13.3
Total precipitation, mm	706	860	660	502
Number of days with precipitation	125	128	94	108
Average relative humidity, %	79	79	75	77
Hours of sunshine, h	1 758	1 844	2 006	1 969

2. Population

Population decline has slowed down

Provisional estimates show that, at the beginning of 2016 Latvia population accounted for 1 million 972 thousand people. The indicator is still declining – by 14.6 thousand persons in 2015 (decrease rate comprising 0.6 % has fallen slightly, as compared to 0.8 % in 2014). Since 1991, natural increase in Latvia has been negative, and the number of deaths still exceeds the number of births. Population number decreases due to both negative natural increase and long-term migration (with the number of emigrants exceeding the number of immigrants).

At the beginning of 2015, 67.9 % of Latvia population lived in urban areas, more than a third or 32 % of which resided in Riga, where population density accounted for 2 116 persons per km² (31 pers./km² on average in Latvia).

As indicated by the age structure statistics, like in the great majority of the European Union countries, Latvia population is ageing. At the beginning of 2015, out of 1.986 million people, children (aged under 14) accounted for 15.0 %, population at working age (aged 15–61) – for 62.0 %, and people at retirement age (aged over 62) – for 23.0 %. Since the beginning of 2010, the number of population at working age has dropped by 10.3 %, the number of children has declined by 0.9 %, while the number of people at retirement age has grown by 2.0 %.

In 2014, more marriages and less divorces registered

Recent years indicate increase in the number of marriages concluded – from 9 290 marriages in 2010 to 12 515 marriages in 2014. During this period, number of marriages per 1 000 population grew 1.4 times (from 4.4 to 6.3). Out of the persons married in 2014, 54 % of males and 68 % of females were aged under 29. Average age of males at the first marriage comprised 31 years, while of females – 29 years. In 2014, average duration of marriage in Latvia constituted 14 years – 5 years more than in 1990. 6 271 marriages were divorced in 2014 – a drop of 10.8 % as compared to 2013.

Birth rates are improving

A slight rise in Latvian birth rates has been registered already for four years in a row. 21.7 thousand babies were born in 2014. The average age of mother at childbirth has been gradually increasing, and in 2014 it accounted for 30 years (27 years at the first childbirth). In 2000 corresponding indicators comprised 27 and 24 years, respectively. More than a half of babies (56 %) were born in families that have registered their marriage officially. During 80-ties, on average 85 % of children were born in registered marriages.

In 2014, Latvian total fertility rate ⁽¹⁾, showing progress of the generation exchange, accounted for 1.6 and still lagged behind the level desired (2.1–2.2). In 2013, this rate in Europe totally comprised 1.6, and in many countries it was even below the Latvian level.

In 2014, number of deaths constituted 28.5 thousand (in 2013 – 28.7 thousand); average age of females at death accounted for 79 years, while of males – 68 years. During the last four years, infant mortality (number of children passed away before the first birthday thereof) has reduced by 31 %. In 2014, the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births comprised 3.8 (in 2010 – 5.6).

These days people in Latvia live on average five years longer than in 1991, with life expectancy increasing gradually. However, males tend to live shorter life than females. In 2014, average life expectancy of females accounted for 79.5 years, while of males – for 69.3 years

Migration rates still high

In 2014, 10.4 thousand people arrived to Latvia for permanent residence ⁽²⁾, while 19.0 thousand people moved to another country – 15.7 % less than a year before. The majority of persons emigrated were people at working age (83.4 % of the total number of emigrants).

In 2014, 6.9 thousand young people (aged 15–29) emigrated from the country – 18.4 % less than in 2013. The number of emigrants at working age (aged 15–61) exceeded the number of immigrants at the same age 2 times. In 2014, 55.9 % of immigrants came from the

⁽¹⁾ Average number of children that would be born to a women during her lifetime provided the birth rate of the given year remained at the previous level.

⁽²⁾ Time period of one year or longer.

European Union countries. Large share (20 %) of immigrants came from Russia. Out of the total number of persons emigrating in 2014, 76 % went to the European Union countries. Compared to 2013, in 2014 number of people emigrating to the European Union countries decreased by 2 thousand or 12.4 %. Number of people returning back to Latvia from other European Union countries increased by 1 thousand or 21 %.

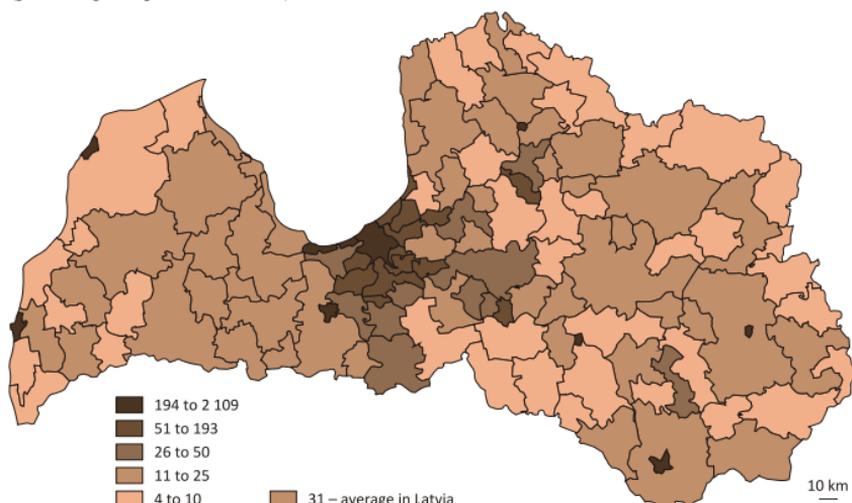
Resident population: number and density

(at the beginning of the year)

	2010	2015
Population number	2 120 504	1 986 096
males	970 931	911 207
females	1 149 573	1 074 889
Population density, pers. per 1 km ²	33	31
Population number in the capital	673 433	641 007
Population density in the capital	2 215	2 109

Population density at the beginning of 2015

(persons per square kilometre)



Changes in resident population and corrective factors thereof

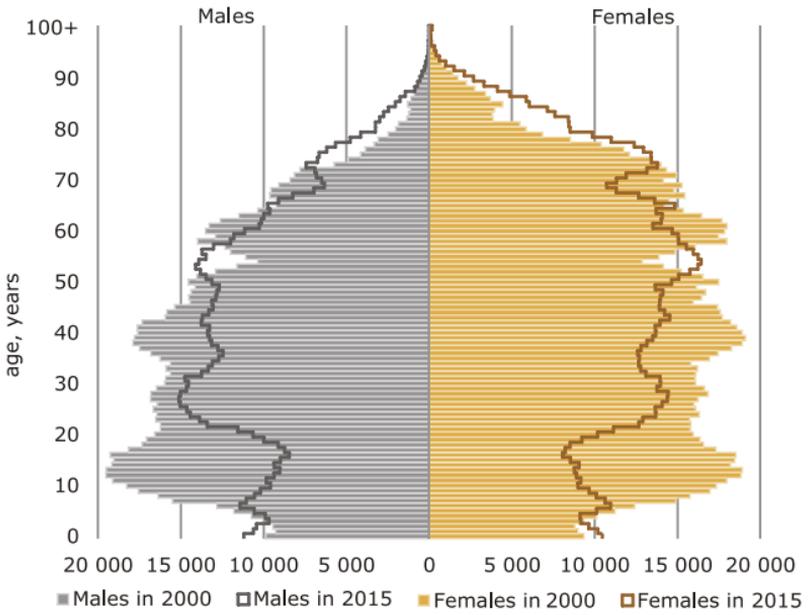
	2010	2014
Changes, total	-45 899	-15 372
Natural increase	-10 259	-6 720
Net migration	-35 640	-8 652
Change per 1 000 population	-21.9	-7.7

Age structure of resident population

(at the beginning of the year)

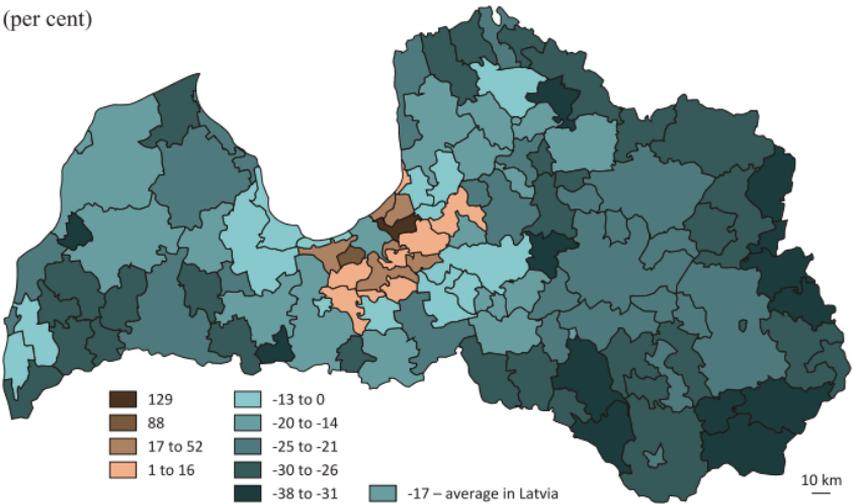
	2010	2015
Total	2 120 504	1 986 096
0–14 years	300 294	297 720
15–24 years	299 722	212 297
25–49 years	736 717	681 427
50–61 years	336 252	338 015
62+ years	447 519	456 637
Demographic burden	545	613
Average age of population, years	41.2	42.5

Population age and gender structure in 2000 and 2015

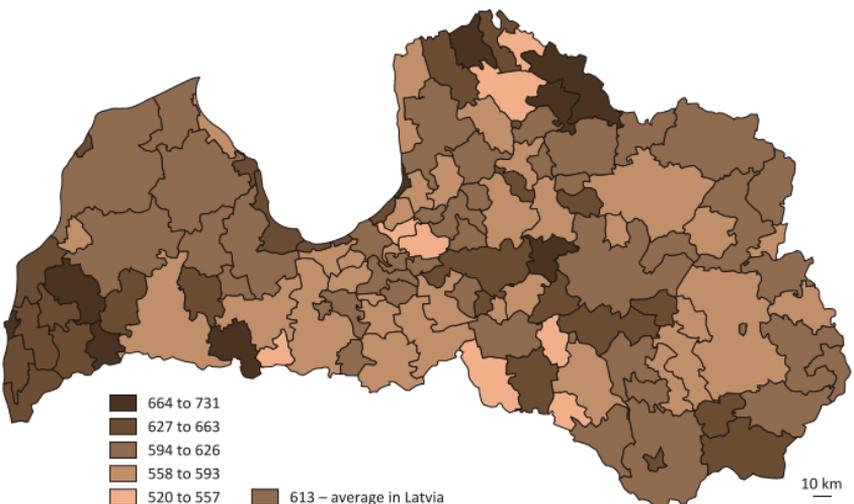


Change in resident population; 2000–2015

(per cent)



Demographic burden at the beginning of 2015



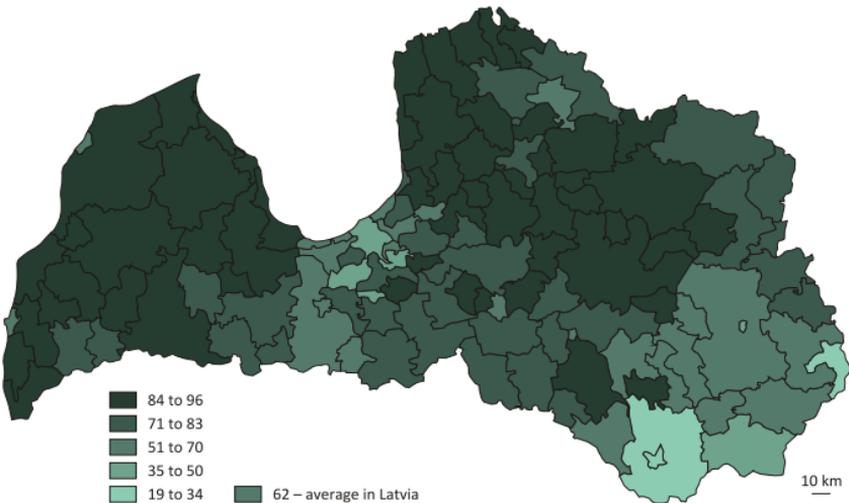
Ethnic composition of population

(at the beginning of the year)

	1989	2000	2011	2015
Total, %	100	100	100	100
Latvians	52.0	57.7	60.5	61.6
Russians	34.0	29.6	26.8	25.8
Belarusians	4.5	4.1	3.6	3.4
Ukrainians	3.5	2.7	2.4	2.3
Poles	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.1
Other, including unspecified	3.7	3.4	4.4	4.8

Share of Latvians in total population at the beginning of 2015

(per cent)



Resident population of Latvia: country of birth and citizenship

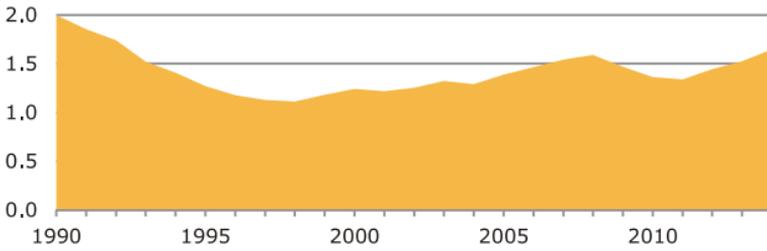
(at the beginning of the year)

	2011	2015
Country of birth, %	100	100
Latvia	85.4	86.6
Other European Union country	1.4	1.4
Russia	7.7	6.9
Other country	5.5	5.1
Citizenship, %	100	100
Latvian	83.5	85.0
Non-citizens of Latvia	14.3	12.2
Foreign	2.2	2.8

Birth rates

	2010	2014
Number of live births	19 781	21 746
boys	10 246	11 230
girls	9 535	10 516
Number of boys per 1 000 girls	1 075	1 068
Share of children born in registered marriage	55.6	56.0
Live births per 1 000 population	9.4	10.9
Total fertility rate	1.36	1.65

Total fertility rate



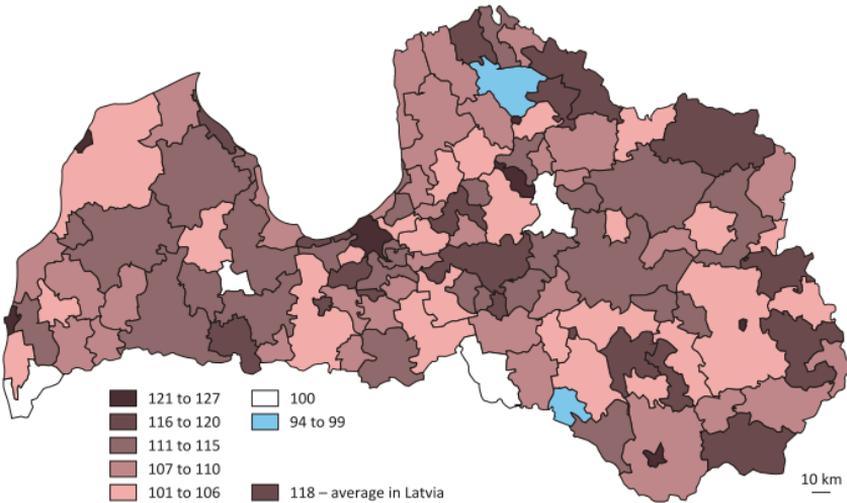
Live births by order

	2010	2014
Total, %	100	100
first	48.7	44.2
second	34.5	37.5
third	11.3	13.3
fourth and higher order	5.5	5.0

Average age of mother at first childbirth

	2010	2014
Average age of mother at first childbirth, years	29.0	29.9
at birth of first child	26.4	27.2
at birth of second child	30.3	31.0

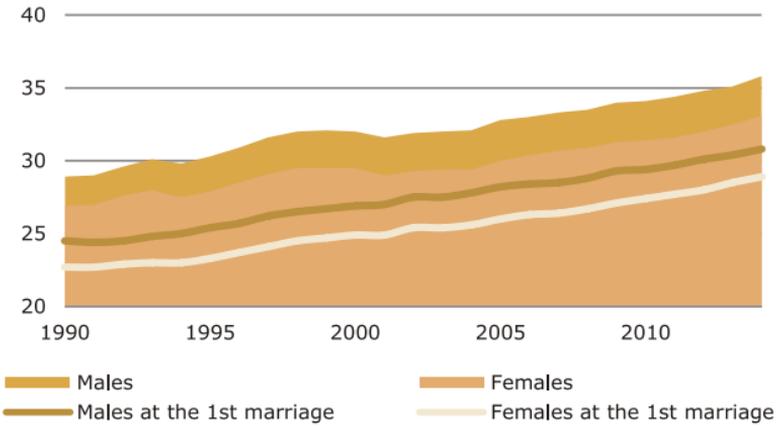
Number of females per 100 males at the beginning of 2015



Marriages and divorces

	2010	2014
Number of marriages	9 290	12 515
Number of marriages per 1 000 population	4.4	6.3
Average age of persons marrying:		
males	34.1	35.8
females	31.4	33.1
Average age of persons marrying for the first time:		
males	29.4	30.8
females	27.4	28.9
Number of divorces	4 930	6 271
Average duration of marriage, years	13.4	14.4

Average age of persons marrying, years

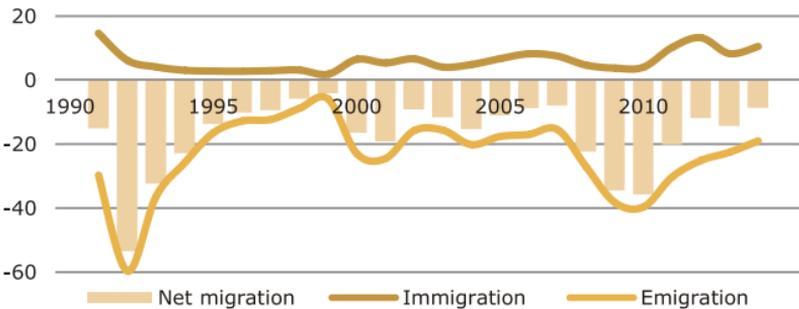


Mortality

	2010	2014
Number of deaths	30 040	28 466
males	14 561	13 723
females	15 479	14 743
Average age at death, years	72.4	73.6
males	67.3	68.2
females	77.3	78.7
Number of deaths per 1 000 population	14.3	14.3
Number of infant deaths	110	83
Number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births	5.6	3.8
Life expectancy at birth, years	73.3	74.6
males	68.1	69.3
females	78.1	79.5

International long-term migration

(thousands)



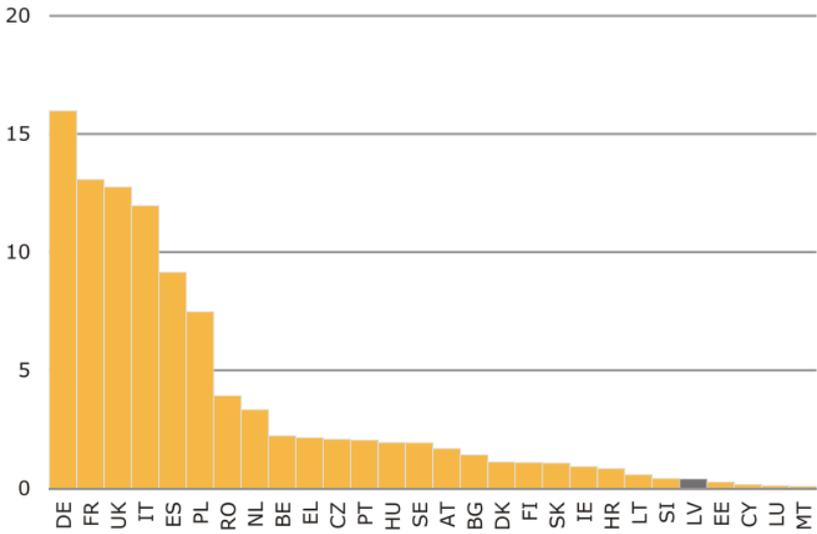
International long-term migration by country group

	Immigration		Emigration	
	2010	2014	2010	2014
Total, %	100	100	100	100
European Union (EU)	38.0	55.9	76.7	76.0
EFTA ⁽¹⁾	1.3	2.4	3.5	7.0
CIS	49.8	34.8	12.4	12.5
Other countries	10.9	6.9	7.4	4.5

⁽¹⁾ European Free Trade Association. EFTA members: Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

Population in the EU Member States at the beginning of 2015

(per cent)



Data source: Eurostat [demo_pjan] 03.03.2016

3. Employment and Unemployment

Gradual increase in employment observed

The highest employment rate (62 %) in Latvia was reached in 2008, while due to the economic crisis, employment fell sharply during the following years, reaching the lowest rate (52 %) in 2010. In 2015, 896.1 thousand persons or 60.8 % of population aged 15–74 were employed. Compared to the year before, in 2015 employment rate increased by 1.7 percentage points, and number of employed persons by 11.5 thousand.

Employment rate among men grew by 1.5 percentage points, while among women – by 1.8 percentage points. In 2015, the highest employment rate – 80.6 % – was recorded among population aged 35–44. Whereas the lowest employment rate – 34.5 % – was observed among young people aged 15–24, however, compared to 2014, the rate has went up by 2 percentage points. In 2015, 69.4 thousand young people were employed (in 2014 – 69.1 thousand). Since 2010, employment rate in the country totally has increased by 8.8 percentage points, showing the sharpest rise – of 10.9 percentage points – in Pierīga region and the lowest rise – of 2.7 percentage points – in Latgale region.

Unemployment rate tends to reduce

Along with the economic recession, unemployment rate grew rapidly in 2009, and in 2010 it reached 19.5 %. Since 2011, the number of unemployed persons has been declining gradually. In 2015, 98.2 thousand persons or 9.9 % of active population aged 15–74 were unemployed. Compared to 2014, number of unemployed persons has dropped by 9.5 thousand, while unemployment rate has reduced by 0.9 percentage points. Unemployment rate among women still is lower than among men (8.6 % and 11.1 %, respectively).

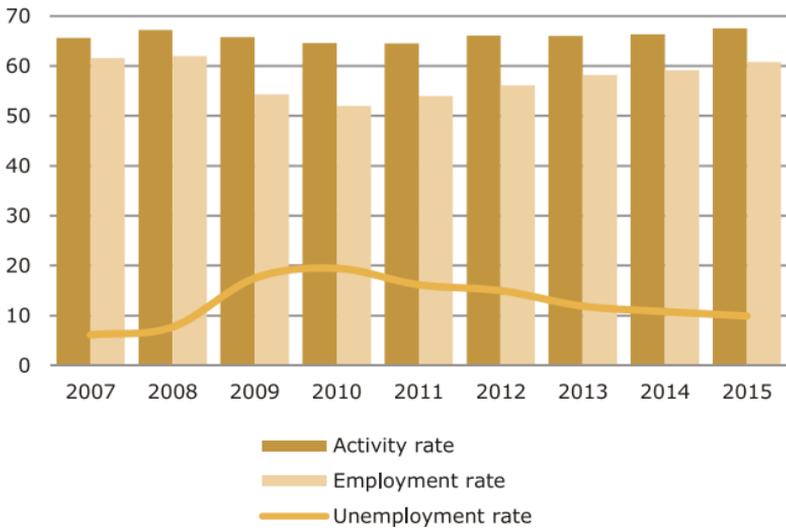
Since 2011, youth unemployment has decreased as well; in 2015 it constituted 16.3 % – 3.3 percentage points less than in 2014. The lowest unemployment rate among the Baltic States was recorded in Estonia – in 2015 it comprised 13.1 %, while in Latvia and Lithuania it constituted 16.3 %.

Inactive population accounts for approximately one third

During the recent years, approximately one third of the population consists of people neither employed, nor actively seeking work, the same share was recorded also in 2015, when inactive population accounted for 32.5 % or 478.4 thousand people.

Rates characterising labour statistics

(per cent)



Key labour statistics

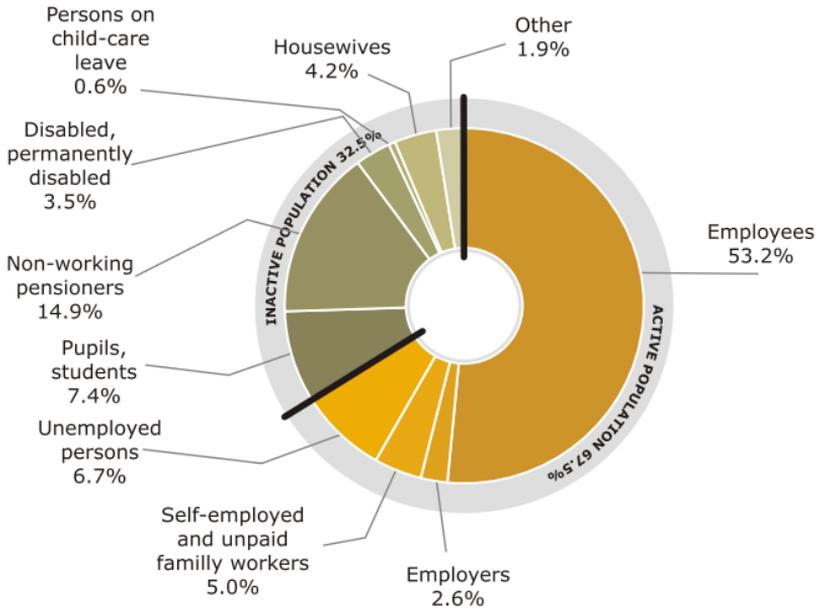
	2010	2014	2015
Population aged 15–74, thsds	1 635.3	1 495.8	1 472.6
Active population	1 056.5	992.3	994.2
employed persons	850.7	884.6	896.1
unemployed persons	205.8	107.6	98.2
Inactive population	578.8	503.5	478.4
Activity rate, %	64.6	66.3	67.5
Employment rate, %	52.0	59.1	60.8
Unemployment rate, %	19.5	10.8	9.9

Employed persons by kind of economic activity

	2010	2014	2015
Employed persons, total (thsds) ⁽¹⁾	850.7	884.6	896.1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	73.3	66.3	71.1
Manufacturing and energy (B–E)	138.6	137.6	139.9
Construction (F)	57.6	73.2	71.9
Wholesale and retail trade; accommodation and food service activities (G, I)	162.0	161.6	159.2
Transportation and storage; Information and communication (H, J)	98.1	111.1	111.3
Financial and insurance activities; real estate activities; professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities (K–N)	87.8	99.0	102.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security (O)	59.7	58.6	59.1
Education (P)	84.5	85.1	83.4
Human health and social work activities (Q)	49.5	52.0	55.8
Other economic activities (R–U)	39.4	39.6	41.7

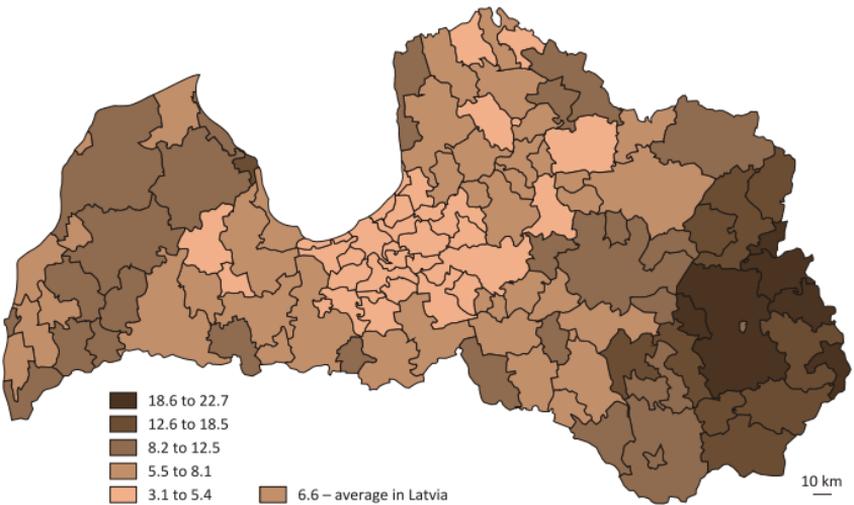
⁽¹⁾ Number of employed persons includes also persons with unspecified economic activity

Labour status of population in 2015



Number of unemployed persons at the end of 2015

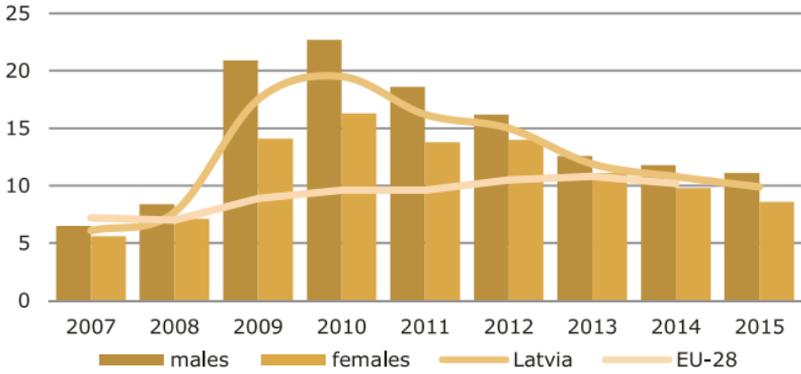
(per cent of total working age population in age group 15–61) (¹)



(¹) Data of the State Employment Agency (SEA).

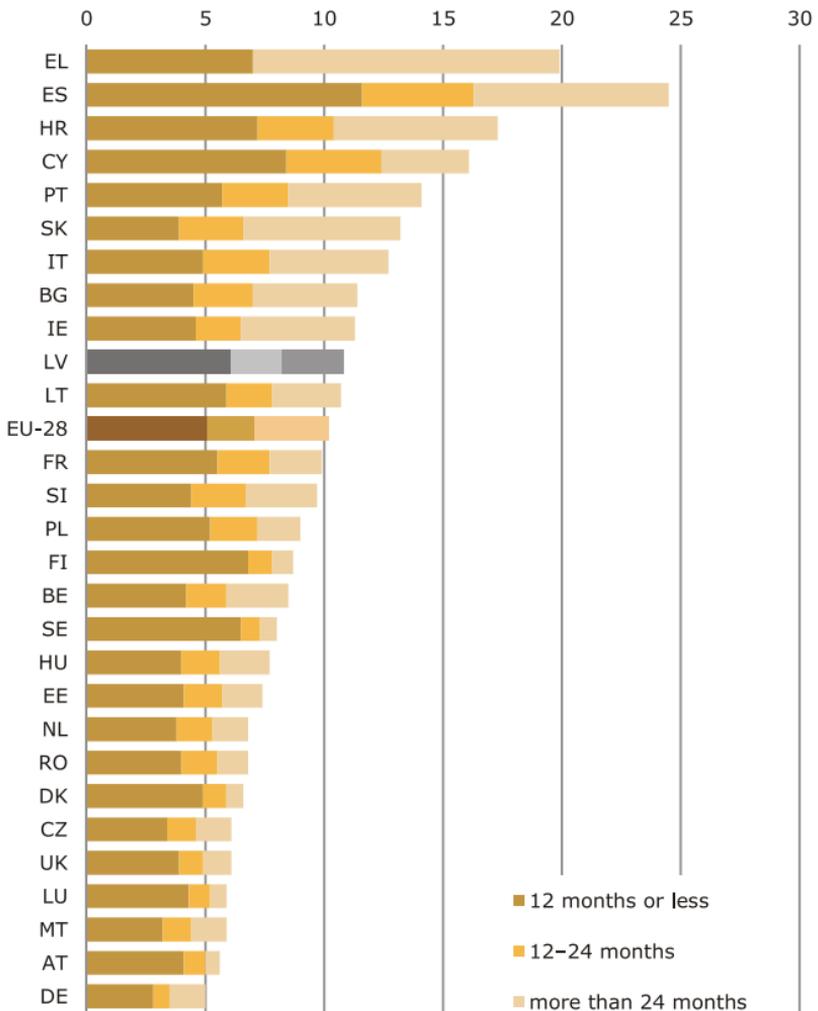
Unemployment rate

(unemployed persons as per cent of total active population aged 15–74)



Unemployment rate in EU Member States by duration of work search; 2014

(unemployed persons as per cent of total active population aged 15–74)



Data source: Eurostat [une_ltu_a] 14.05.2015

4. Earnings

Average wages and salaries keep increasing

In 2015, average monthly wages and salaries in the country reached 818 euros. During the year, wages and salaries rose by 6.8 % or 52 euros, retaining the increase rate of 2014, when the sharpest growth since Latvian economy recovered was recorded. Average net wages and salaries comprised 603 euros or 73.7 % of the gross wages and salaries; rise observed during the year constituted 7.6 % and was higher than increase recorded in gross wages and salaries. During the year, considering rise in consumer prices of 0.2 %, real net wages and salaries grew by 7.4 %. At the beginning of 2015, size of the national minimum wage was increased from 320 to 360 euros (by 12.5 %), thus leading to the changes in average wages and salaries.

Key earnings indicators

	2013	2014	2015
Gross wages and salaries, euros	716	765	818
Net wages and salaries, euros	516	560	603
Minimum monthly wage, euros	285	320	360
Changes in net wages and salaries over the previous year, %	5.6	8.6	7.6
Changes in real wages and salaries (net) over the previous year, %	5.6	8.0	7.4

In 2015, the sharpest wage and salary rise was recorded in sectors with low labour remuneration: accommodation and food service activities – of 10.6 %, real estate activities – of 9.9 %, arts, entertainment and recreation – of 9.3 %, trade – of 9.0 %, and manufacturing – of 8.5 %. Notable wage and salary growth was observed also in information and communication sector (of 7.8 %); in 2015 average wages and salaries in this sector were the second highest in the country.

In 2015, average gross wages and salaries have increased in all regions of Latvia. Latgale region with the lowest wages and salaries in the country and Vidzeme region both indicate the highest rise – of 8.1 % and 7.5 %, respectively. Just as in previous years, also in 2015 the highest average gross wages and salaries were observed in Riga – 925 euros.

Tax burden in Latvia is reducing gradually. In 2014, effective tax rate of Latvia ranked the country directly after the European Union average indicator. Reduction of the Population Income Tax on 1 January 2015 down to 23 % and small rise in consumer prices increased purchasing power of the employed population. Since 1 January 2016, minimum monthly wage set by the government comprises 370 euros. Compared to other European Union countries having national minimum, only Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, and Bulgaria had smaller minimum wage. Level of minimum wage in Latvia is five times smaller than in Luxembourg and four times smaller than in Ireland and United Kingdom. Since 2015 minimum wage is introduced also in Germany.

Gender pay gap tends to grow

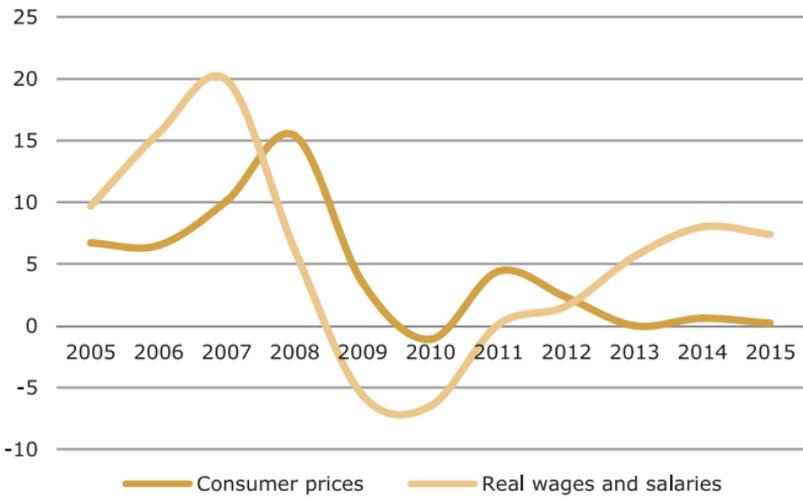
In 2014, gender pay gap in Latvia comprised 15.2 % and was below the European Union average indicator, however it has increased gradually. Eurostat data show that, in 2014 wages and salaries received by females in the European Union on average were by 16.1 % smaller than ones received by males. The greatest gender pay gap was registered in our neighbouring country Estonia, where females earned by 28.3 % less than males. Indicator exceeding 20 % was recorded also in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, and Slovakia. It should be noted that, the smallest gender pay gap was observed in Slovenia (2.9 %), Malta (4.5 %), and Italy (6.5 %).

Wages and salaries in statistical regions

	Gross			Net		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Monthly average, euros	716	765	818	516	560	603
Rīga	815	869	925	583	633	679
Pierīga	677	721	770	491	531	572
Vidzeme	560	598	643	410	444	480
Kurzeme	608	651	693	441	479	512
Zemgale	597	645	683	436	476	509
Latgale	490	522	564	358	388	419

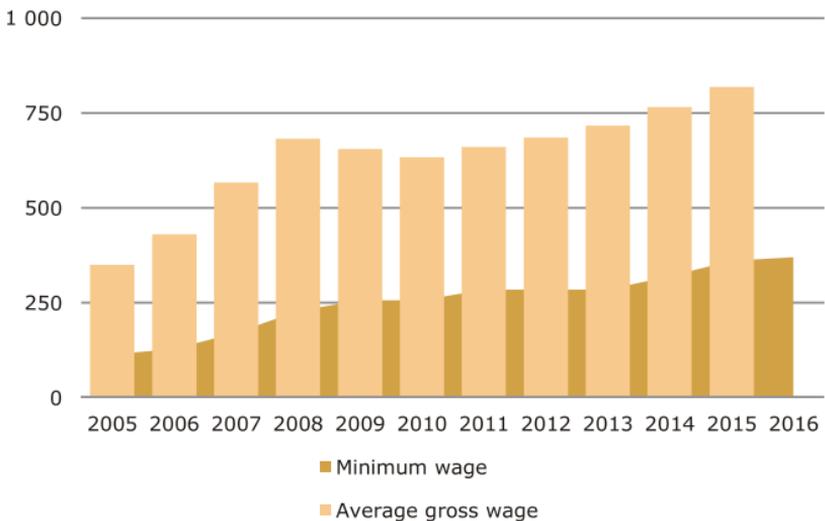
Wages and price changes

(as per cent of the previous year)



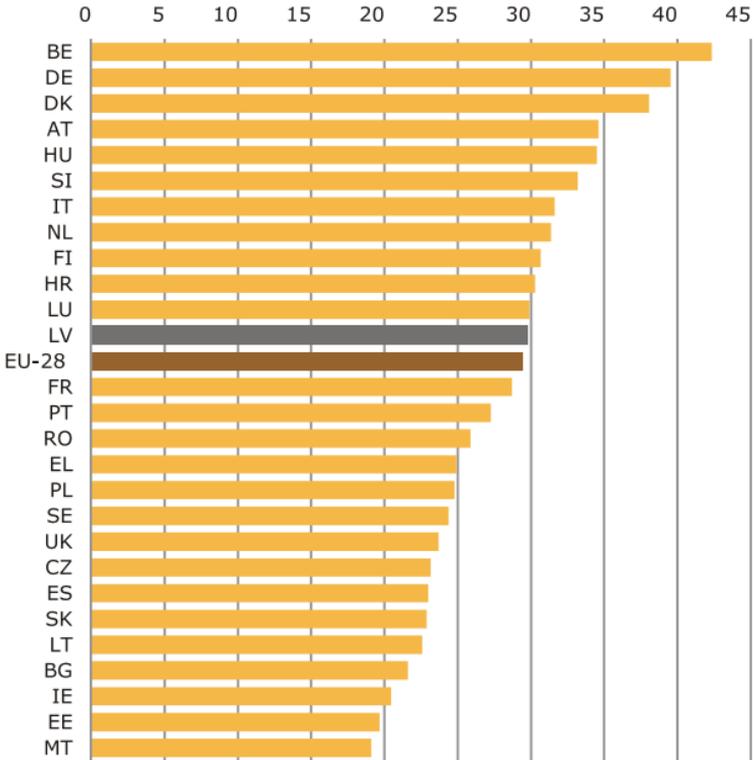
Average and minimum wage

(euros)



Effective tax rates in 2014

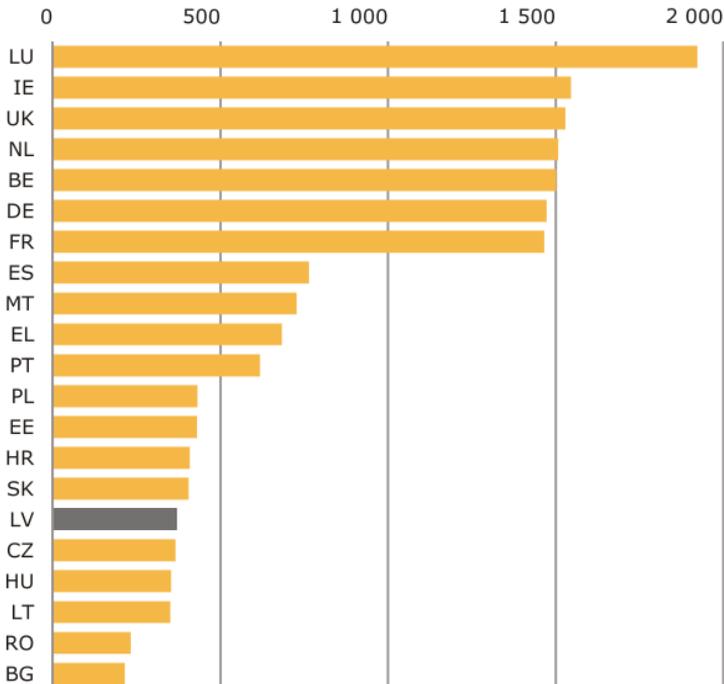
(per cent)



Data source: Eurostat (earn_nt_taxrate) 07.03.2016

Minimum monthly wage at the beginning of 2016

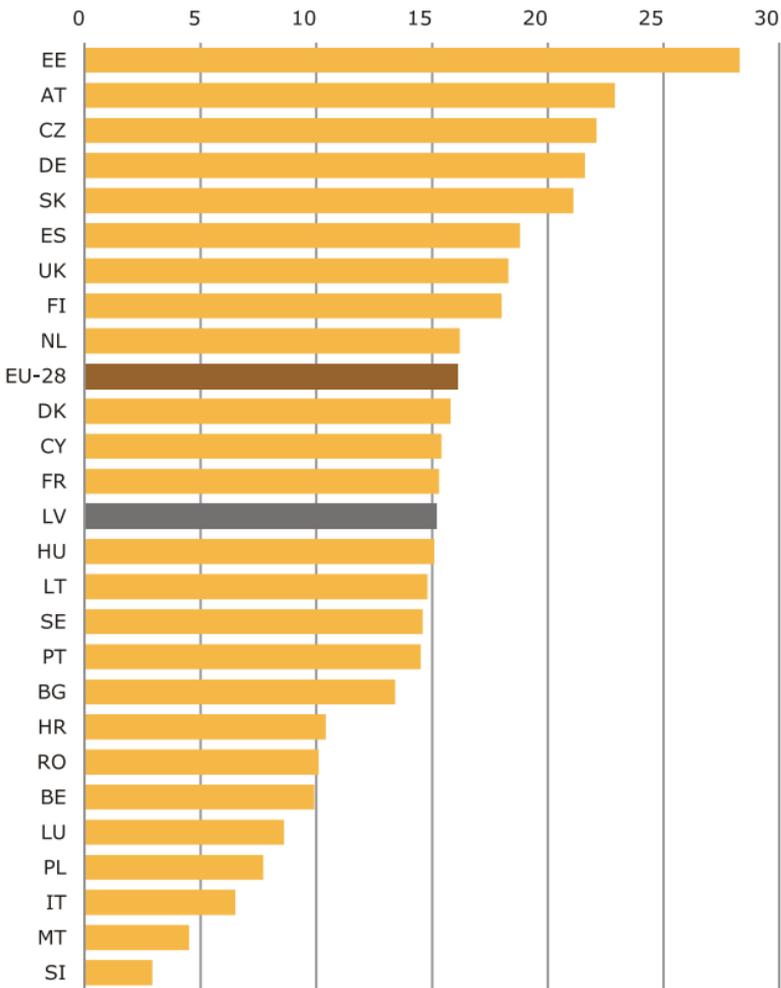
(euros)



Data source: Eurostat [earn_mw_cur] 07.03.2016

Hourly earnings gender pay gap in 2014

(per cent)



Data source: Eurostat (earn_gr_gpgr2) 07.03.2016

5. Household Income

Amount of income from wages and salaries tends to grow

In 2014, household disposable income at current prices increased by 9.3 % and reached 387 euros per household member monthly, compared to 354 euros in 2013. The sharpest rise was observed in income from wages and salaries. In 2013 household income from wages and salaries comprised on average 243 euros per household member monthly, while in 2014 those were 272 euros – a rise of 11.6 % during the year. The amount of social transfers grew slower – by 3.4 % per household member monthly (from 93 euros in 2013 to 96 euros in 2014).

Households are becoming less dependent upon social transfers ⁽¹⁾. Namely, in 2010 social transfers accounted for almost one third (32.4 %) of household disposable income, while in 2014 the share thereof fell down to 24.8 %. In 2014, along with rise in employment rate and wages, the largest share of disposable income was formed by wages and salaries (increase from 63.7 % in 2010 to 70.2 % in 2014).

⁽¹⁾ Social transfers – pensions and benefits paid by the State or municipality, child maintenance payments, scholarships, social insurance benefits and compensations, including the ones paid by other countries.

Income inequality in Latvia comparatively high

Indicator characterising income inequality – Gini coefficient – in Latvia is estimated since 2004. Gini coefficient is 0, if whole population has the same income, but the closer it gets to 100, the greater the income inequality. During the recent years, Gini coefficient in Latvia is rather stable (over 35 %). In 2014, Gini coefficient in Latvia and Bulgaria was the second highest in the EU (35.4 %). Higher indicator was recorded only in Estonia (35.6 %), while slightly lower in Lithuania (35.0 %) and Cyprus (34.8 %). Whereas quintile share ratio (S80/S20) showing difference between the income received by the poorest and the richest population remained at the previous level – 6.5. It means that, one fifth of population receiving the lowest income earn 6.5 times less than one fifth of the population receiving the highest income. The indicator in Latvia was among the EU highest as well (7.2 in Romania, 6.8 in Bulgaria and Spain, and 6.5 in Greece and Estonia).

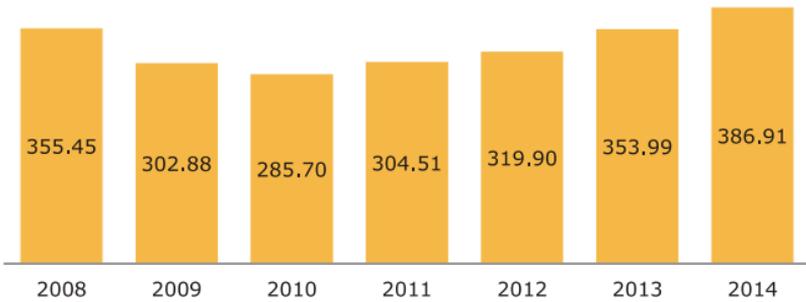
Almost every fifth Latvia resident at risk of poverty

In 2014, 22.5 % of Latvia population were at risk of poverty. At-risk-of-poverty rate among persons aged 65 and over has risen significantly (from 27.6 % in 2013 to 34.6 % in 2014). Moreover, if person aged 65 or over lives alone, the risk of poverty thereof grows even more – from 51.1 % in 2013 to 67.4 % in 2014. It may be explained by the fact that, in 2014 old-age pensions on average grew by 2.7 % or 7.06 euros monthly, while average net wages and salaries increased more rapidly – by 8.6 % or 44 euros monthly.

Households of single parents having dependent children still face very high risk of poverty. In 2014, risk of poverty in these households decreased by 4.1 percentage points and comprised 37 %

Household disposable income in 2008–2014

(on average per household member monthly, euros)



Household disposable income in statistical regions

(monthly disposable income, euros)

	On average per one ⁽¹⁾					
	household		equivalent consumer		household member	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Latvia	838	931	527	581	354	387
Rīga	961	1 081	635	705	432	473
Pierīga	970	1 083	580	644	376	424
Vidzeme	747	783	449	480	299	322
Kurzeme	790	878	491	541	330	359
Zemgale	712	828	433	503	292	331
Latgale	603	621	385	389	264	261

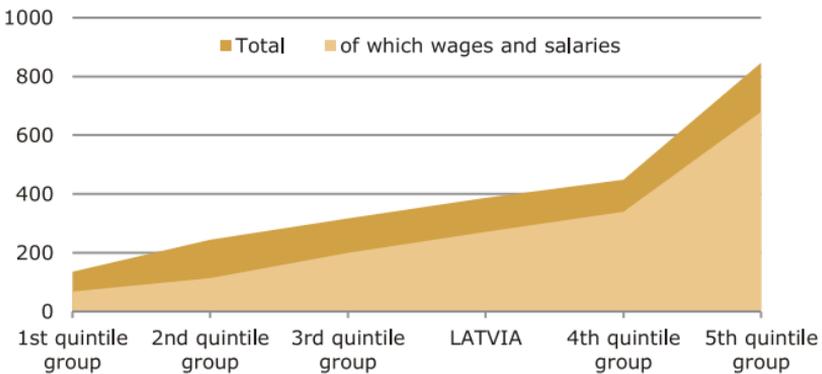
⁽¹⁾ Disposable income – cash income from labour, employee income in kind received by using company car for private needs estimated in cash, income or losses received from self-employment, pensions and benefits received, regular material assistance from other households, profit from interests of deposits, dividends, shares, income received by children aged under 16, income from property rental, receipts for tax adjustments from the State Revenue Service (for business activities, eligible costs – education, medical treatment etc.).

Composition of household disposable income in 2014

	Disposable income on average per household member monthly					
	total, euros	Of which by type of income, %				
wages and salaries		income from self-employment	income from property	received transfers ⁽¹⁾		
Latvia	387	70.2	4.1	0.9	34.8	-1.1
Rīga	473	71.3	4.1	1.7	24.2	-1.4
Pierīga	424	76.2	3.0	0.4	21.3	-1.0
Vidzeme	322	66.2	6.3	0.5	28.4	-1.5
Kurzeme	359	68.2	2.8	0.3	29.2	-0.4
Zemgale	331	71.5	3.5	0.6	25.1	-0.7
Latgale	261	57.8	7.0	0.3	35.8	-0.9

Household disposable income by quintile group; 2014

(on average per household member monthly, euros)



At-risk-of-poverty threshold (illustrative values)

	2012	2013	2014
Single person households, euros annually	2 799	3 122	3 497
Two adults with children, euros annually	5 879	6 556	7 344

Monetary poverty and income inequality indicators

	2013	2014
At-risk-of-poverty rate, % ⁽²⁾	21.2	22.5
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap, % ⁽²⁾	23.6	25.5
Gini coefficient, % ⁽⁴⁾	35.5	35.4
Income quintile share ratio (S80/S20) ⁽⁵⁾	6.5	6.5
Share of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, %	32.7	30.9
Women at risk of poverty, %	22.5	24.8
Men at risk of poverty, %	19.5	19.7

⁽¹⁾ Transfers – pensions and benefits paid by the State or municipality, child maintenance payments, scholarships, social insurance benefits and compensations, including the ones paid by other countries, as well as regular material assistance and alimony from persons living in other households.

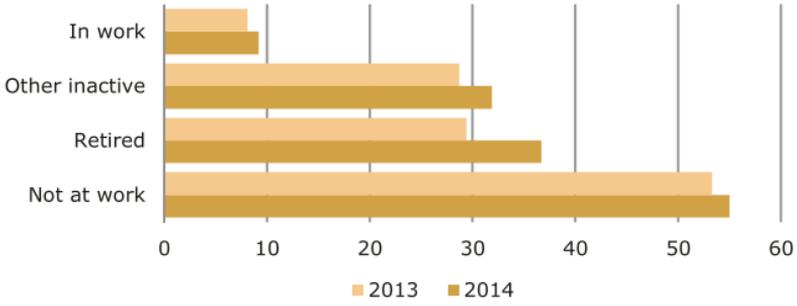
⁽²⁾ At-risk-of-poverty rate – share of persons with equalised disposable income below 60 % of the national median equalised disposable income. In 2014, 22.5 % of Latvian population were at risk of poverty.

⁽³⁾ Percentage difference between the at-risk-of-poverty threshold and median equalised disposable income of persons below the same threshold.

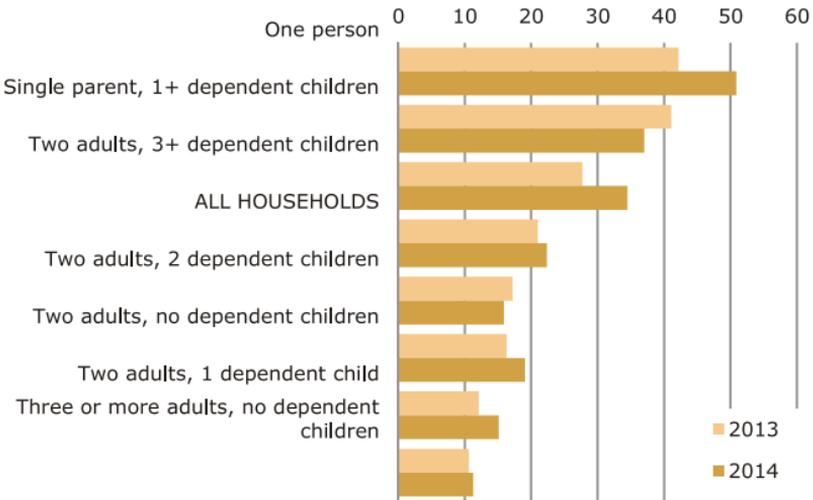
⁽⁴⁾ Gini coefficient characterises inequality of income. It varies from 0 to 100. Gini coefficient is 0, if there is absolute equality of income, but the closer it gets to 100, the greater is inequality of income.

⁽⁵⁾ Ratio (in per cent) of total equalised disposable income received by the 20 % of the country's population with the highest equalised disposable income (top quintile) to that received by the 20 % of the country's population with the lowest equalised disposable income (lowest quintile).

At-risk-of-poverty rate among population aged 18 and over

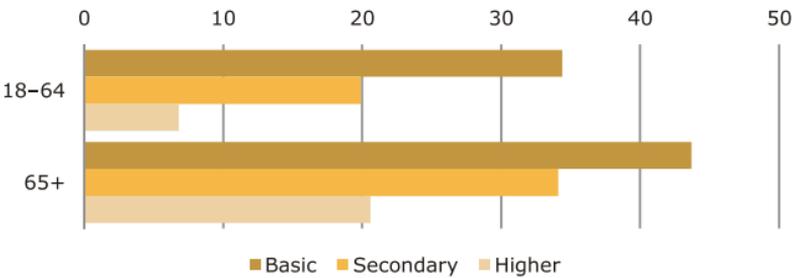


At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type

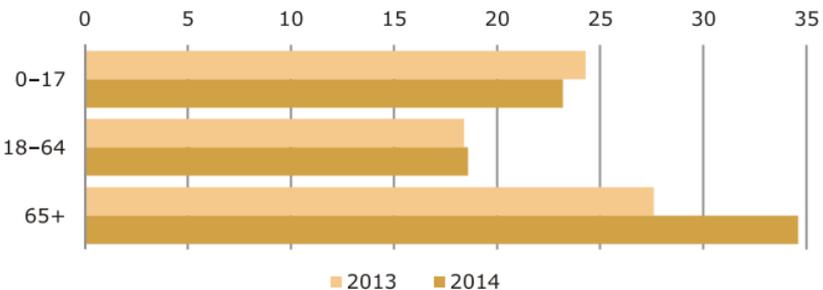


At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and level of education attained; 2014

(per cent of total population with corresponding educational attainment)



At-risk-of-poverty rate by age group



6. Consumption

Consumption expenditure increase recorded in Riga households

In 2014, household consumption expenditure on average per household member monthly reached 299 euros – decrease of 1.24 euros or 0.4 %, as compared to 2013, and increase of 50 euros, as compared to 2010. Households were very careful with the disposable income thereof. The reasons behind that possibly were the fact that Latvia joined the euro area, economic instability, and other factors. Reduction in consumption expenditure in rural areas was affected also by the drop in purchase prices of agricultural products and restrictions in imports from Russia.

The more children in household, the smaller sum may be spent per household member. The smallest amounts were spent by households with three and more children; in 2014 consumption expenditure thereof on average comprised 198 euros per household member monthly, while in households without children the sum was 1.7 times higher – 329 euros.

Structure of consumption expenditure is one of the indicators characterising population welfare. As compared to previous years, also in 2014 structure of consumption expenditure has not changed notably: the largest share of income is spent on daily needs – 28 % on food, 16 % on housing and public utilities, and 13 % on transport.

Higher consumption expenditure observed in households of wage and salary earners and in urban areas

Households of wage and salary earners and entrepreneurs tend to spend more; consumption expenditure thereof per household member monthly accounted for 311 euros and 346 euros monthly, respectively, while in retired people households – for 249 euros.

Compared to 2013, in 2014 consumption expenditure in urban households grew by 0.1 %, reaching on average 323 euros per household member monthly, while consumption expenditure in rural households reduced by 1.9 %, comprising 250 euros per household member monthly. Households in Riga spent on average 377 euros per household member monthly, that is notably greater amount as compared to other Latvia regions. Each second household in rural areas (50 %) belongs to the poorest households (in 1st and 2nd quintile group), whereas in Riga – only each fourth (28 %).

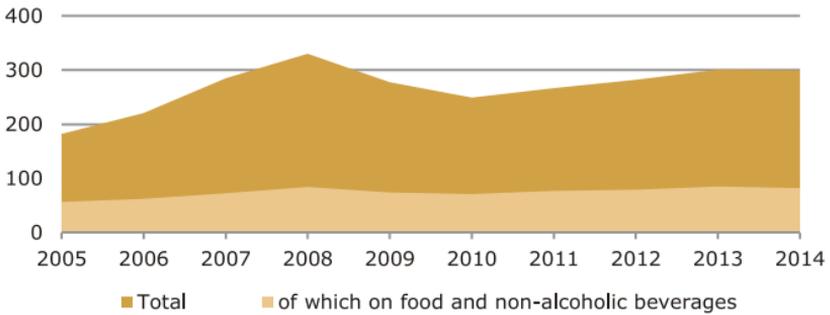
Consumption expenditure in statistical regions; 2014

(on average per household member monthly, euros)

	Latvia	Riga	Pierīga	Vidzeme	Kurzeme	Zemgale	Latgale
Total	299.48	377.06	293.07	244.16	260.74	252.60	247.36
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	82.40	90.85	82.76	73.70	78.80	73.38	79.99
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	9.49	11.44	10.73	7.00	7.90	7.99	7.94
Clothing and footwear	17.45	23.33	13.38	11.36	15.76	15.45	17.02
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	48.25	62.96	45.00	37.38	43.83	40.67	37.46
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	13.81	18.77	12.04	11.80	10.77	9.61	12.70
Health	18.91	24.23	18.84	15.42	16.61	14.43	15.39
Transport	38.61	42.69	45.05	35.56	31.98	35.43	32.00
Communication	12.79	16.04	12.70	11.27	10.45	10.98	10.31
Recreation and culture	23.62	35.46	20.82	16.08	19.09	18.92	14.00
Education	4.41	7.70	3.81	3.49	1.86	2.33	2.53
Restaurants and hotels	14.03	22.48	12.97	9.01	10.23	11.81	5.29
Miscellaneous goods and services	15.72	21.11	14.96	12.09	13.46	11.59	12.73

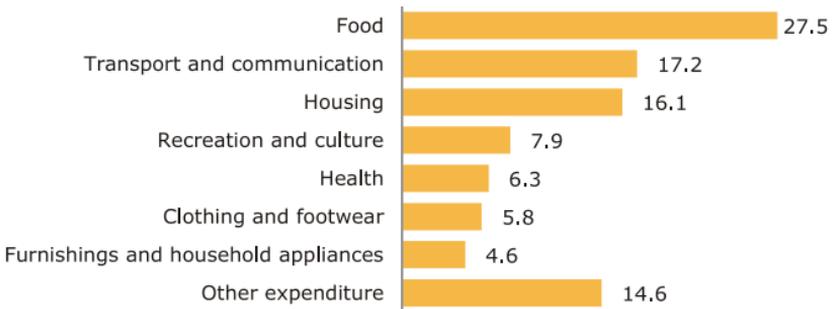
Consumption expenditure dynamics in 2005–2014

(on average per household member monthly, euros)



Consumption expenditure structure in 2014

(per cent)



Consumption expenditure depending on number of children in household; 2014

(on average per household member monthly, euros)



Consumption of selected food products

(on average per household member annually)

	2005	2010	2013	2014
Wheat bread (kg)	23.71	17.20	16.27	15.89
Rye bread (kg)	25.17	18.27	16.60	15.30
Pork (kg)	21.44	20.98	19.76	18.43
Poultry (kg)	9.49	10.65	12.93	12.28
Sausages, smoked meat (kg)	25.31	21.81	21.42	21.03
Whole milk (l)	47.58	38.27	37.04	35.24
Eggs (kg)	5.66	6.68	6.57	6.99
Eggs (pcs)	204	196	203	197
Potatoes (kg)	102.74	89.68	77.93	67.91

7. Health Care

Number of medical practitioners in regions keeps declining

In 2014, 7 727 medical practitioners had medical practice as the main job thereof – 264 persons less than in 2013. Total number of physicians has not changed significantly since 2010, while the number of specialists with higher professional education has grown notably – from 519 specialists in 2010 to 889 specialists in 2014. 589 residents and physicians in service underwent in-service training in health care institutions

The number of practising physicians (excluding dentists) in Latvia almost has not changed; however, at regional level a negative trend is observed. In Pierīga region number of physicians has decreased by almost 9 %, as compared to 2010. Whereas Rīga region indicates an increase in the number of practising physicians – 60.6 % of all practising physicians are employed in this region. Analysis of the number of physicians per 10 000 population shows smaller difference among regions, since population number in regions keeps declining as well. Age structure of practising physicians is significant problem faced during the health care resource planning. In 2014, the majority of practising physicians were aged 50–59 (31.9 %) or over 65 (16.9 %). Only 4.7 % of physicians were aged 35–39. Almost each fifth family doctor was 55–59 years old. While the largest share of practising dentists was recorded in age group under 35 years (17.0 %), 50–54 years (16.1 %), and 55–59 years (14.6 %)

Demand for medical care

370 thousand people were hospitalised in 2014, moreover, number of hospitalised persons tends to decrease (from 508.5 thousand in 2005 to 380.2 thousand in 2010). The time spent in hospitals has decreased from on average 10 days in 2005 to 8.3 days in 2014. In 2014, 45.9 % of Latvia population aged over 15 had a chronic illness or long-standing health problems lasting for more than six months. Compared to 2008, the indicator is growing gradually. Comparison of the indicator between genders shows notable difference – 46.2 % of women have had a long-term health problem as opposed to 33.3 % of men.

Out of the total population, 70.8 % have consulted family doctor during the last 12 months, while more than a half – medical specialist.

Each third (29.4 %) employed person during the last 12 months was absent from work due to personal health problems. One person on average was absent for 19 days a year, while the most common duration of absence comprised 5 days.

In 2014, 49.0 % of Latvia population assessed their health as good or very good. While 12.2 % of population admitted that health status thereof is bad or very bad (13.0 % in 2008). However, self-perceived health of people in Latvia is still significantly lagging behind the average European Union (EU) indicator – 67% of the EU population perceive their health as good or very good.

Incidence of serious illnesses/diseases increases

In 2014, 11 392 patients were first diagnosed with malignant neoplasms – a drop of 1.5 %, as compared to the year before. Last year, the highest number of first diagnosed cases was recorded among persons with malignant neoplasms of skin (1 471), breast (1 170), ureter and bladder (1 114). Women mostly suffered from breast, skin, and colon neoplasms, while men – from prostate, trachea, bronchus, lungs, and skin malignancy. At the end of the year, there were 77.8 thousand people in the register of oncological patients.

By 2016, in Latvia there were 6 607 HIV positive persons. Out of the total number of HIV positive patients 1 666 persons had AIDS.

In 2015, the number of new cases of adult disability registered in Latvia accounted for 16 545, of which 5 670 were employed persons. Compared to 2014, the number has increased slightly (in 2014 those were 16 188 persons). Diseases of musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (24.3 %), malignant neoplasms (23.5 %), and diseases of the circulatory system (16.1 %) were the most common causes of disability among employed persons. Whereas each fourth (26.8 %) unemployed person with new case of disability suffered from a disease of the circulatory system.

In 2015, the number of new and repeated cases of children disability comprised 2 853 (818 cases per 100 000 children aged under 17). Compared to 2014, the number of children disability recognised has fallen by 79 cases. Data of the Disability Information System show that, 161 722 persons with disability were registered in Latvia on 1 January 2014. 2 042 persons had hearing disability, 8 008 – vision disability, 23 437 – musculoskeletal disability, and 22 534 persons suffered from psychological and behavioural disorders.

Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy indicators are acquired from information on chronic diseases and self-assessed state of health. In 2013, healthy life expectancy in Latvia constituted 51.7 years among males and 54.2 years among females. Healthy life years comprise 74.6 % of female life expectancy and 68.7 % of male life expectancy, indicating that males tend to live greatest part of their lives without disability. In 2013, the difference between male and female healthy life expectancy constituted 2.5 years – smaller than the one between average life expectancy of men and women at birth (9.6 years).

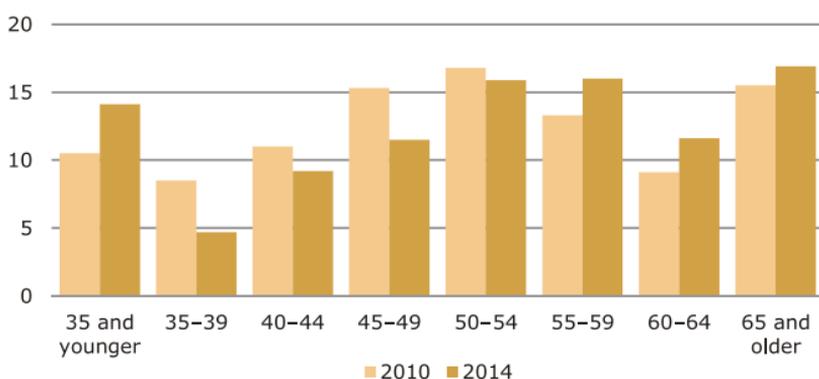
Key health care indicators

(at the end of the year)

	2010	2013	2014
Physicians of all specialities (in main job)	7 951	7 991	7 727
Residents and physicians in service training	463	452	589
Specialists with higher medical professional education	519	879	889
Nurses with higher education	1 090	2 024	2 028
Health care professionals with secondary medical education	13 217	11 906	11 678
Hospitals	67	65	64
Hospital beds (on average annually)	11 920	11 673	11 279

Age structure of practising physicians (¹)

(per cent)



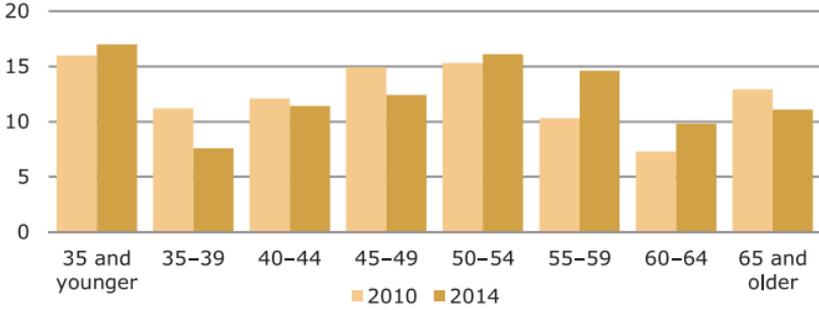
Practising physicians by statistical region (¹)

	2010	2013	2014	
			total	per 10 000 population
Latvia	6 609	6 624	6 564	33.0
Rīga	3 841	4 011	4 012	62.6
Pierīga	646	586	585	15.9
Vidzeme	476	446	426	21.4
Kurzeme	536	530	510	20.0
Zemgale	476	446	441	18.2
Latgale	634	605	590	21.0

(¹) Health Inspectorate, Register of Medical Practitioners and Medical Support Staff.

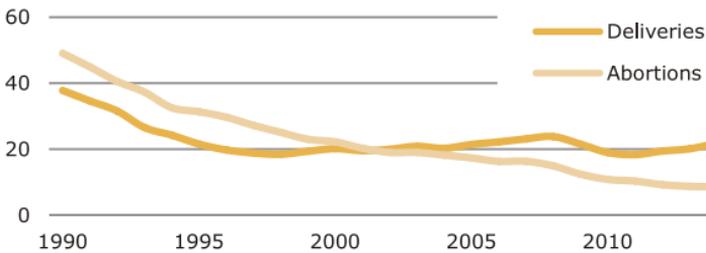
Age structure of practising dentists (1)

(per cent)

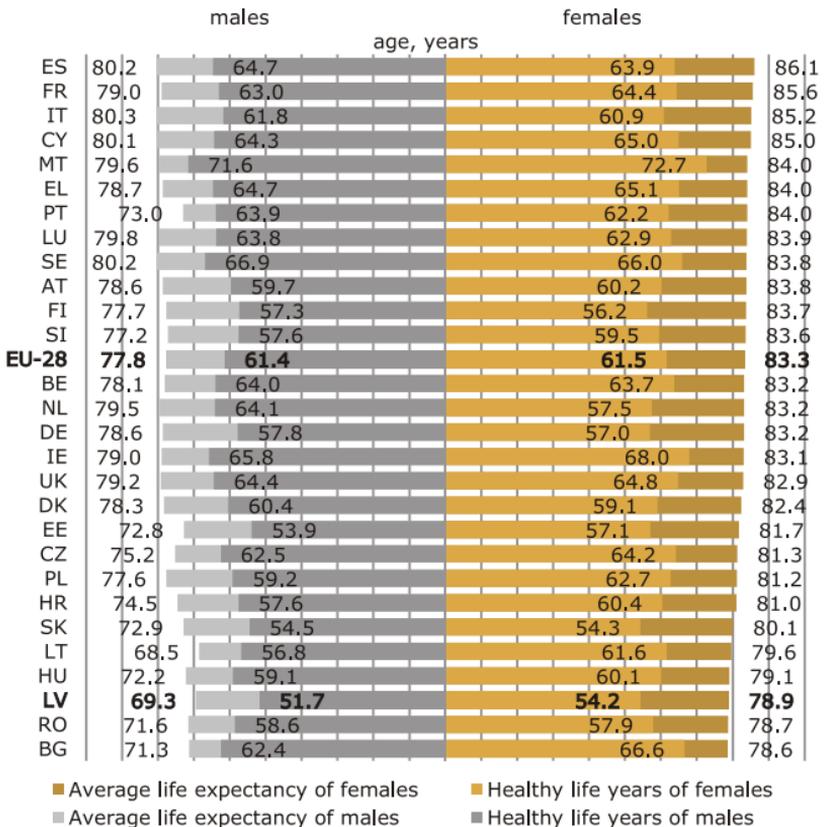


Dynamics of deliveries and abortions

(thousands)



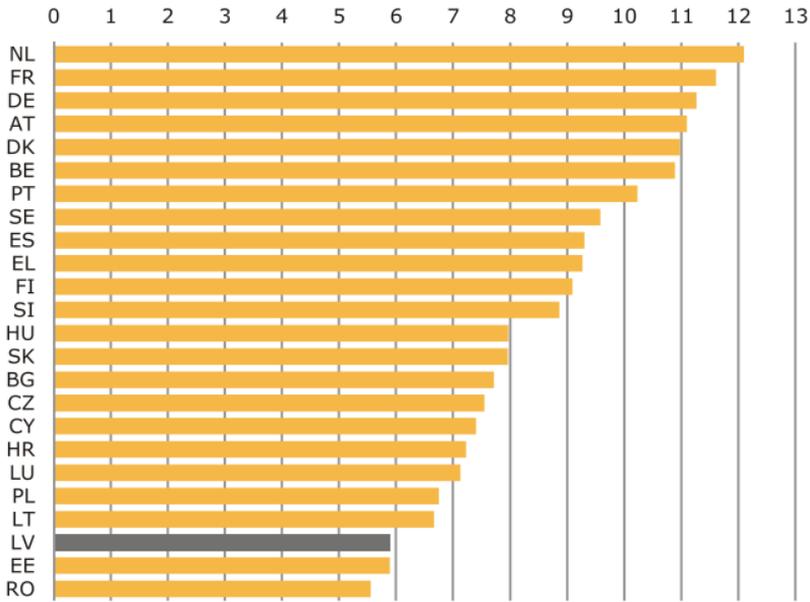
Healthy life expectancy in EU countries in 2013



Data source: Eurostat [hlth_hlye] 15.03.2015

Healthcare expenditure in EU countries in 2013

(per cent of GDP)



8. Social Security

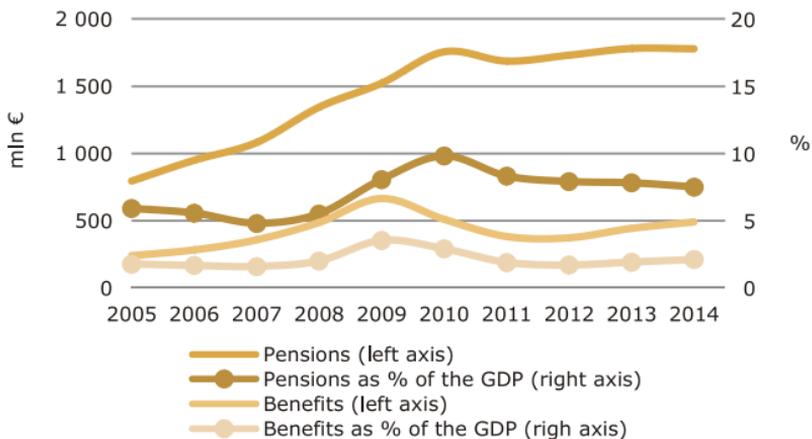
Expenditure on pensions and benefits growing gradually

Data of the State Social Insurance Agency show that, total expenditure on state pensions and social benefits comprised 2 billion 269 million euros in 2014 – 46.2 million euros more than in 2013. State pensions comprise the largest share of the expenditure – 78 %.

Total expenditure on state pensions did not change, constituting 1 billion 777 million euros in 2014 (1.8 million less than in 2013). Whereas expenditure on state social benefits accounted for 491 million euros in 2014, exceeding expenditure of 2013 by 10.8 % or 48.0 million euros. Last year, expenditure share in the GDP has not changed notably – expenditure on pensions comprised 7.5 % of the GDP and expenditure on state benefits – 2.1 %.

In line with the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) data, in 2014 expenditure on pensions accounted for more than a half (50.8 %) of the total expenditure on social protection. Second largest share consisted of healthcare expenditure (22.6 %), followed by expenditure on disability (9.2 %) and family and children (9 %).

Expenditure on benefits and pensions



State social benefits

After deregulation of sickness, maternity, and paternity benefit limitations, in 2015 average size of benefits paid per day increased. In 2015, the size of sickness benefit has reached the highest amount recorded during the last five years; since 2012 it has been growing steadily and in 2015 reached 13.80 euros per day. Compared to 2014, average size of sickness benefit paid per day rose by 22.4 %.

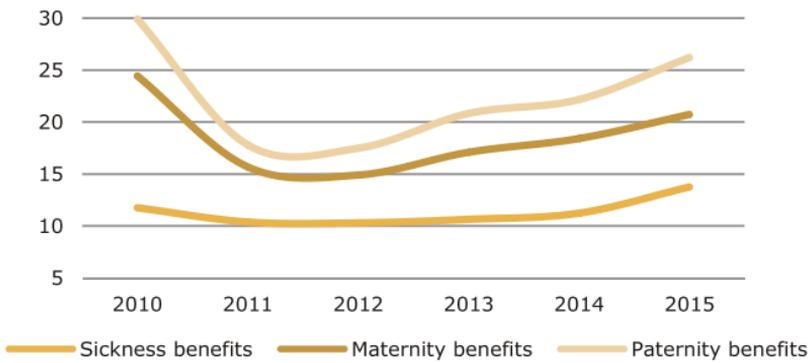
Paternity benefit in Latvia since the introduction thereof (except in 2008) has been greater than maternity benefit, moreover along with the improvement of the economic situation, in 2015 the difference is even bigger. Last year, paternity benefit on average constituted 26.20 euros per day, and it has grown by 18.2 %, as compared to 2014. While maternity benefit on average comprised 20.72 euros per day, and during the year it has increased by 12.5 %. Nevertheless, in 2015 sickness benefit exceeded the pre-crisis value thereof (11.80 euros per day in 2010), maternity and paternity benefit have not reached the level of 2010 yet.

State pensions

At the end of 2015, 570.1 thousand people in Latvia received state pension. Compared to 2014, in 2015 the number of pension recipients decreased by 0.9 %, while size of monthly pension increased by 2.4 %, reaching on average 255.86 euros. The largest share of pensions paid consisted of old-age pensions – 81.9 % or 466.7 thousand, while disability pensions accounted for 12.9%, survivor's pensions – for 3.5%, and service pensions – for 1.8%. Old-age pensions paid in 2015 on average were by 7.14 euros higher than in 2015 and reached on average 273.40 euros.

Sickness, maternity and paternity benefits

(average size of benefit to be paid, euros per day)



Pension recipients and pension size

	2005	(¹) 2010	2014	2015
Pension recipients, thsd	588.7	574.5	575.5	570.1
Old-age pensions	475.6	475.9	472.1	466.7
Disability pensions	73.6	69.3	72.3	73.3
Survivor's pensions (²)	32.9	26.9	20.8	19.8
Service pensions (³)	4.4	2.4	10.3	10.3
Average size of pensions to be paid, euros per month	110.91	236.17	249.77	255.86
Old-age pensions	114.58	250.25	266.26	273.40
Disability pensions	95.18	173.49	164.42	164.42
Survivor's pensions (²)	81.67	135.67	130.82	133.26
Service pensions (³)	123.72	229.69	303.78	314.41

(¹) In 2010, average size of the monthly old-age pension does not include the amount withheld in accordance with the law "On Payment of State Pensions and State Allowances During Time Period from 2009 to 2012", which was paid out to the old-age pension recipients in 2010.

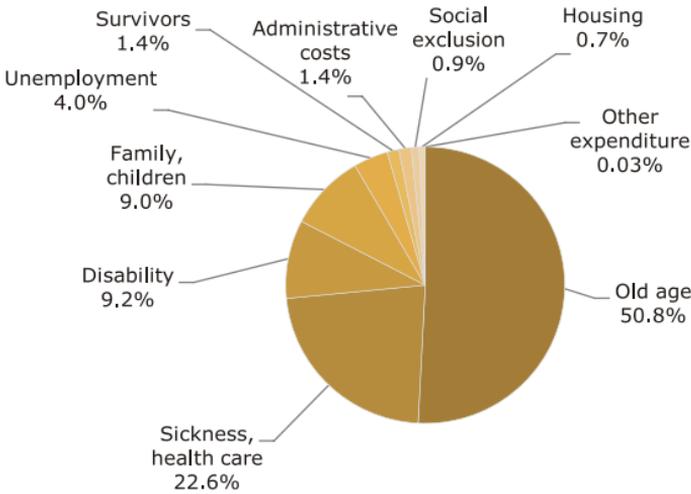
(²) Total number of family members, who are not able to work and have lost their breadwinner.

(³) Starting from 2011, the number of service pension recipients includes service pensions paid by the State Social Insurance Agency from the central government budget to the employees of the Ministry of Interior, diplomats, prosecutors, etc.

Social care indicators

	2005	2010	2013	2014
Persons receiving home care	9 546	8 345	10 434	11 659
Persons in long-term social institutions	12 488	12 509	13 056	12 904
Children under guardianship	8 683	5 565	4 945	4 831
Children adopted from social care institutions	181	130	127	135
children adopted in Latvia	67	64	62	45
children adopted to foreign countries	114	66	65	90

Social protection expenditure by ESSPROS classification; 2014



9. Education

Decline in children population recorded

In 2015, children aged under 17 accounted for almost every fifth or 18.8 % of the total EU population. In Latvia children accounted for 17.6 % of the country population, and share thereof in the total population was one the smallest in the EU. The smallest children share in Europe is recorded is Germany – 16.1 %, Bulgaria – 16.4 %, and Italy – 16.6 %, whereas the largest in Ireland – 26.0 %. In Estonia and Lithuania this indicator comprised 18.6 % and 18.0 %, respectively. Due to the demographic situation, since 2005 number of children has been declining, and in 2014 it reduced by 21.6 %.

Pre-school education

In 2014, 92.2 thousand children at pre-school age attended pre-school education establishments. Most part of the children attended local government pre-school education establishments, while 8.1 thousand or 8.8 % – private kindergartens. Number of private pre-school education establishments has risen sharply during the last years. In 2010 there were 62 private pre-school education establishments, while in 2014 already 109 (in Riga 31 and 73, respectively). During the year, the number of children in pre-school education establishments has declined by 1.4 %, while, as compared to 2010, the number has risen by 4.5 %.

Out of 633 pre-school education establishments, in 449 Latvian was the language of instruction and in 79 – Russian. Latvian was the language of instruction in 76.8 % of the pre-school education establishments and Russian – in 22.6 %. Compared to 2010, the share of children learning in Latvian has went up by 1.8 %.

In 2014, 8.2 % of children aged 3–6 did not attend pre-school education establishment. While in 2010, 12.7 % of children at this age were not participating in pre-school education.

General education

Data of the Ministry of Education and Science show that, 172.3 thousand students were acquiring basic education, 48.6 % of them were girls. Enrolment in basic education has grown by 2.4 % during the year. Nevertheless total general education enrolment increased slightly, in grades 10–12 it is reducing every year. As compared to the school year 2010/2011, in the school year 2014/2015 secondary education enrolment dropped by almost one third and by 6.7 % as compared to the school year before.

In the school year 2014/2015, 92.4 % of students were acquiring foreign languages. The reason behind that is a decision to introduce compulsory learning of foreign languages from the 1st grade starting from the school year 2014/2015. In the school year before, foreign languages were learned by 84.5% of students.

Due to the demographic situation and school reforms, the number of general schools kept decreasing. In school year 2014/2015, as compared to the previous school year, total number of full-time schools decreased by 11 schools (of secondary schools – by 4). Since the school year 2010/2011, the number of full-time schools has reduced by 34 schools, of which by 13 secondary schools.

Out of the total number of children aged 7–15, 99.6 % were attending various educational institutions.

Higher and vocational education

Compared to the school year before, in the school year 2015/2016 enrolment in vocational schools declined by 8.1 %, comprising 27.4 thousand; 43.3 % of the students in vocational schools are learning natural sciences and engineering.

In 2015, 8.2 thousand students were acquiring secondary vocational education – a decrease of 7.2 %, compared to 2014.

During the academic year 2015/2016, 29.1 thousand students entered higher education – 0.2 % less than a year before. Out of the total number of the 1st year entrants, 43.3 % entered social science and humanities programmes, while 26.9 % – natural science and engineering programmes. For more than a half of entrants (58.6 %) studies were not subsidised. Number of foreign students in Latvia universities is increasing every year. During the academic year 2015/2016, 6.5 thousand foreign students are attending universities in Latvia – 12 % more than in the previous academic year. Majority of foreign students come from Germany (976) and Uzbekistan (874).

In the academic year 2015/2016, total number of students in higher education institutions accounts for 84.2 thousand. In 2015, 17 thousand students were participating in higher education; 49.2 % of them were studying social sciences and humanities – 5.6 % less than in the academic year before. The share of natural science and engineering programme graduates comprised 19.6 % (20.2 % in 2004 and 14.3% in 2010). Out of the total number of graduates in 2015, females accounted for 65.4 %.

Educational institutions

(at the beginning of the school year)

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Pre-school education			
Establishments	605	617	633
Enrolment	93 293	93 533	92 219
Pedagogic staff	9 906	9 703	9 940
General education			
Institutions	832	832	824
Enrolment	212 433	209 130	209 686
Pedagogic staff	29 028	29 197	29 384
Vocational education			
Institutions	65	66	63
Enrolment	32 086	31 055	29 855
Pedagogic staff	3 112	2 899	2 796
Higher education			
Institutions	61	61	60
Enrolment	94 474	89 671	85 881
Academic staff	4 917	4 888	4 867

Enrolment by level of education (ISCED 2011)

(at the beginning of the school year)

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Enrolment	432 286	423 389	417 641
Pre-primary education (Level 0)	93 293	93 533	92 219
children aged 0–2	13 612	14 801	16 150
children aged 3–8	79 681	78 732	76 069
First stage of basic education (grades 1–6)	114 089	114 660	117 303
Second stage of basic education (grades 7–9 and vocational education)	55 329	54 825	55 331
(Upper) secondary education (grades 10–12 and secondary vocational education)	71 613	66 755	62 430
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	3 488	3 945	4 477
First stage of tertiary education (higher education)	91 955	87 265	83 681
Second stage of tertiary education (doctoral studies)	2 519	2 406	2 200

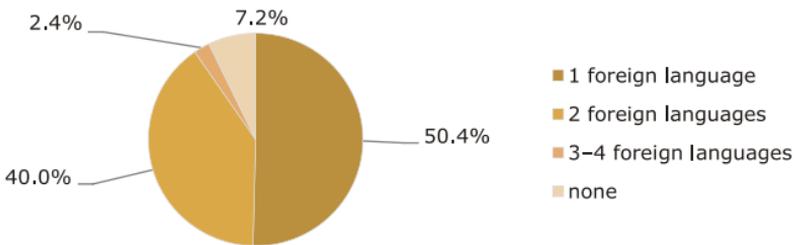
General full-time schools in statistical regions

(at the beginning of the school year)

	2010/2011			2014/2015		
	<i>schools</i>	<i>enrolment</i>	<i>pedagogic staff</i>	<i>schools</i>	<i>enrolment</i>	<i>pedagogic staff</i>
Latvia	830	216 307	27 910	796	199 119	28 545
Riga	143	65 155	7 414	143	64 931	7 636
Pierīga	134	34 059	4 303	124	33 862	4 612
Vidzeme	146	25 016	3 935	145	20 717	3 988
Kurzeme	130	31 485	3 980	125	26 940	4 038
Zemgale	120	28 047	3 650	112	24 720	3 791
Latgale	157	32 545	4 628	147	27 949	4 480

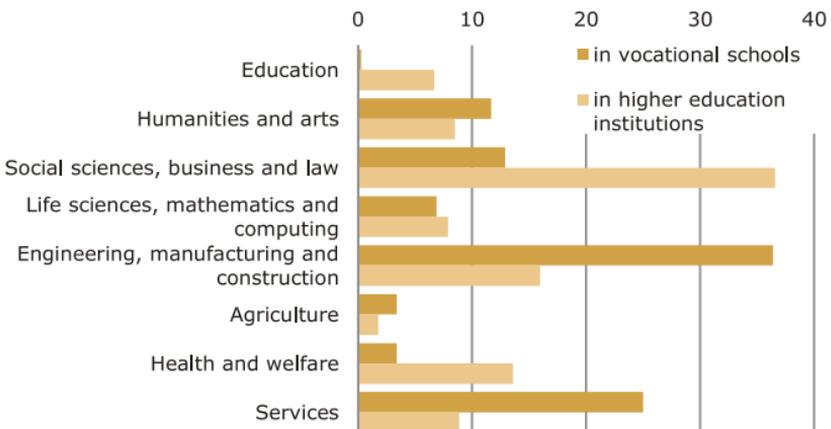
Foreign language learning in the school year 2014/2015

(in general schools)

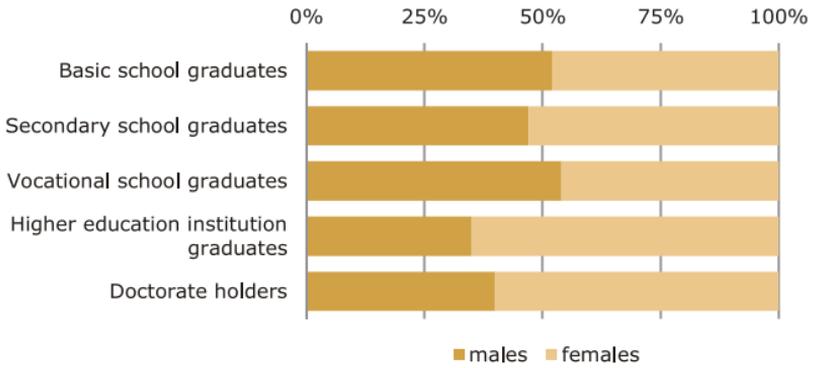


Enrolment by field of education and training; at the beginning of the school year 2015/2016

(per cent)

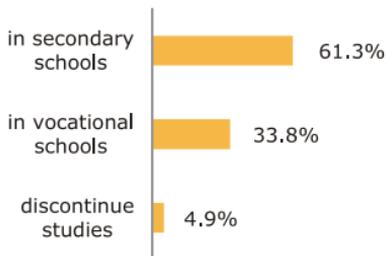


Graduates by gender; 2014

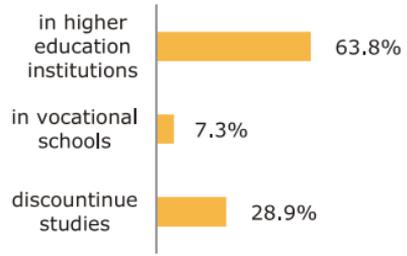


Further education of basic and general school graduates in 2014

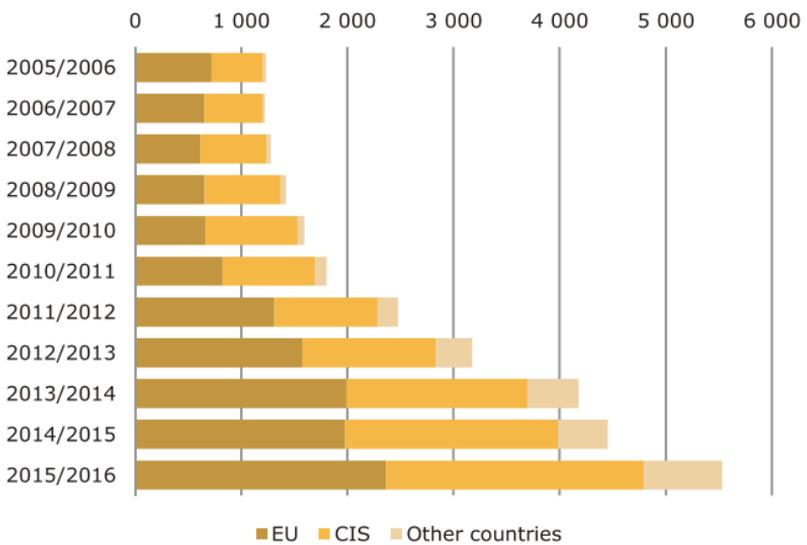
Basic school graduates continue studies



Secondary school graduates continue studies



Number of internationally mobile students



Expenditure on education

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Expenditure on education, mln euros	1 138.7	1 200.3	1 217.0	1 328.3
government expenditure	911.5	1 002.4	1 014.3	1 118.7
private expenditure	185.2	174.9	181.0	171.6
foreign sources of finance	42.0	23.0	21.7	38.0
Government expenditure on education as % of the GDP	5.0	5.0	4.6	4.8

10. Culture

Theatres and cinemas

In 2014, Latvia state and local government theatres staged 3 289 performances. As compared to 2010, in 2014 theatre attendance increased by 14.3 % – 402 theatre attendances per 1 000 population were registered in 2010, while the number grew up to 484 attendances per 1 000 population in 2014.

Nevertheless during the last years cinema attendance increased, in 2014 admissions in cinemas and cultural centres comprised 2.31 million – 2.8 % less than a year before.

Libraries

In 2014, there were 1 749 libraries in Latvia – the number has dropped by 4.5 %, as compared to 2010. The sharpest decline (of 6.6 %) was recorded in the number of libraries of educational institutions, while number of public libraries (including the National Library of Latvia and the Academic Library of the University of Latvia) has reduced by 2.2 %. During this time period, the number of loans in libraries has decreased by 18.5 %.

Publishing

The largest book, brochure, journal and other periodical circulation was recorded in 2007, while starting from 2008 the number of issues is declining. In 2014, book and brochure circulation in Latvia accounted for 3.0 million copies, 7.2 % of which were issued in foreign languages. The number is by 0.2 million copies less than in 2013. In 2014, journal and other periodical issues reduced by 4.4 million and accounted for 33.5 million copies. Reference books had the largest circulation in 2014 – 868.8 thousand copies. During a four-year period, children's literature circulation doubled – from 356.2 thousand copies in 2010 to 744.1 thousand copies in 2014. Whereas, textbook circulation diminished notably – number of copies fell from 506.2 thousand in 2010 to 181.1 thousand in 2014. However, it should be noted that, in 2010 textbooks had the largest circulation among all literature.

In 2014, circulation of printed matter in Latvian accounted for 2 759.9 thousand copies, 196.2 thousand copies were issued in foreign languages, and circulation of dictionaries comprised 18.1 thousand copies. As compared to 2013, the circulation of publications in Latvian has reduced by 7.8 % and circulation of publications in foreign languages – by 18.4 %.

Expenditure on recreation and culture

General government expenditure on recreational, cultural, and religious function constituted 396 million euros or 4.5 % of total general government expenditure (8 790 million). In 2014, the share of expenditure on culture has risen up to 1.7 % (in 2013 – 1.5 %).

Population expenditure on recreation and culture has not returned to the pre-crisis level yet. In 2014, this expenditure in the total expenditure structure accounted for 7.9 % of total personal expenditure (in 2008 – 8.3 %): rural residents on recreation and culture spent 17.76 euros monthly (7.1 % of total personal expenditure), while urban residents – 26.40 euros (8.2 %), of which Riga residents – 35.46 euros (9.4 %).

Activities of cultural institutions and publishing

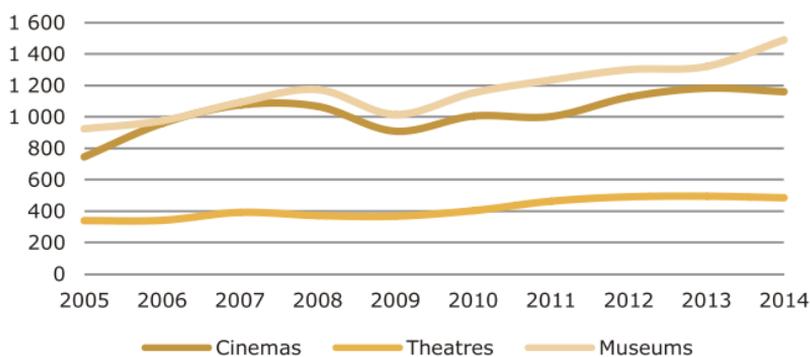
	2010	2013	2014
Museums			
Number (incl. branches; at the end of the year)	120	111	112
Number (incl. branches, structural units and divisions; at the end of the year) ⁽¹⁾	...	145	147
Visitors, thsd pers.	2 419	2 658	2 971
Visitors per 1 000 population	1 153	1 321	1 490
Cinemas			
Number (at the end of the year)	17	14	15

⁽¹⁾ No data on 2010.

	2010	2013	2014
Seats	11 266	9 312	10 206
Admissions (in cinemas and cultural centres)	2 106	2 378	2 311
Admissions per 1 000 population	1 004	1 181	1 159
Theatres			
Number (at the end of the year)	9	9	9
Performances	3 020	3 326	3 289
Attendance, thsd pers.	843	994	964
Attendance per 1 000 population	402	494	484
Libraries			
Number (at the end of the year)	1 831	1 751	1 749
National Library of Latvia	1	1	1
Academic Library of the University of Latvia	1	1	1
higher education institution libraries	52	50	50
specialised libraries	38	36	36
public libraries	829	811	811
general and vocational school libraries	910	852	850
Users, thsd pers.	1 103	1 169	1 210
Loans, mlns	28.1	24.3	22.9
Publishing			
Number of books and brochures	2 035	2 223	2 177
Circulation of books and brochures, thsd copies	3 330.6	3 240.8	2 974.2

Museum, theatre, and cinema attendance per 1 000 population

(euros)



11. Crime and justice

Recorded crime has increased slightly

In 2015, 47 406 crimes were registered; registered crime has declined by 2.2 %, as compared to 2014 (48 477). The number of crimes committed by juveniles is reducing: in 2015, the share of juvenile offenders in Latvia accounted only for 4.9 % – the lowest level since 1990, when the indicator comprised 19.4 %. However, the share of female offenders has increased over 14 % (14.4 %), as compared to 2014, when the indicator fell down to 10.5 %.

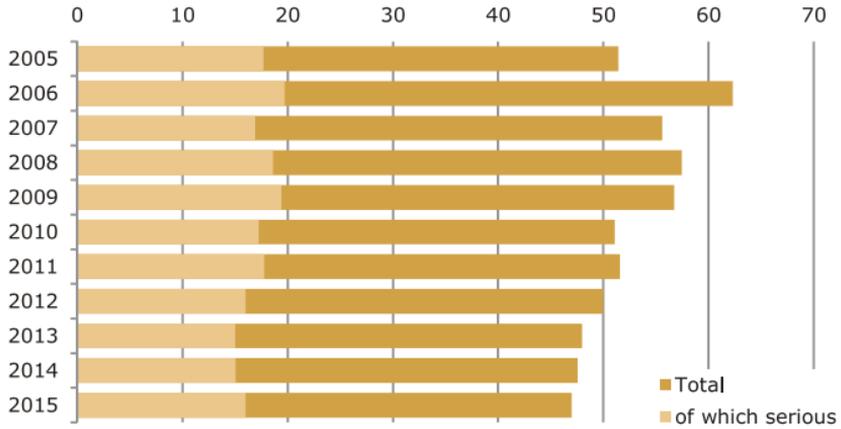
Theft still is the most common crime

In 2015, 21 804 thefts (including fraud and misappropriation on a small scale) were recorded, comprising 46 % of all crimes recoded. During the last years, the number of thefts tends to decline even though slightly – a drop of 3.6 %, as compared to 2014, and of 15 %, as compared to 2010.

Approximately one third of the crimes recorded were classified as serious (in 2015 – 32.7 %, in 2014 – 30.4 %). In 2015, the number of intentional homicide has went up by 2.3 % – 87 cases of homicide were recorded (in 2014 – 85). At the end of 2015, there were 4.4 thousand persons in prisons of Latvia – a reduction of 7.1 %, as compared to 2014.

Number of recorded crimes

(thousands)



Recorded crimes

	2010	2014	2015
Number of recorded crimes ⁽¹⁾	51 108	48 477	47 406
Intentional homicide	82	85	87
Aggravated assault	181	226	178
Rape	79	75	60
Robbery	1 072	809	779
Property theft ⁽²⁾	25 659	22 612	21 804
Hooliganism	429	303	225
Violation of traffic regulations resulting in serious injuries	603	671	689
Illicit preparation, storage, and selling of narcotics	2 189	2 765	3 529

Offenders

	2010	2014	2015
Number of offenders ⁽³⁾	15 848	9 164	10 060
as % of total offender number:			
females	14,6	10,5	14,4
juveniles	6,2	5,5	4,9

Convicted persons

	2010	2014
Number of convicted persons	9 607	9 212
Intentional homicide	77	75
Aggravated assault	155	155
Rape	19	32
Robbery	475	398
Property theft	3 802	3 753
Hooliganism	258	149
Violation of traffic regulations resulting in serious injuries	197	204
Illicit preparation, storage, and selling of narcotics	898	832

⁽¹⁾ Including attempts.

⁽²⁾ Starting from 2011, including fraud and misappropriation on a small scale.

⁽³⁾ Accused persons.

Prison population

	2010	2014	2015
Prison population at the end of the year	6 780	4 745	4 409
Convicted persons	4 749	3 276	3 020
Arrested and convicted persons in remand prison	2 031	1 469	1 389

Fires: number of consequences

	2010	2014	2015
Number of fires ⁽¹⁾	8 087	12 175	10 311
Arson (possible cause)	699	1 444	1 388
Destroyed structures	633	841	644
Fire deaths	149	94	90
of which children aged under 17	4	2	1

Justice

	2010	2014
Specialists	2 312	1 918
Judges ⁽²⁾	414	426
Public prosecutors	449	457
Lawyers	1 329	1 349
Public notaries	120	112

12. Gross Domestic Product

Economic growth continues

In 2011–2013, Latvian economy was among the fastest-growing economies in the European Union; in 2012, GDP growth rate comprised 4.0 %, in 2013 – 3.0 %, and in 2014 – 2.4 %. As compared to 2014, in 2015 economic growth of Latvia rose up to 2.7 %. In 2015, GDP at current prices comprised 24.4 billion euros, while at constant prices – 21.4 billion euros. As compared to the last lowest point recorded in 2010, due to population decline and economic growth, in 2015 GDP amount per capita rose notably – by 26.9 %.

Gross Domestic Product at current and constant prices

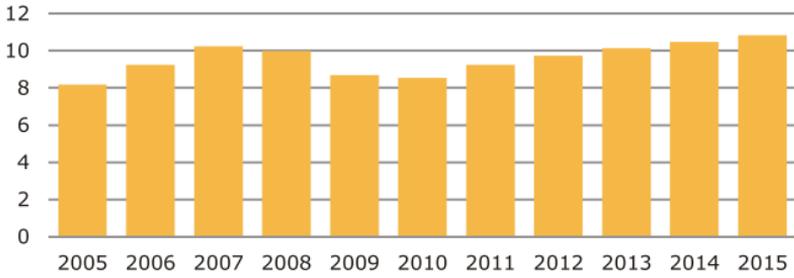
	2013	2014	2015
Gross Domestic Product, million euros			
At current prices	22 763	23 581	24 376
At constant prices of 2010	20 395	20 876	21 448
Per capita, euros			
At current prices	11 309	11 824	12 320
At constant prices of 2010	10 133	10 468	10 840

⁽¹⁾ Excluding forest fires.

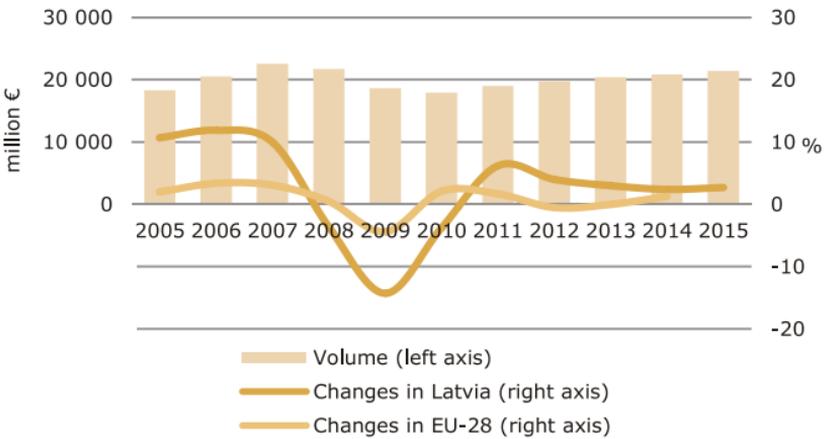
⁽²⁾ Judges of 1st instance courts, regional courts, and supreme courts.

Gross Domestic Product per capita

(thousand euros at constant prices of 2010)



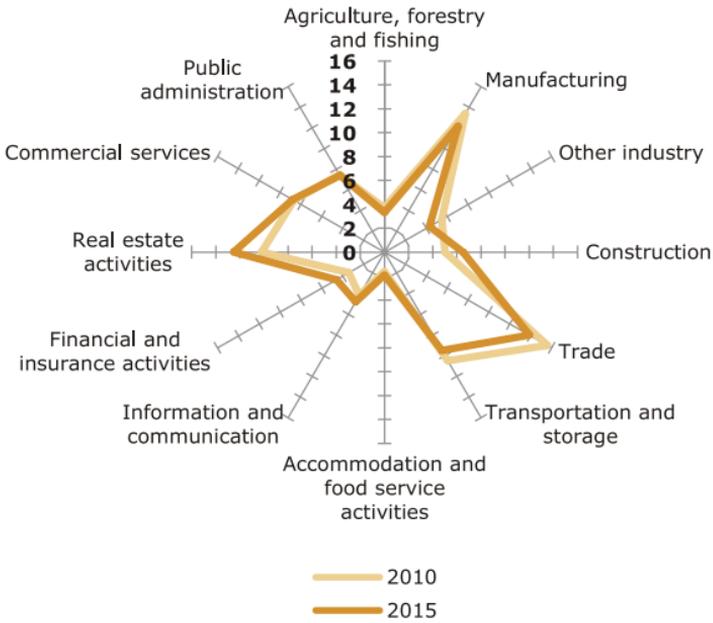
Gross Domestic Product changes over the previous year



Gross Domestic Products structure and changes by kind of economic activity; 2015

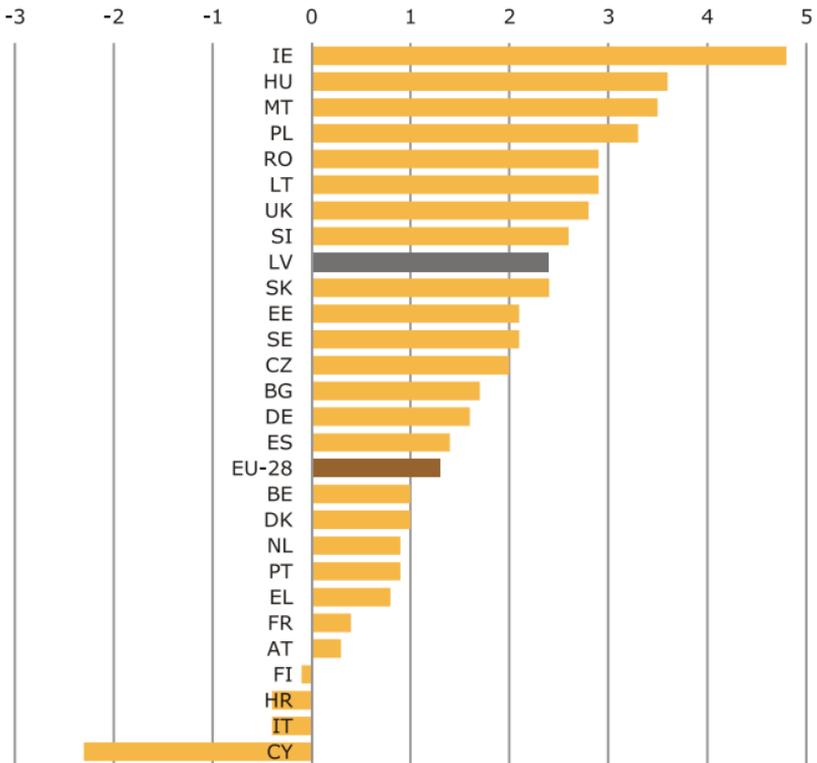
	<i>In 2015, at current prices, %</i>	<i>Changes over 2014, at constant prices of 2010, %</i>
Total		
(A..T) Total value added	100	2.5
(A) Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	5.0
(BCDE) Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	15	3.6
(F) Construction	7	-1.1
(G,H,I) Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and	25	2.4
(J) Information and communication	5	3.3
(K) Financial and insurance activities	5	1.1
(L) Real estate activities	13	3.0
(M,N) Professional, scientific and technical services; administrative and support service activities	8	1.4
(O,P,Q) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	16	3.0
(R,S,T) Arts, entertainment and recreation; other services; activities of households as employers	3	3.0

Structure of economy in 2010 and 2015



GDP changes un EU countries in 2015 (1)

(per cent)



Data source: Eurostat [nama_10_gdp] 04.04.2016.

(1) Data on Luxemburg are not available.

13. Price Statistics

Moderate rise in consumer prices during the year

Consumer prices rose by 0.3 % in 2015 – prices of services grew by 2.1 %, while prices of goods reduced by 0.3 %. In 2015, the greatest pressure on the level of consumer prices was put by the rise in prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, goods and services related to housing, hotel and restaurant services, as well as by the drop in prices of goods and services related to transport, food and non-alcoholic beverages. Average level of alcoholic beverage prices went up by 5.7 %, whereas average level of tobacco product prices – by 1.8 %. Changes in prices of goods and services related to housing (rise of 1.7 %) was influenced by the increase in prices of electricity and refuse collection, and maintenance charges in multi-occupied buildings, as well as decrease in prices of heat energy and natural gas. During the year, prices of restaurant and hotel services grew by 2.5 %. Prices in cafés and restaurants increased by 2.7 %, and in canteens – by 2.3 %. Average level of hotel service prices decreased by 0.3 % during the year.

In 2015, prices of goods and services related to transport dropped by 2.3 %, of which prices of fuels for transport fell by 11.0 %. Reduction was recorded also in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages. In 2015, administered prices decreased by 2.6 %, while non-administered prices grew by 0.7 %.

Producer prices in industry declined during the year

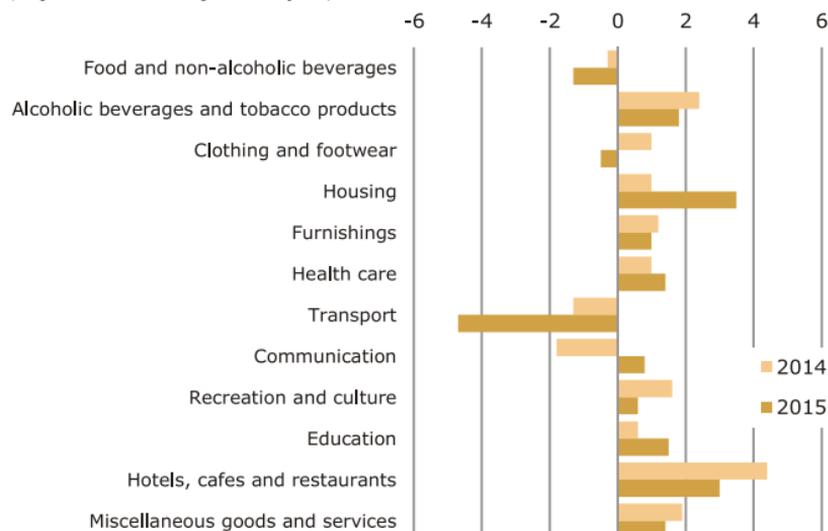
Compared to the average level of 2014, in 2015 producer prices in Latvian industry decreased by 1.0 %. Prices of products sold on the domestic market dropped by 1.4 %, while prices of exported products – by 0.5 %. Reduction in prices in waste management and remediation activities, materials recovery and manufacture of food products had the greatest downward impact on the average price level, while rise in prices in sewerage, as well as water collection, treatment and supply had the biggest upward impact.

Price indices (2010=100)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Consumer price index	104.4	106.7	106.7	107.4	107.5
Producer price index in industry	107.7	111.6	113.4	113.8	112.8
Construction cost index	102.1	109.0	111.8	112.2	112.3
Export unit value index	110.6	114.7	116.8	115.2	115.5
Import unit value index	110.4	118.6	119.2	118.6	116.2

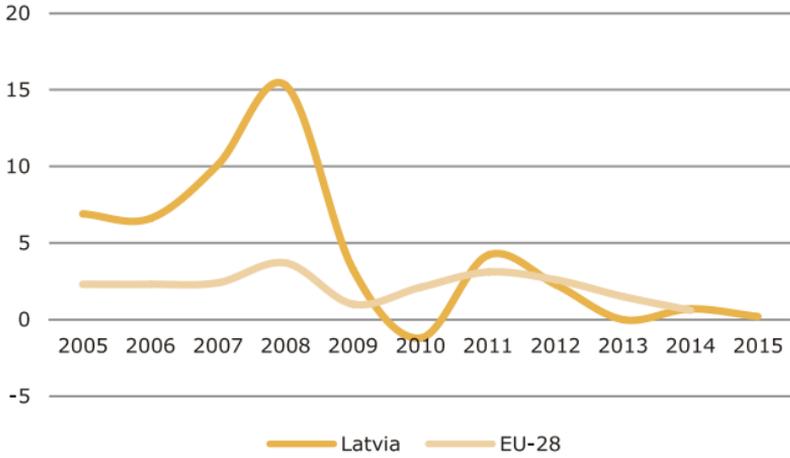
Changes in prices of consumer goods and services

(as per cent over the previous year)



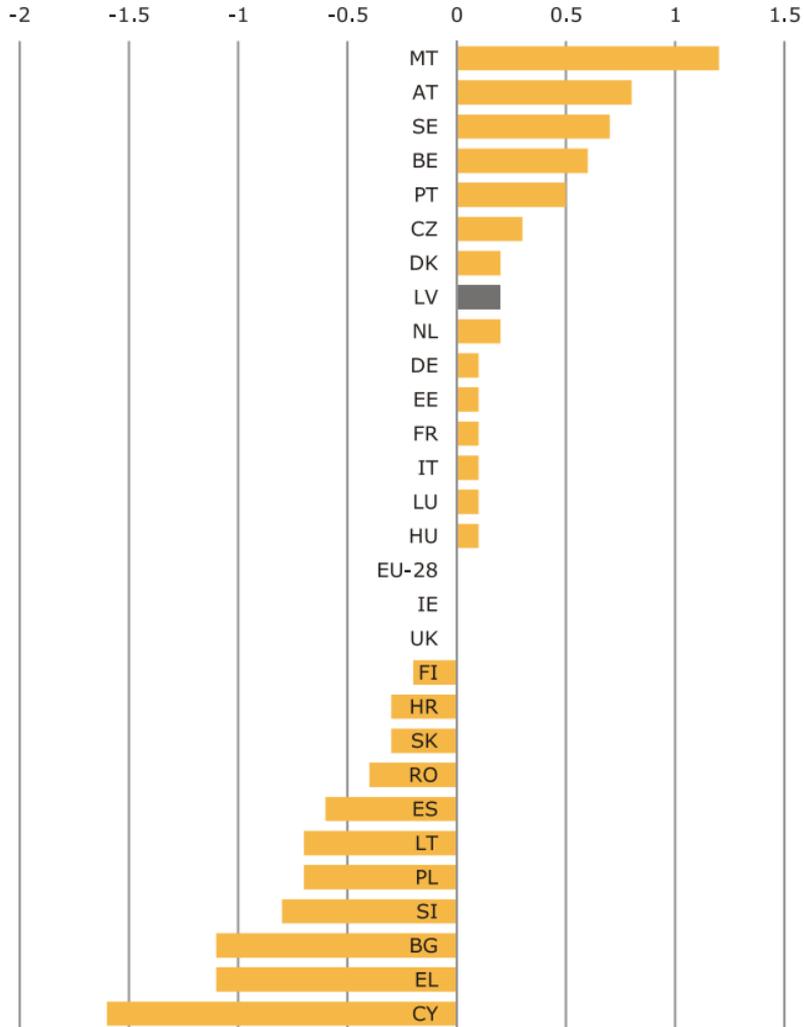
Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices

(changes over the previous year, per cent)



Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices in EU countries; 2015

(changes over the previous year, per cent)



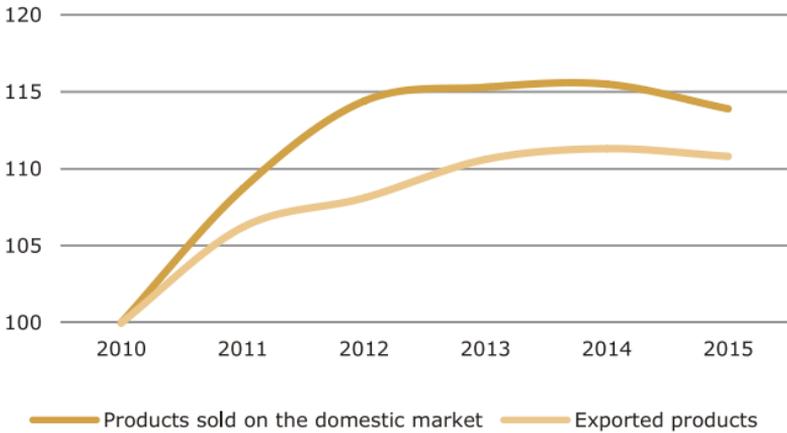
Data source: Eurostat [prc_hicp_mv12r] 01.03.2016.

Producer prices in industry in 2015

	Weights, %	Price changes over the previous year, %
Total industrial production	100	-1.0
Mining and quarrying	2.1	3.4
Manufacturing	74.3	-0.9
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	20.2	-1.6
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3.4	-0.6

Producer price indices by industrial activity

(2010=100)



14. Government Finances

Increase in general government budget tax revenue

Development of economy, changes in tax policy, and improvement of tax policy administration measures facilitated rise in the revenue from taxes and social contributions in the general government sector last year. Already for the third year in a row, a rise thereof is recorded, reaching 7 025.6 million euros or 28.8 % of the GDP in 2015 – 220.1 million euros more than in 2014 and 1 915.0 million euros more than during economic crisis in 2009. Increase in the revenue from taxes and social contributions shows that, economic situation in the country is improving.

Structure of general government expenditure

In 2014, expenditure on social protection (pensions, benefits, and other forms of social support) accounted for almost one third of total general government budget expenditure – 30.7 %, 15.8 % were allocated to education, while 13.1 % – to economic affairs. Expenditure on general public services and health sector accounted for 13.2 % and 10.2 %, respectively. The remaining share of the expenditure was directed to public order and safety, recreation, culture and religion, housing and community amenities, and environmental protection, allocating to each of the positions less than 5.5 % of the total expenditure.

General government budget: revenue, expenditure, deficit, and debt

In 2015, general government budget expenditure comprised 8 984.6 million euros – 135.0 million euros more than in 2014. However, revenue side indicates even faster increase – of 285.5 million euros – totally comprising 8 757.5 million euros.

In 2015, general government budget debt accounted for 227.1 million euros or 0.9 % of the GDP – 150.5 million euros less than a year before.

In 2015, general government debt in absolute terms reduced down to 8 871.7 million euros – 818.1 million euros less than in 2014.

Government debt constituted 36.4 % of the GDP – 4.7 percentage points less than in the previous year. Reduction in debt may be explained by loan repayment to the European Commission comprising 1.2 billion euros and made on 16 January 2015.

Key general government sector indicators

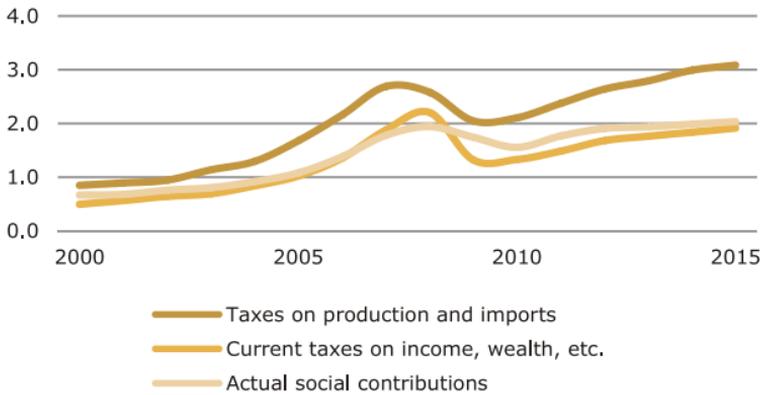
	2010	2015
Revenue, million euros	6 509.6	8 757.5
Expenditure, million euros	8 029.5	8 984.6
Debt, million euros	-519.9	-227.1
Deficit, % of DGP	-8.5	-0.9

General government debt by sub-sector ⁽¹⁾

	2010	2015
General government, million euros	8 520.0	8 871.7
Central government, million euros	8 667.1	8 862.2
Local governments, million euros	1 177.1	1 454.3
Social security fund, million euros	0.01	0.00

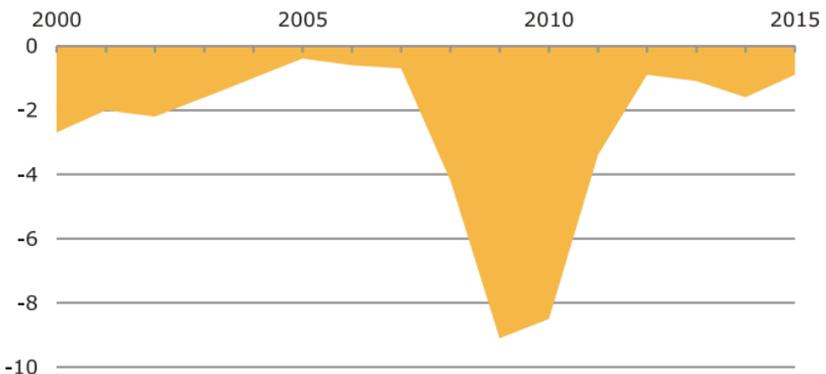
General government sector revenue

(billion euros)



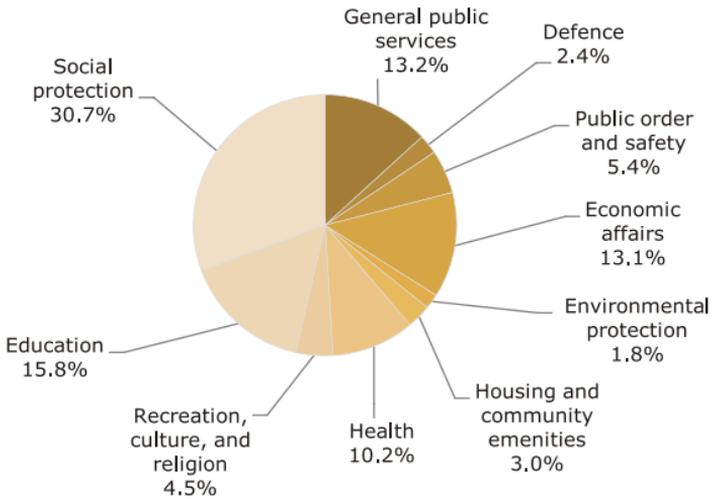
General government sector deficit

(as per cent of GDP)

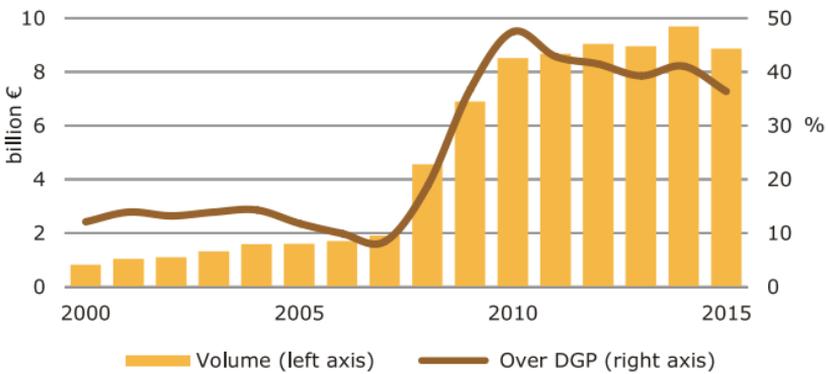


⁽¹⁾ Consolidation was carried out in each sub-sector, but not across the sub-sectors.

General government expenditure structure in 2014



General government debt



15. Non-Financial Investment

Greatest non-financial investment in transportation and storage

Non-financial investment at constant prices grew by 5.2 %, reaching 4.8 billion euros in 2014. During the year, the sharpest increase was recorded in manufacturing. As compared to 2013, mainly due to construction and setting-up or new factories, as well as purchase of new equipment to improve production quality, size of non-financial investment in this sector at constant prices grew by 47.4 %. Notable rise in non-financial investment was observed also in education (increase at constant prices of 45.5 %), human health and social work activities (rise at constant prices of 38.3 %). Size of the non-financial investment was significantly affected also by construction of separate large objects and purchase of machinery and equipment.

In 2014, the largest amount was invested in transportation and storage – 770.7 billion euros or 16.0 % of the total non-financial investment, manufacturing – 657.4 million euros or 13.7 %, real estate activities – 599.6 million euros or 12.5 %, public administration and defence; compulsory social security – 578.4 million euros or 12.0 %, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply – 373.6 million euros or 7.8 %.

Out of the total non-financial investment of 2014, 58.7 % were invested in Riga region. Investment in Pierīga region constituted 15.4 % of the total non-financial investment, in Kurzeme region – 8.2 %, in Zemgale region – 6.9 %, in Latgale region – 5.8 %, and in Vidzeme region – 4.9 %. Compared to 2013, in 2014 size of non-financial investment rose only in Pierīga region (of 17.6 %). In Latgale and Zemgale region non-financial investment

fell by approximately one third (35.0 % and 32.8 %, respectively), in Vidzeme region it declined slightly less (by 27.0%), while the smallest reduction was recorded in Kurzeme region (of 8.2 %).

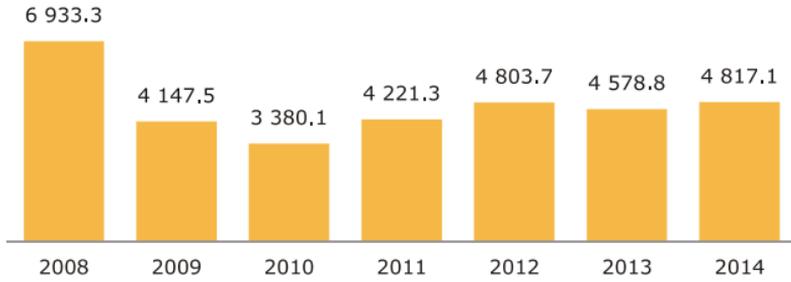
Non-financial investment in tangible and fixed assets by kind of economic activity

(at current prices)

NACE	2012	2013	2014
Total, million euros	4 743.6	4 607.3	4 817.1
(A) Agriculture, forestry and fishing	332.1	347.0	298.6
(B) Mining and quarrying	39.1	48.0	32.0
(C) Manufacturing	634.6	448.9	657.4
(D) Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	541.8	435.9	373.6
(E) Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	149.9	171.2	128.6
(F) Construction	140.4	151.8	160.4
(G) Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	361.0	328.1	353.2
(H) Transportation and storage	745.3	717.5	770.7
(I) Accommodation and food service activities	42.1	63.8	56.7
(J) Information and communication	154.6	159.0	184.4
(K) Financial and insurance activities	63.9	62.6	50.0
(L) Real estate activities	532.5	592.1	599.7
(M) Professional, scientific and technical activities	89.3	76.7	100.3
(N) Administrative and support service activities	95.1	103.9	93.0
(O) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	562.0	612.1	578.4
(P) Education	101.0	92.0	133.0
(Q) Human health and social work activities	111.8	119.3	164.0
(R) Arts, entertainment and recreation	38.6	69.0	71.5
(S) Other service activities	8.3	8.5	11.5

Non-financial investment

(at constant prices of 2014, million euros)



Non-financial investment in statistical regions

(at constant prices of 2014)

	Non-financial investment		of which residential buildings, other buildings and structures	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Total, million euros	4 578.8	4 817.1	2 325.4	2 329.0
Rīga	2 139.5	2 826.9	948.1	1 285.3
Pierīga	632.8	744.0	314.7	392.1
Vidzeme	339.1	238.2	189.3	112.6
Kurzeme	542.8	396.3	330.5	224.0
Zemgale	492.9	331.3	293.7	160.4
Latgale	431.7	280.4	249.1	154.7

16. Foreign Trade

Foreign trade turnover

In 2015, foreign trade turnover at current prices accounted for 22 860.1 million euros – 42.9 million euros or 0.2 % less than in 2014. Export value in the foreign trade turnover constituted 10 371.5 million euros (rise of 122.9 million euros or 1.2 %), while import value comprised 12 488.5 million euros (drop of 165.8 million euros or 1.3 %).

Main exports and imports of goods

The largest share of Latvian exports – 18.4 % of the total export value in 2015 – was taken by machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment, followed by wood and articles of wood – 16.7 %, and base metals and articles of base metals – 8.7 %, as well as prepared foodstuffs – 7.8 %.

While in Latvian imports fair share – 21.9 % of the total value of imports – was formed by machinery, mechanical appliances and electrical equipment, mineral products – 11.9 %, and products of chemical and allied industries – 10.3 %.

Changes in goods imports and exports

In 2015, exports of machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment increased by 187.3 million euros or 10.9 %, and exports of vegetable products – by 171.3 million euros or 30.8 %. While export value of prepared foodstuffs fell by 141.0 million euros or 14.8 %.

Imports of machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment rose by 198.2 million euros or 7.8 %, and imports of chemical and allied industries – of 92.1 million euros or 7.7 %. Imports of mineral products dropped by 359.3 million euros or 19.5 %.

Main export and import partners

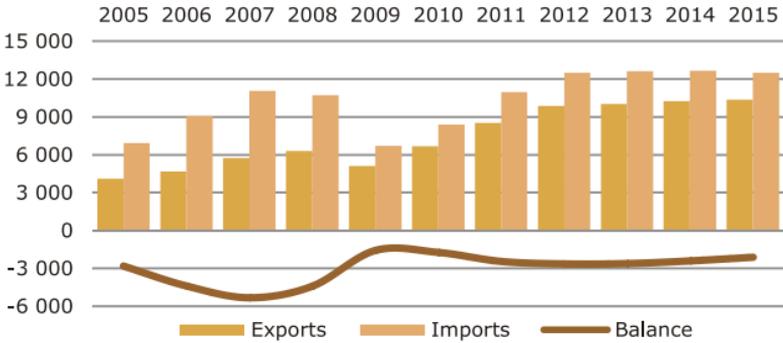
In 2015, exports to the European Union countries accounted for 7 588.2 million euros or 73.2 % of the total exports value (increase of 1.9 %), and exports to CIS countries comprised 1 220.2 million or 11.8 % (drop of 19.8 %). Exports to other countries amounted to 1 563.1

million euros or 15.0 % (increase of 22.4 %). Lithuania (19.0 % of total exports), Estonia (11.7 %), Russia (8.0 %), Germany (6.6 %), and Poland (6.0 %) were the main export partners of Latvia.

Imports from European Union countries comprised 9 857.2 million euros or 78.9 % of the total Latvian imports in 2015 (decline of 2.4 %), while imports from CIS countries – 1 477.4 million euros or 11.8 % (reduction of 1.7 %). Imports from other countries amounted to 1 153.9 million euros or 9.3 % (increase of 9.5 %). Lithuania (17.5 % of total imports), Germany (11.4 %), Poland (11.1 %), Russia (8.4 %), and Estonia (7.7 %) were the main import partners.

Foreign trade balance

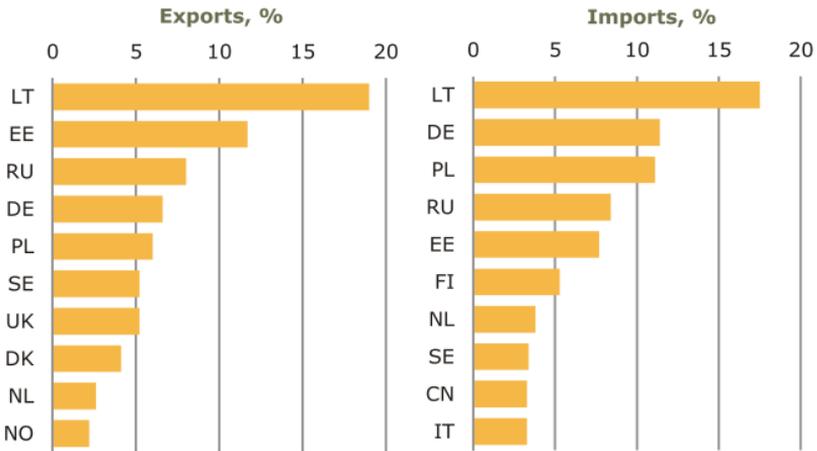
(million euros)



Main exports and imports of goods in 2015

	<i>million euros</i>	<i>%</i>
Exports	10 371.5	100
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	1 911.8	18.4
Wood and articles of wood	1 736.9	16.7
Base metals and articles of base metals	907.3	8.7
Prepared foodstuffs	810.1	7.8
Products of the chemical and allied industries	736.3	7.1
Mineral products	734.2	7.1
Vegetable products	727.9	7.0
Transport vehicles	512.8	4.9
Live animals and animal products	395.0	3.8
Textiles and textile articles	384.9	3.7
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	344.2	3.3
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	324.6	3.1
Goods not elsewhere specified	845.5	8.3
Imports	12 488.5	100
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	2 737.1	21.9
Mineral products	1 481.7	11.9
Products of the chemical and allied industries	1 288.4	10.3
Transport vehicles	1 013.0	8.1
Base metals and articles of base metals	1 002.2	8.0
Prepared foodstuffs	956.3	7.7
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	712.3	5.7
Textiles and textile articles	534.7	4.3
Vegetable products	522.4	4.2
Live animals and animal products	381.5	3.1
Wood and articles of wood	375.4	3.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	366.4	2.9
Goods not elsewhere specified	1 117.1	8.9

Share of main partners in trade in goods; 2015



Foreign trade of Latvia: main partners and principal goods; 2015

(million euros)

Exports		Imports	
Lithuania	1 969.1	Lithuania	2 179.9
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	443.4	Agricultural and food products	506.9
Agricultural and food products	366.6	Mineral products	492.5
Mineral products	359.3	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	317.2
Estonia	1 214.8	Germany	1 428.1
Agricultural and food products	241.2	Transport vehicles	367.0
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	219.1	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	345.0
Wood and articles of wood	154.2	Agricultural and food products	129.4
Russia	829.9	Poland	1 384.3
Agricultural and food products	309.3	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	382.0
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	201.9	Agricultural and food products	220.8
Products of the chemical and allied industries	81.6	Products of the chemical and allied industries	140.8
Germany	682.1	Russia	1 048.1
Wood and articles of wood	186.1	Mineral products	457.6
Agricultural and food products	85.6	Base metals and articles of base metals	226.4
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	68.7	Products of the chemical and allied industries	117.6
Poland	621.7	Estonia	964.4
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	116.4	Agricultural and food products	188.1
Mineral products	105.7	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	138.9
Base metals and articles of base metals	102.8	Transport vehicles	130.9

Exports and imports according to the BEC Classification

(at current prices)

	Exports		Imports	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Total, million euros ⁽¹⁾	10 248.6	10 371.5	12 654.3	12 488.5
Capital goods	1 301.8	1 385.5	1 870.4	1 951.3
Intermediate goods	5 452.0	5 412.0	5 782.4	5 350.3
Consumption goods	2 670.3	2 507.0	3 396.8	3 292.9
Goods not elsewhere specified	616.3	867.4	1 020.3	1 365.8
Passenger cars ⁽²⁾	191.9	174.3	429.0	402.3
Motor spirit ⁽²⁾	16.3	25.3	155.4	125.9

17. Key Business Statistics

Trade sector takes 49 % of goods and services turnover

In 2014, total turnover of goods and services comprised 51 billion euros; trade sector constituted the largest share of it – 24.9 billion euros or 48.9 %. In services and industry the indicator accounted for 11.6 billion euros or 22.7 % and 10.3 billion euros or 20.2 %, respectively, while in construction – for 4.2 billion euros or 8.2 %. Compared to the year before, in 2014 turnover fell by 2.3 %, of which in industry by 6.9 %, in trade – by 1.6 %, in construction – by 0.7 %, whereas in services sector it rose by 0.1 %.

2014 shows decline in value of products manufactured

Compared to 2013, in 2014 value of goods produced in enterprises reduced by 1.4 %, of which in industry by 4.7 %, in construction – by 1.9 %, in trade – by 0.4 %, whereas in services sector it rose by 1.5 %. In 2014, enterprises totally produced goods at the value amounting to 28.3 billion euros (at current prices), the largest share was produced by enterprises engaged in services sector (10.0 billion euros or 35.2 % of the total production value) and industrial sector (9.3 billion euros or 32.8 %). The value of products manufactured by trade and construction enterprises comprised 4.9 billion euros or 17.3 % and 4.2 billion euros or 14.7 %, respectively.

Value added grown in all sectors

Compared to 2013, in 2014 value added generated by enterprises grew by 7.2 %, of which in services – by 11.0 %, in trade – by 8.2 %, in construction – by 6.9 %, and in industry – by 1.3 %. The highest value added at current prices, just like in 2013, was generated by services enterprises – 4.3 billion euros or 41.9 % of the total value. Lower value was generated in industry and trade enterprises – 2.8 billion euros or 27.1 % and 2.3 billion euros or 22.4 %, respectively. Value added generated in construction enterprises comprised 0.9 billion or 8.6 % of the total value.

Value added generated by one person employed reached 17.0 thousand euros in 2014, and it grew by 3.2 %, as compared to 2013. The highest value added per person employed was recorded in industry – 20.1 thousand euros, followed by services sector – 17.6 thousand euros, trade – 14.7 thousand euros, and construction – 13.4 thousand euros. Value added generated by one person employed in trade grew by 4.1 %, in industry – by 4.0 %, in services – by 3.9 %, while in construction it reduced by 1.3 %.

Increase in personnel costs

Purchase of goods and services took the largest expenditure share in 2014 – 41.9 billion euros (at current prices) or 83.5 % of the total costs, and, compared to 2013, the expenditure has dropped by 4 %. Personnel costs accounted for 5.3 billion euros or 10.5 % – a rise of 9.2 %, compared to 2013. Gross investment in tangible goods constituted 3.0 billion euros or 6.0 % of total expenditure – 5.6 % less than in 2013.

⁽¹⁾ BEC – Classification by Broad Economic Categories.

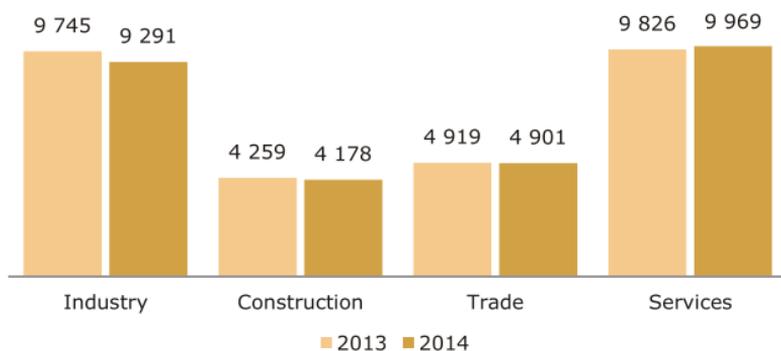
⁽²⁾ These commodities are included under several BEC categories.

Reduction in gross investment in tangible goods was recorded only in services sector – of 13.8 %, in construction and trade the indicator grew by 30.7 % and 5.1 %, respectively, while in industry it did not change. In 2014, out of the total capital investment 50.4 % were made in services sector, of which 40.8 % in transportation and storage and 37.0 % in real estate activities. Almost one third or 32.3 % of the capital investment were made in industry, with the largest share (51.0 %) invested in manufacturing.

Compared to 2013, in 2014 the greatest rise in personnel costs was observed in construction – 14.6 %, followed by services – 10.9 % and trade – 10.5 %, while the smallest increase was recorded in industry – 3.6 %. Costs of purchase of goods and services in industry declined by 9.1 %, in services – by 4.0 %, in construction and trade – by 2.3 %.

Production value by kind of activity

(million euros)



Key business statistics by kind of activity; 2014

(at current prices)

NACE	Turnover	Value added	Purchase of goods and services	Personnel costs
(B–N; 95 without K) Total, million euros	50 997.1	10 312.1	41 863.4	5 288.2
(B–E) Industry	10 314.1	2 792.5	7 732.0	1 335.2
(F) Construction	4 182.1	889.4	3 344.0	547.7
(G) wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	24 932.1	2 309.1	22 870.0	1 224.5
(H–N; 95 without K) Services	11 568.8	4 321.2	7 917.4	2 180.8

18. Industry

Rise in volume of industrial production

Compared to 2014, in 2015 volume of industrial production grew by 3.6 %. The rise was due to the increase in manufacturing (of 4.3 %), as well as mining and quarrying (of 6.4 %), while in electricity and gas supply volume of industrial production stayed at the level of the previous year.

Compared to the year before, in 2015 the most notable rise in manufacturing was influenced by the increase in manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products – of 39.9 %, manufacture of furniture – of 14.2 %, wood processing – of 7.1 %, and manufacture of basic metals.

Compared to 2014, in 2015 the most significant reduction was observed in manufacture of wearing apparel – of 15.3 %, manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products – of 9.8 %, and in manufacture of food products – of 4.8 %. Compared to 2014, in 2015 manufacturing turnover did not change, and 63.9 % of the products sold were exported (in 2014 – 61.6 %).

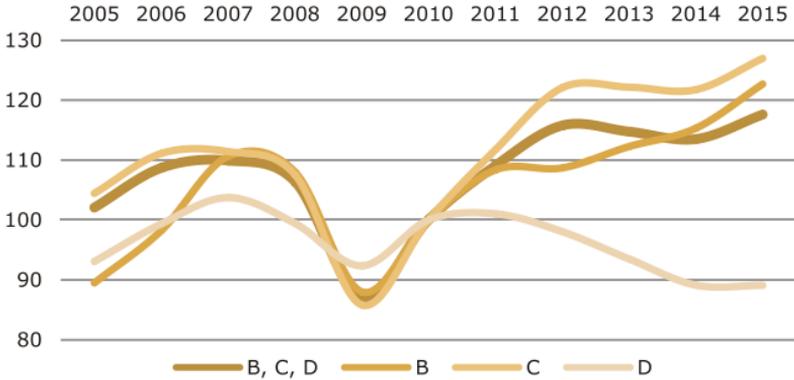
Volume indices of industrial production

(at constant prices)

NACE	over the previous year		2010=100	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
(B, C, D) Industrial production	98.9	103.6	113.5	117.6
(B) Mining and quarrying	102.7	106.4	115.3	122.7
(C) Manufacturing	99.7	104.3	121.8	127.0
(D) Electricity and gas supply	95.3	100.0	89.1	89.1

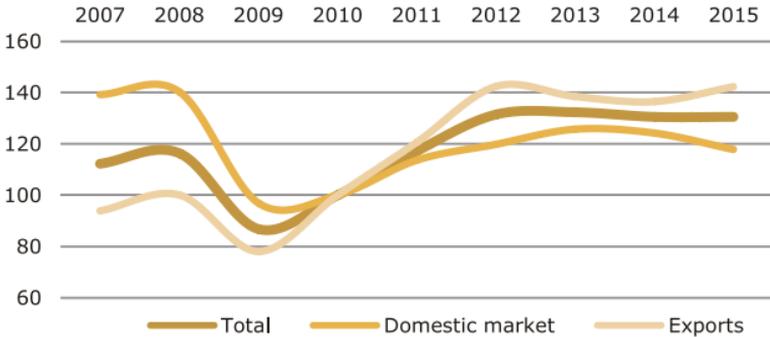
Industrial production (volume) index

(2010=100)



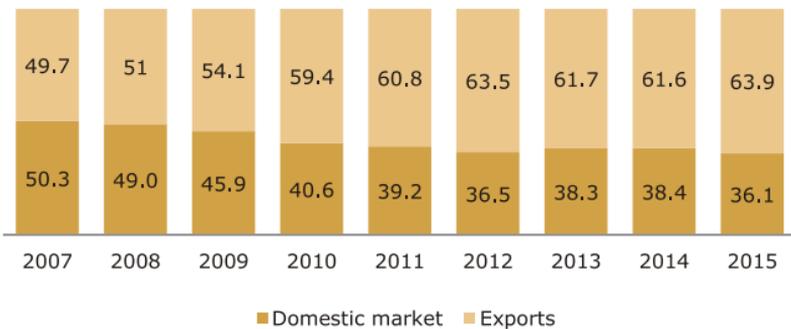
Turnover index in manufacturing

(at current prices; 2010=100)

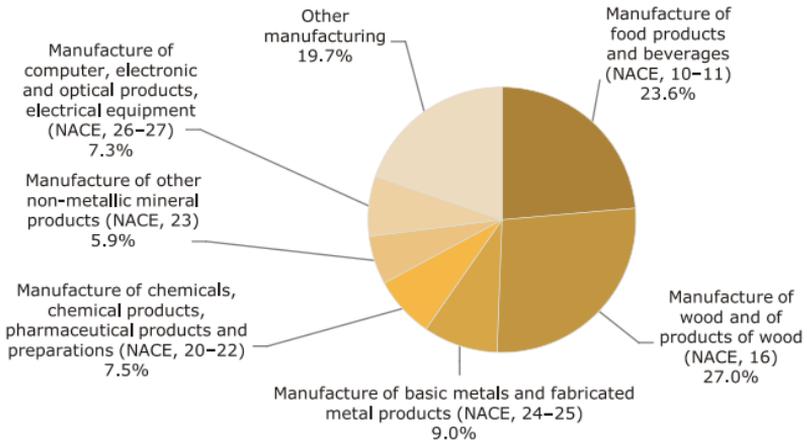


Structure of manufacturing turnover

(per cent)



Structure of manufacturing output by kind of economic activity; 2015



Volume indices of industrial production by main industrial grouping

(calendar-adjusted data as per cent over the previous period)

	Intermediate goods	Energy	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
2006	103.5	106.6	112.6	108.0	108.1
2007	99.8	104.7	112.1	91.7	100.2
2008	92.8	99.1	117.4	73.0	96.0
2009	84.7	92.8	63.7	81.1	80.0
2010	124.2	108.1	120.4	97.0	105.0
2011	112.8	101.0	125.2	105.7	103.8
2012	108.8	97.2	123.4	104.2	102.7
2013	99.1	95.4	100.7	110.0	102.8
2014	101.6	95.3	99.2	112.0	96.9
2015	111.1	99.9	102.4	114.4	92.8

19. Construction

Greatest number of building permits issued for new single-dwelling houses

In 2015, 1 386 building permits ⁽¹⁾ were issued for construction of new single-dwelling buildings and 655 permits were granted for construction, capital repairs, reconstruction and restoration of existing single-dwelling houses, 151 permits – for construction of new industrial buildings and warehouses, and 145 – for construction in existing industrial buildings and warehouses.

Building permits issued for new construction

	2013	2014	2015
Single-dwelling buildings (excluding summerhouses and garden houses)	1 370	1 405	1 386
Two- and more dwelling buildings	79	66	152
Hotels and similar buildings	45	46	88
Office buildings	18	16	73
Wholesale and retail trade buildings	42	58	111
Industrial buildings and warehouses	241	273	296

⁽¹⁾ Starting from the 4th quarter of 2014, the term *permits granted* in construction statistics indicates the number of records in a building permit regarding compliance with the requirements for initiation of construction.

Rise in construction of civil engineering structures

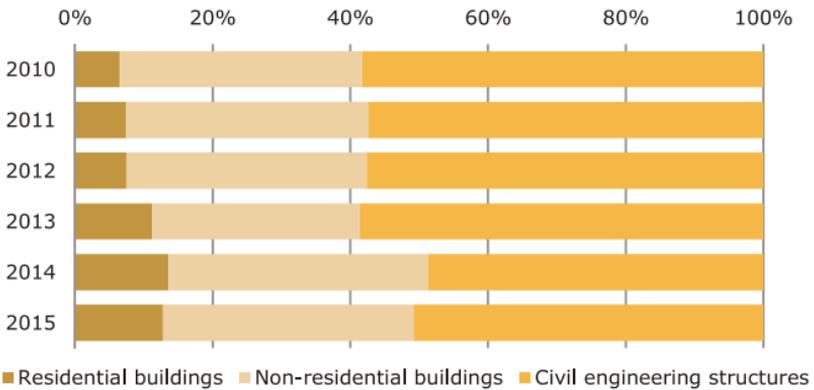
Compared to 2014, in 2015 construction output (according to calendar adjusted data) diminished by 1.2 %, comprising 1 743.8 million euros at current prices. Construction of buildings fell by 7 %, of which construction of residential buildings – by 8.5 %, while of non-residential buildings – by 6.5 %, whereas construction of civil engineering structures increased by 5.2 %. The most notable rise was recorded in construction of local pipelines and cables – of 26 %, and construction of harbours, waterways, dams and other waterworks – of 22.7 %. While significant reduction was observed in construction of bridges, elevated highways, tunnels and subways – of 18.4 %, and construction of main pipelines, communication and electricity lines – of 11.1 %.

Indices of production in construction

(Section F of NACE classification, at constant prices)

	Previous year=100			2010=100		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Construction output	106.9	108.1	98.8	138.1	149.0	147.2
Buildings	104.2	133.7	93.0	134.2	179.3	168.2
Civil engineering structures	108.8	90.7	105.2	140.5	125.9	132.5

Construction output by building type



20. Retail Trade

Rise in retail trade turnover

Compared to 2014, in 2015 industrial turnover increased by 5.5 %. More than a third of retail trade turnover was taken by retail sale of food that rose by 2.7 % during the year. Retail sale of non-food products increased as well – by 7.3 %, as compared to 2014. In 2015, the sharpest rise was recorded in retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet, retail sale of information and communication equipment, retail sale of pharmaceuticals and medical goods, as well as in retail sale of hardware, paints and glass.

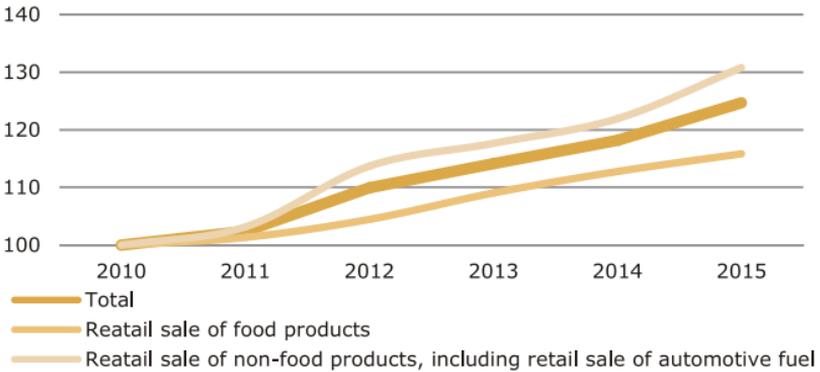
Retail trade turnover index

(by NACE activity, at constant prices)

	Over the previous year		Over 2010	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
(47) Retail trade, total	103.5	105.5	118.2	124.6
(4711; 472) Retail sale of food products	103.4	102.7	112.8	115.8
(4719; 473–479) Retail sale of non-food products	103.6	107.3	121.9	130.8
(4730) Retail sale of automotive fuel	105.8	109.2	104.3	113.9

Turnover indices of retail trade enterprises

(2010=100)



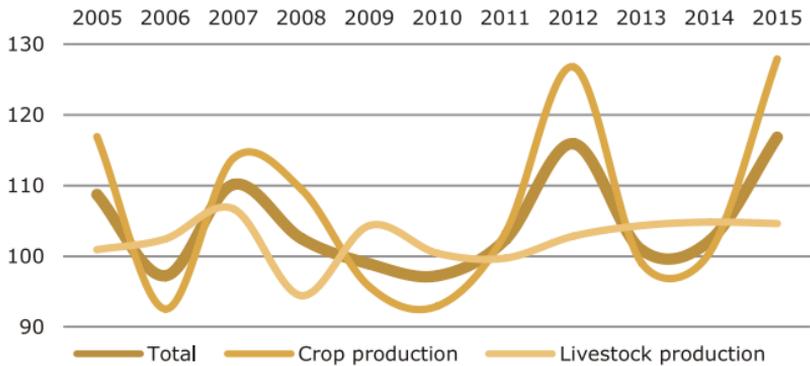
21. Agriculture

Agricultural output tends to increase

In 2015, total agricultural output at constant prices rose by 16.8 %. The rise was promoted by the 27.9 % increase in output of crop products, especially in harvested production of cereals (of 36 %) that reached the highest level recorded. During the last five years, output of livestock products shows moderate, but stable increase – in 2015 livestock output grew by 4.9 %.

Agricultural output indices

(as per cent of the previous year)



Compared to 2014, in 2015 price indices of agricultural output decreased by 7.5 %. Prices of crop products grew by 2.3 %. The growth was encouraged by the rise in vegetable and rape prices of 34.0 % and 13.6 %, respectively, while purchase prices of grain fell by 2.6 %. In 2015, the drop in producer prices of meat (of 11.6 % in pork prices and of 3.7 % in mutton and goat meat prices) and milk (of 26.6 %) led to the 15.8 % decline in prices of livestock products.

The greatest harvested production of grain in Latvia history

In 2015, harvested production of grain comprised 3.0 billion tons – 35.7 % more than in 2014 – reaching the greatest harvested production of grain in Latvia history. The growth was influenced not only by the increase in sown areas (2.6 % more than in 2014), but also by significant rise in production harvested from one hectare of sown area – from 34.0 quintals in 2014 to 44.9 quintals in 2015. Average yield of winter wheat from one hectare rose by 72.8 % during the year – in 2015 this crop took 43.2 % of total sown area of cereals, while share thereof in the total harvested production of grain reached 53.1 %. In 2015, 2 564.8 thousand tons of grain produced in Latvia were purchased (31.7 % more than in

2014) that is the greatest volume purchased of all time. While average purchase price of grain was the lowest recorded during the last five years – 143.43 euros per ton in 2015.

Sown area of rape reduced by 11.1 thousand hectares or 11.1 %. Average yield of rape grew from 18.5 quintals in 2014 to 32.9 quintals in 2015, while harvested production of rape seeds increased by 107.2 thousand tons or 57.8 %.

In 2015, 194.9 thousand tons of vegetables were produced (including vegetables in greenhouses) – 3.5 thousand tons or 1.9 % more than in 2014. Open field vegetable areas dropped by 1.8 %; whereas, as average yield of vegetables grew from 217 quintals in 2014 to 225 quintals in 2015, production thereof grew by 1.8 %. Planted areas and harvested production of potatoes diminished by 7.3 % and 1.6 %, respectively, while average yield from one hectare rose by 6.1 %.

Rise in number of sheep, drop in number of cattle and pigs

At the end of 2015, agricultural holdings were breeding 419.1 thousand cattle – 2.9 thousand heads or 0.7 % less than a year before. Number of cattle aged 1–2 years rose by 1.3 thousand or 1.8 %, and number of cattle over 2 years grew by 0.5 thousand or 0.2 %, whereas number of cattle under 1 year diminished by 4.8 thousand or 4.1 %. Number of dairy cows fell by 3.5 thousand or 2.1 %, while number of suckling cows increased by 4.6 thousand or 13.6 %. During the year, number of pigs dropped by 15.3 thousand or 4.4 %. The year before, number of sheep went up by 9.7 thousand or 10.5 %, and number of goats – by 0.4 thousand or 3.2 %.

Livestock production

In 2015, 85.4 thousand tons of meat were produced – 1.3 % more than in 2014. The increase was due to the rise in production of beef and veal of 6.3 %, in production of poultry – of 3.4 %, and in production of mutton and goat meat – of 13.3 %. Whereas production of pork declined – by 3.0 %.

Last year, 978.1 thousand tons of milk were produced (incl. goat milk) – 6.3 thousand tons or 0.7 % more than in 2014. Annual average milk yield from one dairy cow reached 5 508 kg – 93 kg or 1.6 % more than a year ago.

In 2015, 698.2 million eggs were produced – 7.7 % more than a year before. One laying hen on average produced 272 eggs that is the same amount as in the year before.

Agricultural output indices

(at constant prices)

	Over the previous year		Over 2010	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Agriculture, total	102.1	116.8	122.2	142.7
Crop products	100.4	127.9	130.2	166.5
Livestock products	104.8	104.6	122.2	117.2

Crop production

	2010	2013	2014	2015
Total sown area, thsd ha	1 102.7	1 146.5	1 150.5	1 168.8
Of which:				
Cereals	541.5	583.9	655.2	672.4
Rape	110.6	128.2	100.1	89.0
Potatoes	30.1	27.3	26.8	24.8
Vegetables	8.1	8.5	8.2	8.1
Average yield, ql./ha				
Cereals	26.5	33.4	34.0	44.9
Rape	20.5	23.1	18.5	32.9
Potatoes	161	182	189	201
Vegetables	172	148	217	225
Harvested yield, thsd t				
Cereals	1 435	1 949	2 227	3 021
Rape	226	297	186	293
Potatoes	484	496	506	497
Vegetables	151	140	191	195

Number of livestock

(at the end of the year, thousands)

	2010	2013	2014	2015
Cattle	379.5	406.5	422.0	419.1
of which dairy cows	164.1	165.0	165.9	162.4
Pigs	389.7	367.5	349.4	334.2
Sheep	76.8	84.8	92.5	102.3
Goats	13.5	12.6	12.3	12.7
Horses	12.0	10.7	10.1	9.6
Poultry	4 948.7	4 985.8	4 413.9	4 532.0

Livestock production

(thousands tons)

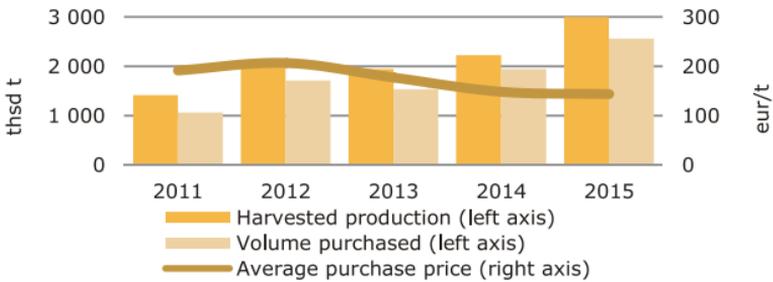
	2010	2013	2014	2015
Meat (slaughter weight)	79.9	80.3	84.3	85.4
beef and veal	18.4	16.7	17.7	18.8
pork	37.2	35.9	37.0	35.9
mutton and goat meat	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9
poultry	23.5	26.8	28.7	29.7
Milk (incl. goat milk)	834.5	915.1	971.8	978.1
Eggs, mln pcs	714.9	629.5	648.3	698.2
Wool, t	69	150	153	197
Honey, t	676	1 666	1 704	2 091

Livestock production per capita

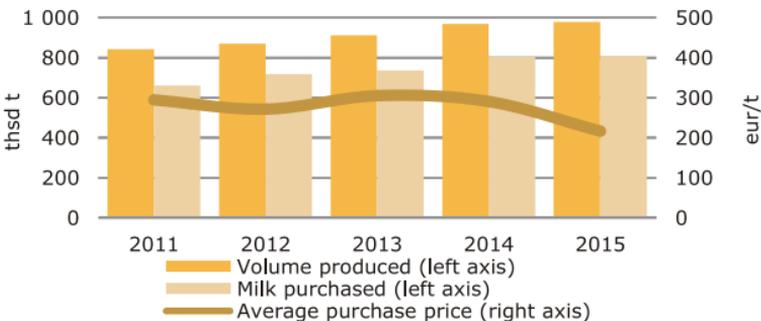
(kilograms)

	2010	2013	2014	2015
Grain	684	967	1 116	1 527
Potatoes	231	246	254	251
Vegetables	72	70	96	99
Fruit and berries	6	9	6	6
Meat (slaughter weight)	38	40	42	43
pork	18	18	19	18
Milk	398	454	487	491
Eggs, pcs	341	312	325	350

Grain: harvested production, purchase, average purchase price



Milk: production, purchase, average purchase price



22. Tourism

Increase in the traveller number

In 2015, foreign travellers crossed the border of Latvia 6.8 thousand times – 9.5 % more than in 2014. During the period, foreign travellers in Latvia spent 742.2 million euros – 73.7 million or 11.0 % more than a year before. The largest share of travellers came from the neighbouring countries: Lithuania (38.6 %), Estonia (19.4 %), and Russia (8.3 %). Compared to the year before, increase was recorded also in the number of overnight travellers from Estonia (of 56.8 %), Belgium (of 49.5 %), Finland (of 35.1 %), and Lithuania (of 30.2 %). In 2014, number of overnight travellers from Russia grew by 4.5 %, while in 2015 the indicator fell by 19.7 %. Out of the total number of foreign overnight travellers, 44.7 % visited Latvia for recreation, 27.8 % visited friends or relatives, and 23.6 % went on a business trip. Compared to 2014, number of travellers arriving to Latvia for recreation has gone up by 11.7 %. Out of all overnight foreign travellers crossing Latvia border in 2015, 48.0 % were using air transport, 43.5 % – road transport, 4.6 % – maritime transport, and 3.9 % – railway transport. Foreign overnight travellers on average stayed in Latvia for 4.0 days and totally spent 540.8 million euros – 4.6 % more than in 2014. Out of the total number of foreign overnight travellers, 66.8 % stayed in hotels or other accommodation establishments, while 33.2 % – at their relatives or friends. Approximately one third or 33.5 % of overnight travellers visited Latvia for the first time.

In 2015, number visitors in tourist accommodation establishments gone up by 3.1 %

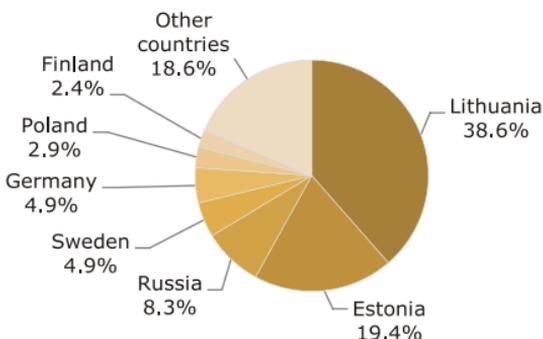
In 2015, number of foreign visitors in Latvian accommodation establishments accounted for 2.14 million – 2.0 % more than in 2014. Compared to 2014, number of foreign visitors rose by 3.1 %, reaching 1.5 million, while number of nights spent thereof in the country stayed at the previous year level (comprising a drop of 0.1 %). Average length of stay of the foreign visitors in accommodation establishments comprised 2 nights. Number of visitors from Russia fell by 31.5 %, however the drop was compensated by the increase in the total number of visitors from the European Union countries – Lithuania (of 19.8 %), United Kingdom (of 17.9 %), Estonia (of 15.0 %), Sweden (of 12.4 %), and Finland (of 10.6 %).

Out of the total number of foreign tourists, 79.1 % stayed in Riga, 8.2 % – in Jūrmala, 1.7 % – in Sigulda county, 1.5 % – in Ventspils, and 1.5 % – in Liepāja..

In 2015, number of foreign visitors in Riga accommodation establishments accounted for 1.3 million – 4.6 % more than in 2014. Number of foreign visitors in Riga grew by 3.9 %. The majority of foreign visitors staying in Riga accommodation establishments came from Germany (12.4 %), Russia (12.1 %), Estonia (8.2 %), Lithuania (7.1 %), Finland (6.1 %), Norway (6.0 %), United Kingdom (5.4 %), and Sweden (5.4 %).

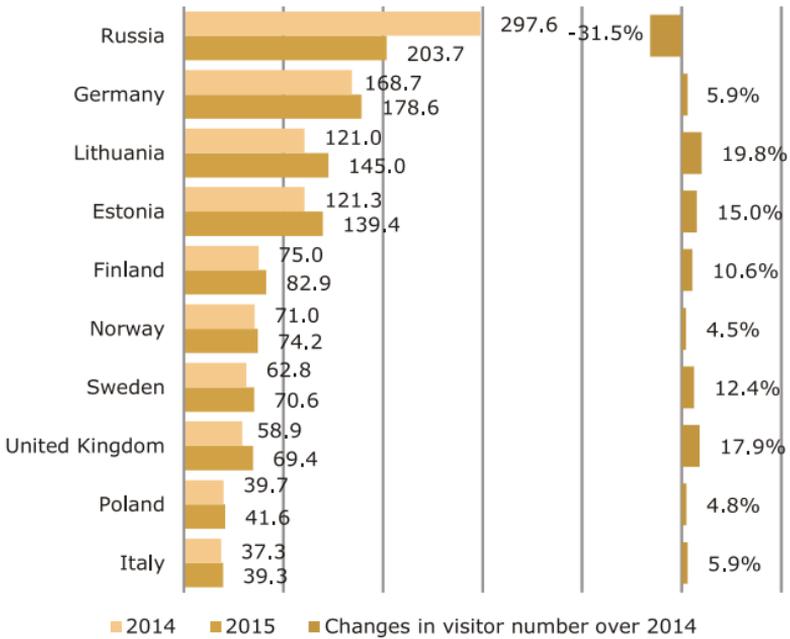
In 2015, 664.6 thousand Latvia residents stayed in tourist accommodation establishments, the number declined by 0.4 %, as compared to 2014. Number of nights spent by local residents in tourist accommodation establishments decreased as well – by 3.6 %. Latvian residents stayed in accommodation establishments in Riga (25.1 %), Jūrmala (8.7 %), Liepāja (7.1 %), Ventspils (5.3 %), and in Sigulda county (3.7 %).

Overnight travellers by country; 2015

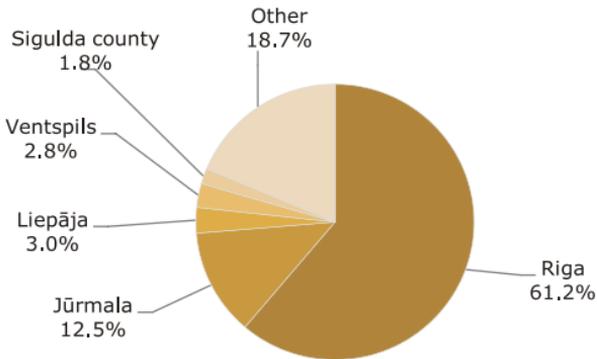


Visitors in tourist accommodation establishments of Latvia: number and changes in 2014 and 2015

(thousands)

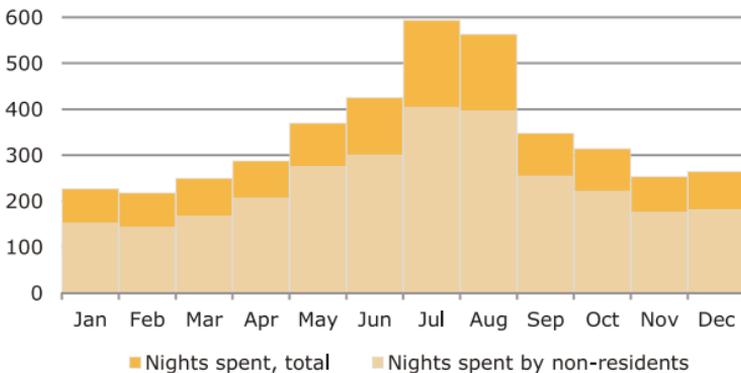


Nights spent in hotels and other accommodation establishments; 2015



Nights spent in accommodation establishments of Latvia; 2015

(thousands)



Overnight travellers by country of residence

	2010	2014	2015
Total, thsds	1 373.3	1 843.4	2 023.5
Lithuania	181.6	265.5	345.6
Sweden	157.4	161.8	116.4
Estonia	129.8	180.7	283.3
Germany	108.6	168.3	181.6
Finland	109.5	79.5	107.5
United Kingdom	48.1	65.1	112.4
Poland	36.9	45.7	50.3
Denmark	34.4	29.5	30.4
Czech Republic	9.8	16.4	21.6
Russia	189.3	347.6	279.1
Other countries	367.9	483.3	495.3

Foreign travellers by purpose of trip

	2010	2014	2015
Total, %	100	100	100
Purpose of trip	50.7	68.7	71.0
recreation	23.8	39.8	43.1
visit to friends, relatives	13.0	17.2	16.2
business	13.9	11.7	11.7
Other	49.3	31.3	29.0
transit	34.9	27.2	25.1

Activities of hotels and other accommodation establishments

	2010	2014	2015
Number of establishments (at the end of the year)	628	544	563
Hotels and similar accommodation	253	238	306
Holiday and other short-stay accommodation	330	289	242
Camping grounds, recreational parks, and trailer parks	45	17	15
Number of beds (at the end of the year)	34 657	33 459	34 420
Hotels and similar accommodation	21 940	21 999	24 109
Holiday and other short-stay accommodation	10 090	10 522	9 428
Camping grounds, recreational parks, and trailer parks	2 627	938	883
Number of visitors, thsds	1 311.5	2 098.4	2 139.4
Hotels and similar accommodation	1 070.6	1 747.7	1 865.3
Holiday and other short-stay accommodation	163.5	279.4	205.4
Camping grounds, recreational parks, and trailer parks	77.4	71.3	68.7

23. Information Society

Information and communication technologies available to almost all Latvian enterprises

In 2015, 98.2 % of Latvian enterprises used computer and 96.8 % used the Internet. In large enterprises (employing 50 or more persons) information and communication technologies (ICT) – computer and the Internet – are used by all employees, while in small enterprises (employing less than 50 persons) only 97.8 % were using computer and 96.1 % – the Internet.

The role of ICT is growing – in 2009 the share of employees using computer with the Internet connection on a regular basis accounted for 23.3 %, while in 2015 the share of such employees rose up to 49.3 %. In 2011 only 4.5 % of employees were using mobile Internet for professional and business needs, while in 2015 – already almost every fifth employee or 18.3 %.

In 2015, 18.3 % of employees in Latvian enterprises had mobile Internet modems and routers, and since 2012 the share of such employees has grown by 10.8 percentage points. Moreover, the share of employees having enterprise's portable Internet devices does not depend on the enterprise size. Activities of enterprises engaged in the field of information technologies (IT), tourism, and energy would not be possible without using the Internet – Internet use in those businesses reached 100 %. Whereas the smallest share of employees using Internet was observed in catering enterprises – 91.5 %.

More than a half of enterprises have website

In 2015, 59 % of enterprises had website. Large and medium-sized enterprises tend to have website more often than small ones – 83.8 %, 94.6 %, and 53.3 %, respectively. Similarly as in previous years, also in 2015 most – 93.6 % – of information and communication enterprises, as well as large share of enterprises engaged in accommodation activities – 93.3 % – had their website. While the smallest share of enterprises having website was recorded among ones working in transportation and storage (39.5 %), retail trade (39.8 %), and construction (42.9 %).

Enterprise websites mainly contain description and price list goods and services (55 %). Each sixth enterprise (15.3%) offered to place online order or make reservation. Only 13.3 % of enterprise websites contained job offers or online job application forms. Privacy protection is guaranteed in 13.5 % of enterprises (website contained privacy policy statement or website security certificate).

In 2015, 23.0 % of small enterprises, 29.6 % of medium-sized enterprises, and 59.5 % of large enterprises were communicating via online social media. Since 2013, the share of such enterprises has doubled and in 2015 reached 24.8 % of the total enterprise number. The share of enterprises using online social media to develop enterprise's image or market products increased from 12.4% in 2013 to 24.8% in 2015.

Internet connection types

In 2015, 90.5 % of enterprises using Internet indicated that they use fixed broadband connection (e.g., DSL, fibre optics technology, cable technology, Wi-Fi, WiMax, rented lines, etc.). Rather large share is taken by the Internet connection via 3G or 4G network. The share of enterprises connecting to mobile Internet via portable computer, notebook, netbook, laptop, tablet PC, or handheld device accounted for 49.1 %. While 51.9 % of enterprises used other portable devices, e.g., smartphone, connected to mobile telecommunication network (3G or 4G).

In 2015, most part or 41.7 % of enterprises using Internet used only one type of connection, 25.1 % – two, while 33.2 % – three types of Internet connection. An increasing number of enterprises choose broadband connection, since it enhances higher data transfer rate. In 2009 broadband Internet connection was available in 60.7 % of enterprises, while in 2005 it was used already by 95.0 % of enterprises.

Enterprises tend to choose fast Internet

Download speed of the fastest fixed Internet connection in Latvian enterprises is increasing. In 2015, the largest share (61.5 %) of enterprises used Internet with the maximum contracted download speed of less than 30 Mbit/s. The share of enterprises using Internet with the maximum contracted download speed 30–100 Mbit/s increased from 9.2 % in 2012 to 17.2 % in 2015, and the share of companies with the fastest fixed internet connection of at least 100 Mbit/s has grown from 10.2 % in 2012 to 21.4 % in 2015.

Cloud computing services used only by 8.3 %

Cloud computing allows accessing software, computing power, and data storage locations (clouds), etc. online by adjusting number of users, data storage capacity, etc. service requirements easily.

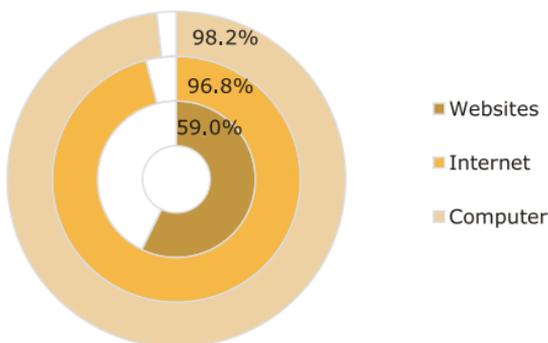
In 2015, 8.3 % of enterprises in Latvia used cloud computing services (in 2014 – 5.7 %). The services were used by 7.0 % of small enterprises, 13.6 % of medium-sized enterprises, and 21.8 % of large enterprises. Enterprises engaged in information and communication sector used the cloud computing services the most often (37.3 %), followed by companies of publishing, audiovisual and broadcasting activities (19.6 %), firms dealing with travel agency, tour operator reservation service and related activities (14.4 %) and wholesale and retail trade (12.0 %).

e-Commerce

	<i>e-commerce sales</i>		<i>e-commerce purchases</i>	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
% of total number of enterprises in the corresponding group	32.0	35.1	9.3	10.0
by number of persons employed				
10–49	29.4	32.3	8.2	8.4
50–249	42.1	44.7	13.8	16.2
250+	60.3	70.8	18.5	25.1

Enterprises using computer, Internet and having website; 2015

(per cent of total enterprise number)



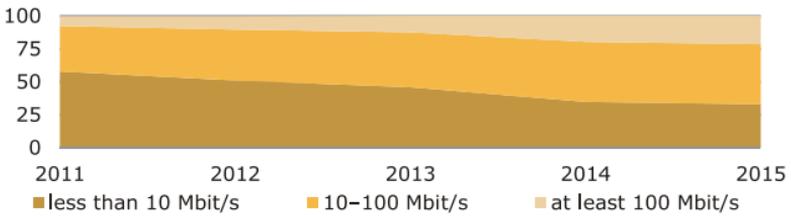
Internet connection types in enterprises

(per cent of enterprises using Internet)

	2013	2014	2015
Fixed broadband Internet connection	97.1	96.2	95.0
Mobile broadband connection using 3G or 4G mobile network	32.7	46.8	49.1
Other mobile connection via other portable devices (e.g., smartphone)	23.0	29.9	51.9

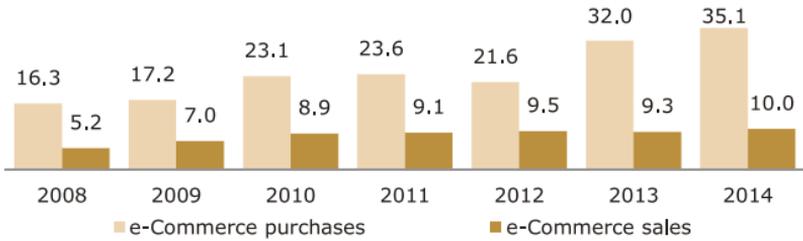
Broadband Internet connection and maximum contracted download speed in enterprises

(per cent of total enterprise number)



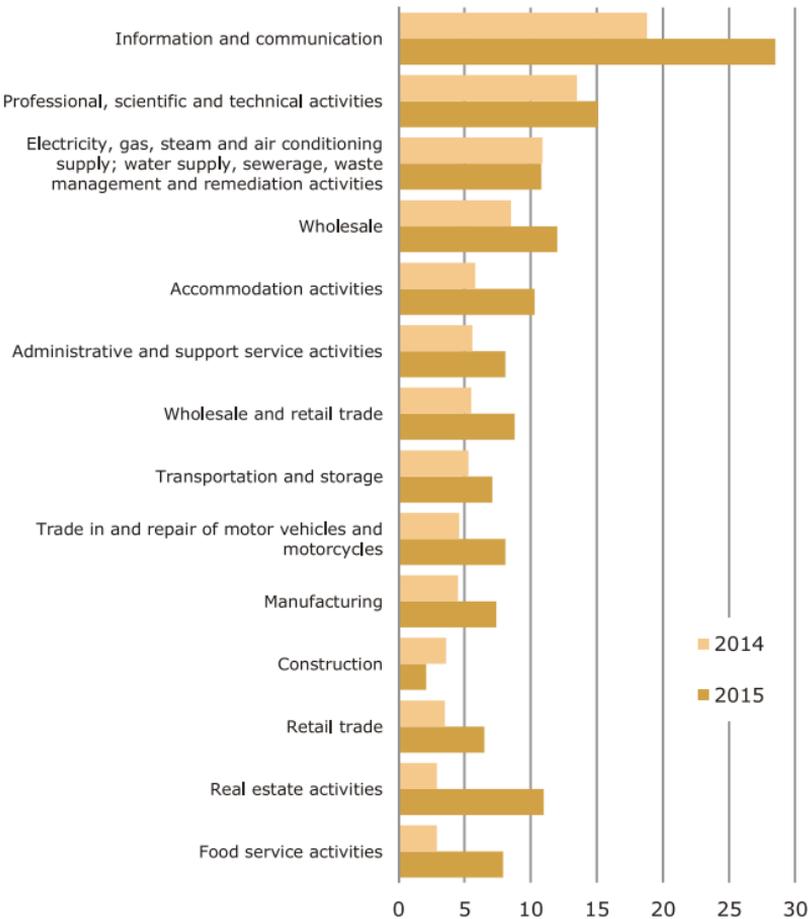
e-Commerce (including via EDI-type messages ⁽¹⁾)

(per cent of total number of enterprises in the corresponding group)



Enterprises buying cloud computing services in 2014 and 2015

(per cent of total number of enterprises in the corresponding group)



(¹) EDI-type messages – Electronic Data Interchange messages in agreed or standard format suitable for automated processing.

24. Access to the Internet in Households

Three out of four households have Internet

In 2015, 76.1 % of households had access to the Internet, while in 2004 those were only 14.7 %. Out of the population aged 16–74, 74.9 % used internet on regular basis ⁽¹⁾. During the recent years, number of Internet users is growing in almost all age groups, however indicators differ among various levels of education and age. Internet on regular basis was used by 92.8 % of people having attained higher education, by 71.0 % of persons with secondary education, and by 52.8 % of residents with basic education or lower, moreover by 100 % of pupils and students. Young people used the Internet every day or almost every day: 97.0 % of persons aged 16–24 and 96.7 % of persons aged 25–34. Moreover, the largest share of Internet users was recorded in households with children. Notably smaller share – 31.5 % – is taken by persons aged 65–74.

Households prefer broadband Internet

Over the past 11 years, the number of broadband Internet connections has risen more than 14 times. In 2015, 74.4 % of households had broadband Internet connection, compared to only 5.4 % in 2004. Nevertheless number of broadband Internet connections in households is growing sharply, in 2015 the indicator was 6 percentage points lower than the EU average. The largest share of broadband Internet connections (95%) was recorded in Luxembourg, while the smallest in Bulgaria (59%).

Increasingly more people prefer online shopping

During the last eleven years, the number of persons buying goods or services over the Internet has risen sharply – from 3.3 % in 2004 to 44.9 % in 2015. Along with the change in population shopping habits and increase in the number of online purchases, in 2015 turnover in enterprises selling goods and services via Internet has grown by 19.3 %, as compared to 2014 (15.7 %). In 2015, clothes, sports goods and tickets for events were purchased or ordered over the Internet the most commonly – 50.8 % and 28.9 % of persons making e-commerce purchases, respectively. Nevertheless ICT habits do not depend on gender, online purchases of males and females tend to differ. In 2015, 57.0 % of females buying or ordering goods or services for private use over the Internet purchased clothes, sports goods – 14 percentage points more than same purchases made by males. Whereas males more often purchased electronic equipment (21 percentage points more) and computer hardware (13 percentage points more).

Use of cloud computing services

Cloud computing services is one of the latest ICT products (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, iCloud, etc.) that refers to ICT services that are used over the Internet and allows storing data files on remote server (in clouds). In 2015, 21.1 % or approximately one fifth of the total population (26.7 % of Internet users) were using cloud computing services. Students and pupils accounted for the largest share of cloud computing service users (52.8 %) followed by young people aged 16–24 (49.4 %).

Access to the Internet in various types of households

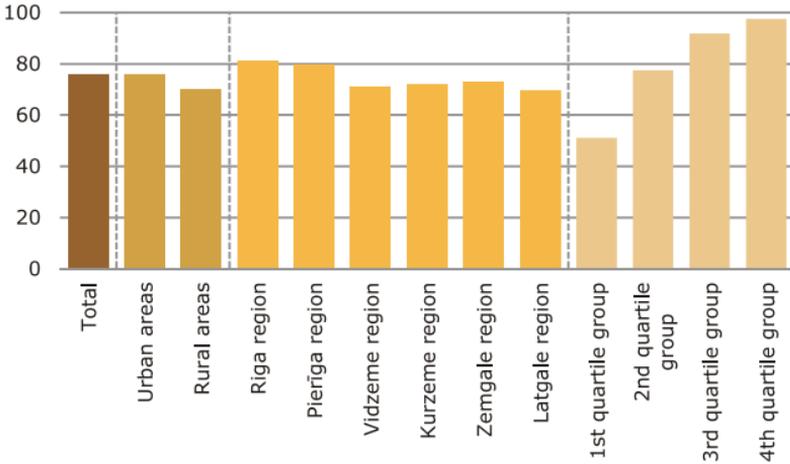
(per cent of total household number in the corresponding group)

	2005	2010	2014	2015
All households	30.5	59.8	73.4	76.0
3 adults with children	45.2	81.9	94.2	96.0
2 adults with children	43.4	82.5	94.6	94.1
1 adult with children	29.3	78.0	93.9	81.6
2 adults	21.5	48.9	67.1	74.6
1 adult	11.7	31.9	48.7	52.0

⁽¹⁾ Use the Internet at least once a week..

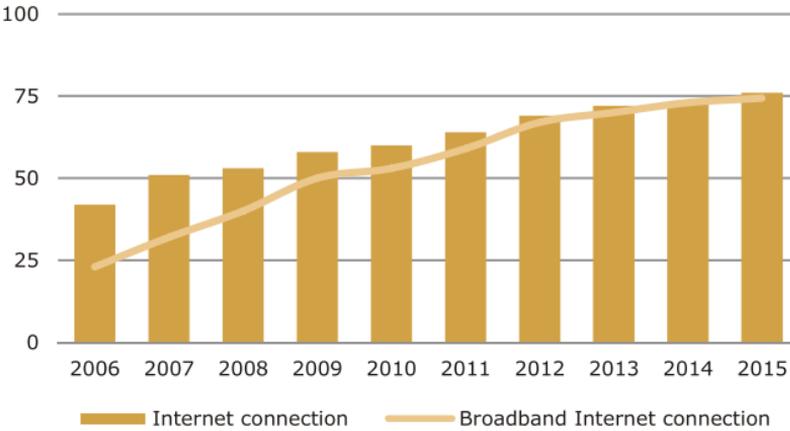
Access to the Internet in households in 2015 ⁽¹⁾

(per cent of total household number)



Broadband Internet connection in households

(per cent of total household number)



Internet activities in 2015

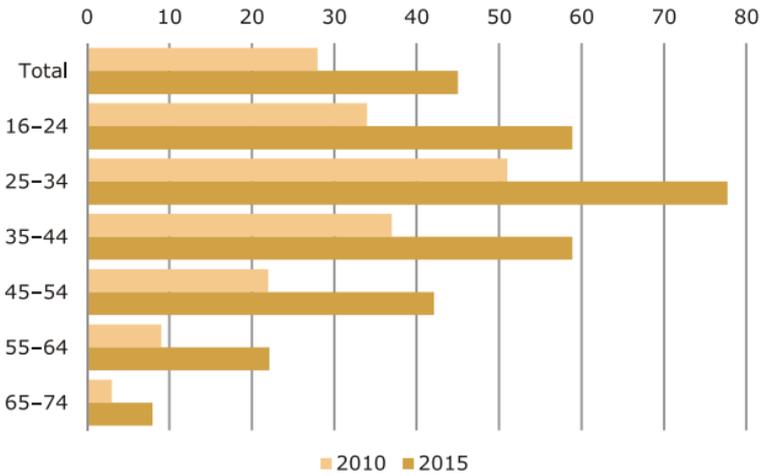
(per cent of the total population in the corresponding age group)

	Total	16-24	25-54	55-74
Sending/receiving e-mails	68.6	94.1	81.8	37.2
Reading online news sites/newspapers/news magazines	69.1	74.4	81.7	46.0
Internet Banking	64.3	71.3	78.9	37.2
Participating in social networks (creating user profile, posting messages or other contributions to facebook, twitter, draugiem.lv, etc.)	57.5	93.5	70.0	23.6
Finding information about goods or services	54.5	71.4	67.7	26.1
Telephoning over the internet/ video calls (via webcam) over the internet	43.6	66.9	49.1	26.2

⁽¹⁾ Here and hereafter 1st quartile covers households with the lowest income level, while 4th quartile – households with the highest income level.

e-Commerce purchases

(per cent of the total population in the corresponding age group)



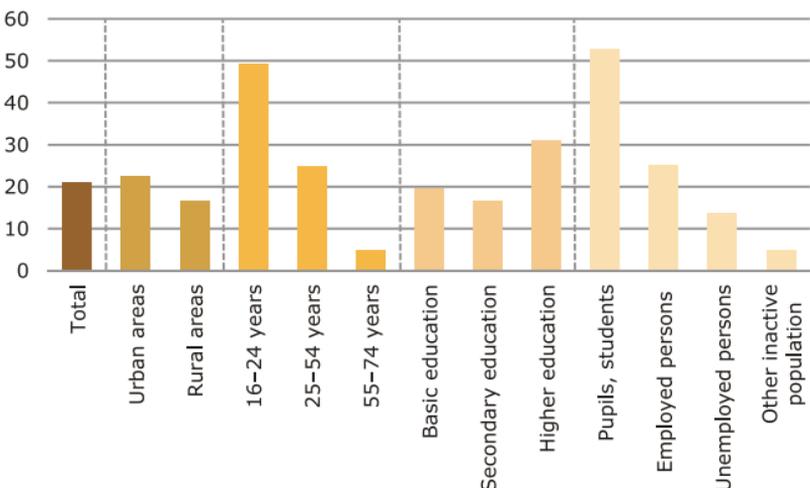
e-Commerce purchases for private use; 2015

(per cent of population making purchases over the Internet in the corresponding group)

	Total	Males	Females
Clothes, sports goods	50.8	42.5	57.0
Tickets for events (e.g., concert, theatre, cinema, etc.)	28.9	25.0	31.8
Household goods (e.g. furniture, toys, etc.)	32.3	30.3	33.9
Share purchases, insurance policies and other financial services	26.1	32.7	21.2
Electronic equipment (incl. Photo and video cameras, mobile phones, TV, stereo and DVD players, etc.)	28.1	40.2	19.1
Other travel arrangements (transport tickets, carhire, etc.)	16.2	16.6	15.9
Telecommunication services (e.g. TV, broadband subscriptions, fixed line or mobile phone subscriptions, uploading money on prepaid phone cards, etc.)	9.0	8.6	9.4

Use of cloud computing services; 2015

(per cent of total population)



25. Research and Experimental Development

Long-term R&D targets in Latvia

Research and experimental development (R&D) intensity is the ratio of the gross domestic expenditure on R&D to the gross domestic product. Expenditure on R&D in Latvia has been low for a long time. One of the "Europe 2020" strategy headline targets states that 3 % of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D. Latvia has set a national R&D intensity target of 1.5 % till 2020 and of 3 % till 2030. Compared to 2013, in 2014 Latvian R&D expenditure has grown by 0.09 percentage points comprising 0.69 % of the GDP. For comparison – in Lithuania R&D expenditure accounted for 1.02 % of the GDP and in Estonia – for 1.46 %. In 2014, smaller R&D intensity than in Latvia among EU countries was recorded only in Cyprus (0.47 %) and Romania (0.38 %). Average R&D intensity in the EU accounted for 2.03 %.

R&D mainly undertaken in higher education sector

In 2014, in Latvia 162.8 million euros were invested R&D – 16.7 % more than in 2013. The largest share or 44.2 % of total R&D funding still came from abroad, 27.8 % – from business enterprise sector, 25.6 % – from government sector, and 2.4 % – from higher education sector. Compared to 2013, R&D funding in government sector has dropped by 3.4 %, while in business enterprise sector it has risen by 46.9 %.

In Latvia R&D mainly is undertaken in higher education sector. In 2014, R&D undertaken within this sector amounted at 66.0 million euros, constituting 0.28 % of the GDP. R&D carried out within the government sector amounted at 39.0 million euros or 0.16 % of the GDP, while within business enterprise sector – at 57.8 million euros or 0.25 % of the GDP.

Increase in R&D expenditure

In 2014, R&D expenditure in Latvia constituted 162.8 million euros – 16.7 % more than a year before. Almost a half (44.2 % or 72.0 million euros) of total R&D expenditure consisted of funding from abroad, 45.3 million euros came from business enterprise sector, 41.7 million euros – from government sector, while 3.8 million euros – from higher education sector.

R&D intensity

	2005	2010	2013	2014
Total, million euros	72.0	109.6	139.5	162.8
R&D intensity in Latvia	0.56	0.60	0.60	0.69
R&D intensity in EU	1.76	1.93	2.03	2.03

R&D expenditure in 2014

	Total	% of GDP	by source of funds:			
			business enterprise sector	government sector	higher education sector	abroad
Total, million euros	162.8	0.69	45.3	41.7	3.8	72.0
Higher education sector	66.0	0.28	4.7	26.7	3.8	30.8
Government sector	39.0	0.16	6.1	14.2	-	18.7
Business enterprise sector	57.8	0.25	34.5	0.8	-	22.5
R&D intensity	0.69	x	0.19	0.18	0.02	0.30

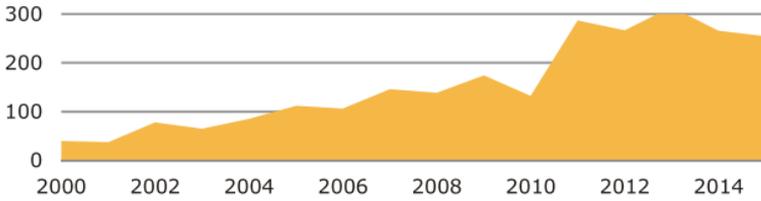
R&D personnel

(full-time equivalent)

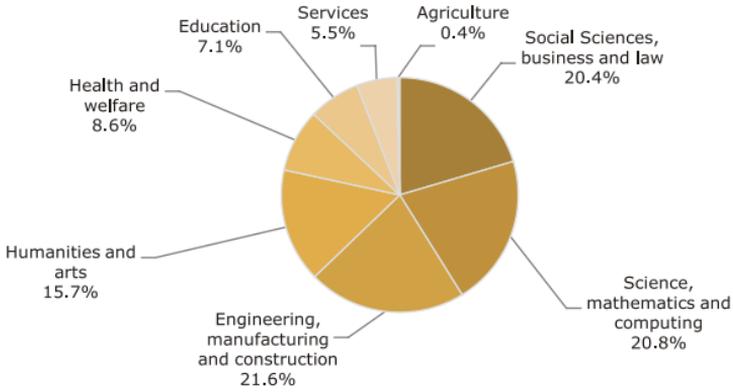
	2005	2010	2013	2014
R&D personnel	3 282	3 896	3 625	3 748
Higher education sector	2 224	2 629	2 348	2 291
Government sector	589	635	707	681
Business enterprise sector	469	632	570	776

Doctorate holders

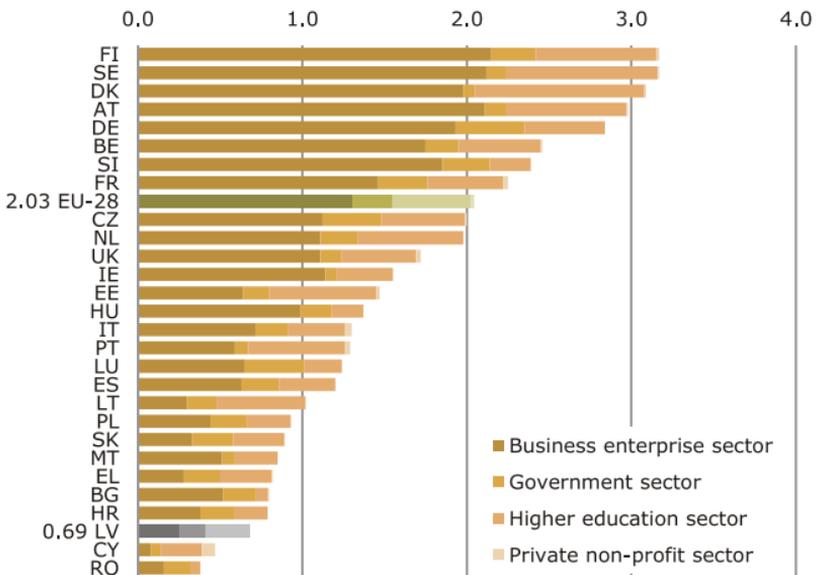
(number of persons)



Doctorate holders by field of education



R&D intensity by sector; 2014



Data source: Eurostat (rd_e_gerdot) 15.11.2015

26. Environment and Environmental Protection

Forest resources

Nevertheless timber exports indicate increase, the area of country territory covered by forest has expanded. Data acquired within the monitoring of forest resources show that, on 1 January 2014 forest area in Latvia occupied 3 260 thousand hectares or 50 % of total country territory, 1 510 thousand hectares of which were state-owned (46.3 % of total forest area), while forest land belonging to other owners occupied 1 750 thousand hectares (53.7 % of total forest area).

Out of the total area of forest stands, 53 % were taken by coniferous trees. Latvia forests are dominated by three tree species – pine, birch, and spruce – the stands thereof totally occupy three fourths of the total forest area. The remaining forest area is taken by black alder, grey alder, asp, ash, and oak stands. The share of birch and other deciduous tree stands in Latvia is increasing, since agricultural area is still rapidly overgrowing with deciduous trees. In 2009–2013, average production of timber constituted 12.0 million m³ – approximately 70 % of the increase in the sanding timber.

Specially protected nature territories

There are 683 specially protected nature territories ⁽¹⁾ in Latvia that are grouped in eight categories and occupy 19 % of the land area. Those are: 4 national parks, 1 biosphere reserve, 42 nature parks, 9 protected landscape areas, 261 nature reserves, 4 strict nature reserves, 7 protected sea territories, as well as micro-reserves housing three mammal, two amphibian, 24 invertebrate, as well as 23 bird species. It has been planned to create new micro-reserves in eight bird specie colony sites. 333 territories in Latvia occupying more than 7.9 thousand km² or 12 % of the total land area are listed in the European Union network of protected areas Natura 2000: 4 strict nature reserves, 4 national parks, 239 nature reserves, 37 nature parks, 9 protected landscape areas, 7 protected sea territories, and 24 micro-reserves.

Mineral deposits and freshwater reserves

Dolomite, gypsum, limestone, sand-gravel, sand, quartz sand, clay and peat are the main mineral resources ⁽²⁾ in Latvia. Minerals of the country mainly are used in production of construction materials and chemicals and in small amounts also in energy sector (peat).

The largest underground freshwater reserves are ensured by basins of rivers Daugava (223.2 million m³) and Gauja (41.5 million m³). In 2013, 155.4 million m³ of water were obtained from underground.

Waste management

During the last five years, volume of municipal waste generated has grown gradually, reaching 2 014 thousand tons in 2014 (1 131 thousand tons in 2010). However, it should be noted that, per capita waste generation rates in Latvia are comparatively low. The indicator comprised 1 281 kg in 2014 – the third lowest rate in the EU. Lower municipal waste generation per capita was recorded only in Romania (254 kg in 2013) and Poland (272 kg), while the highest rates were observed in Denmark (759 kg), Cyprus (626 kg), and Luxembourg (653 kg). Whereas in Lithuania the indicator constituted 433 kg per capita. Average generation of municipal waste per capita registered in the EU amounted to 475 kg.

Air pollution

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is one the key indicators characterising atmospheric pollution. In 2013, 10.91 million tons of GHG were emitted in Latvia. Energy and transport sector were among the greatest GHG sources in 2013, emitting 66 % of the total GHG volume. Since 1995 agricultural sector annually has been emitting approximately 2 thousand tons of CO₂ equivalent. During the last ten years, GHG emissions from this sector have grown by 13 %.

⁽¹⁾ Data of the Nature Conservation Agency.

⁽²⁾ Data of the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre.

Forest land of Latvia ⁽¹⁾

	2009	2014
Total forest land, thsd ha	3 558	3 575
Forest area, thsd ha	3 241	3 260
Area of forest stands, thsd ha	3 191	3 198
Forest cover, %	50	50
Standing timber, mln m ³	647	668

Tree species ⁽¹⁾

	2009				2014			
	area, thsd ha	area, %	standing timber, mln m ³	standing timber, %	area, thsd ha	area, %	standing timber, mln m ³	standing timber, %
TOTAL	3 190.6	100	646.5	100	3 197.5	100	667.1	100
Coniferous trees	1 457.8	45.7	341.5	52.8	1 443.7	45.1	349.2	52.3
pine	891.8	28.0	223.7	34.6	859.7	26.9	223.7	33.5
spruce	566.0	17.7	117.9	18.2	583.9	18.3	125.5	18.8
Deciduous trees	1 732.7	54.3	305.0	47.2	1 753.8	54.9	317.9	47.7
birch	896.2	28.1	155.7	24.1	902.0	28.2	159.8	24.0
asp	246.1	7.7	57.7	8.9	257.3	8.0	63.4	9.5
black alder	160.8	5.0	34.4	5.3	183.4	5.7	38.8	5.8
grey alder	317.0	9.9	41.0	6.3	309.6	9.7	40.5	6.1
ash, oak	49.3	1.5	9.4	1.5	38.1	1.2	7.7	1.2
other deciduous trees	63.4	2.0	6.8	1.1	63.4	2.0	7.6	1.1

Removals ⁽²⁾

(thousand m³)

	2010	2014
Final felling	11 461	9 460
Thinning	1 069	1 468
Reconstructive felling	34	8
Sanitary felling	266	595
Other felling (incl. illegal)	151	148

Felled areas and forest regeneration ⁽²⁾

	2010	2014
Felled areas, thsd ha	105.6	108.8
Final felling	49.6	43.4
Thinning	30.4	33.5
Reconstructive felling	0.39	0.04
Sanitary felling	22.5	30.2
Other felling	2.7	1.7
Forest regeneration, thsd ha	32.2	38.0
of which seeding and planting	10.8	12.9

Municipal and hazardous waste ⁽³⁾

(thousand tons)

	Municipal waste		Hazardous waste	
	2010	2014	2010	2014
Generated	1 131.4	2 013.7	55.1	81.0
Collected	1 375.8	1 821.3	86.9	88.7
Processed	647.3	1 895.5	54.2	97.0
Landfilled	635.0	709.6	7.1	8.5
Exported	332.8	550.2	12.1	8.5

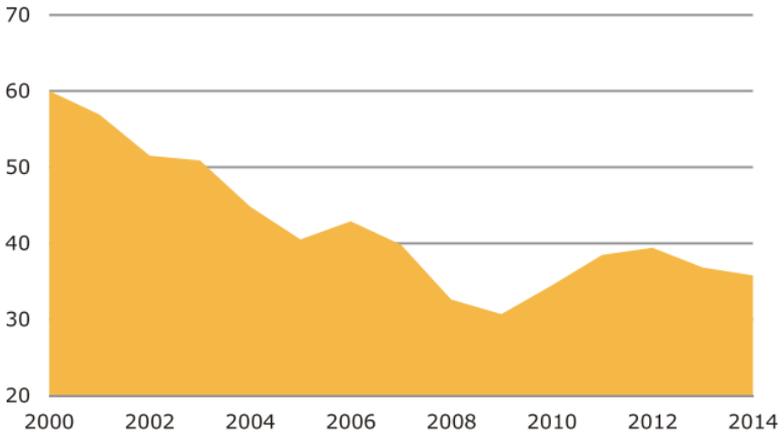
⁽¹⁾ Data of the Ministry of Agriculture, Monitoring of Forest Resources.

⁽²⁾ Data of the State forest Service.

⁽³⁾ Data of the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre.

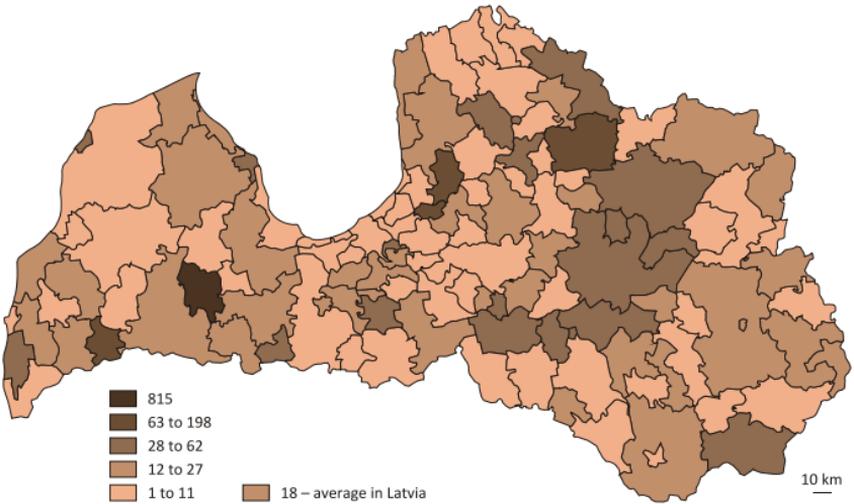
Emissions of hazardous substances into atmosphere

(thousand tons)



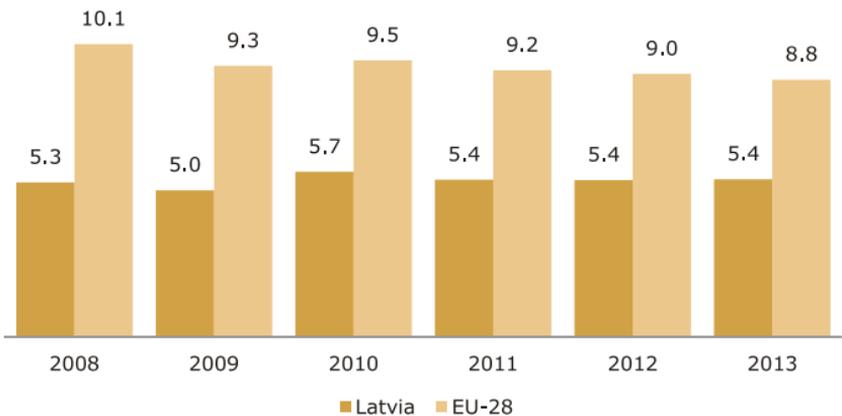
Emissions from stationary sources; 2014

(kilograms per capita)



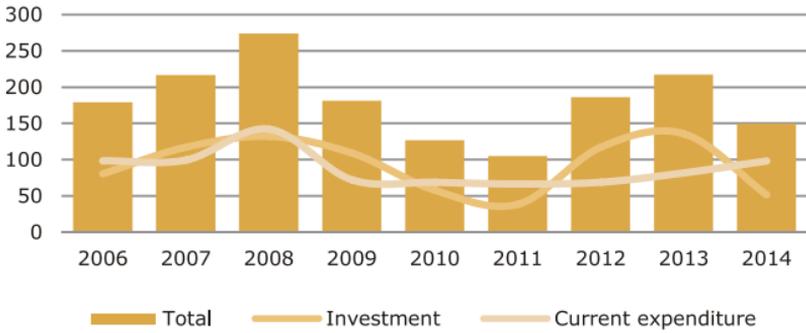
Greenhouse gas emissions per capita

(kilograms)



Environmental protection expenditure

(million euros)



27. Energy

In 2014, gross energy consumption has not changed

During the last ten years, gross energy consumption has not changed notably. In 2004, gross energy consumption constituted 188.7 PJ – 1.3 % more than in 2014 (186.2 PJ). While in 2014, gross energy consumption (187.1 PJ) has dropped by 0.2 %, as compared to 2013.

Share of renewable energy resources (RER) in gross energy consumption is growing every year. In 2008, share of RER in gross energy consumption accounted for 29.81 %, while in 2013 – for 37.07 %, and in 2014 – for 38.65 %. RER used in Latvia are local energy resources.

As compared to 2013, 2014 indicates significant rise in the volume of fuelwood produced – of 16.8 %, of which volume of pelleted wood produced grew by 25.3 % and volume of wood chips produced – by 29.7 %. The reason behind such an increase is rise in the fuelwood consumption in transformation sector and industry of 15.9 % and 14.8 %, respectively (as compared to 2013).

Compared to the year before, in 2014 energy consumption in heat and electricity production (transformation sector) declined by 3.0 %. Heat and electricity production in Latvia mainly is based on natural gas, however, the share thereof in the transformation sector is decreasing gradually. E.g., in 2008 natural gas share in transformation sector accounted for 79.7 %, in 2012 – for 74.1 %, in 2013 – for 69.8 %, while in 2014 – for 64.3 %. During a three-year period, as natural gas share reduced, the share of RER rose by 11.7 %, and in 2014 it reached 35.1 %. It is a significant trend, bearing in mind that RER consumed in transformation sector are local energy resources – fuelwood and biogas.

In 2014, final consumption of energy resources amounted at 166.6 PJ – 0.4 % more than in 2013. Rise in final consumption of energy resources in 2014 was recorded in industry and transport, while household sector indicated small reduction (of 2.4 %).

Notable increase in transport sector was observed in consumption of liquefied petroleum gas – in 2014 the indicator grew by 11.7 %, as compared to 2013, and by 42.4 %, as compared to 2012, reaching 2.6 PJ. Diesel is the main energy resource used in the transport sector, since the share thereof took 61.5 % in 2014. Biodiesel and bioethanol share in transport sector was very small – 2.0 % in 2014, indicating a 17.6 % increase over 2013.

In 2014, final energy consumption in household sector constituted 51.8 PJ – 2.4 % less than in 2013. As compared to 2013, in 2014 consumption of wood briquettes in households fell by 35.0 %, consumption of firewood – by 5.8 %, while consumption of heat – by 4.8 %. It may be explained by the fact that, during the heating season mean air temperature in 2014 was higher than in 2013.

Decline in petrol consumption in transport sector

In 2014, the largest share of fuel consumed within the transport sector was taken by diesel oil – 61.5 % of total sector energy consumption. Compared to 2013, diesel oil consumption in transport sector grew by 5.8 %. Motor petrol was the second most commonly used fuel

in the transport sector, in 2014 consumption thereof amounted to 8.6 PJ – 2.0 % less than in 2013. Since 2009, consumption of liquefied petroleum gas in transport sector is growing, and in 2014 the indicator constituted 2.6 PJ – 11.7 % more than a year before. LPG consumption is increasing mainly due to the low price thereof.

Slight rise in electricity produced

In 2014, 5 140 GWh of electricity were produced – a drop of 17.2 %, as compared to 2013. Electricity produced in hydropower plants reduced by 31.6 % and in combined heat and power (CHP) plants – by 5.4 %. While in wind power plants 141 GWh of electricity were produced – 17.5 % more than a year before. Compared to 2013, in 2014 electricity imports rose by 71 %.

Number of CHP plants and installed electrical capacity thereof still increasing

Number of CHP plants and installed electrical capacity thereof continued to increase in 2014, although the growth rate reduced: number of CHP plants rose by 25.8 % in 2013 and by 5.4 % in 2014. There were 175 active CHP plants in Latvia with total installed electrical capacity 1 265.3 MW.

Gross energy consumption by key energy resource

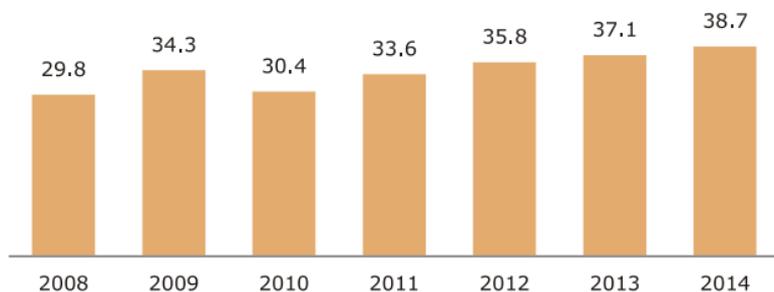
	2013	2014
Total, TJ	187 138	186 155
Oil products	59 274	59 652
Solid fuel	3 042	2 503
Natural gas	50 269	45 386
Fuelwood	53 106	55 921
Electricity	15 793	16 021
Other fuels	5 654	6 672
Mean air temperature in autumn/winter, °C	1.86	2.87

Energy consumption by sector

	2013	2014
Final consumption, TJ	165 927	166 604
Industry (incl. construction)	35 764	36 433
Transport	45 315	46 295
Households	53 066	51 816
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing	6 519	6 475
Other consumers	25 263	25 585

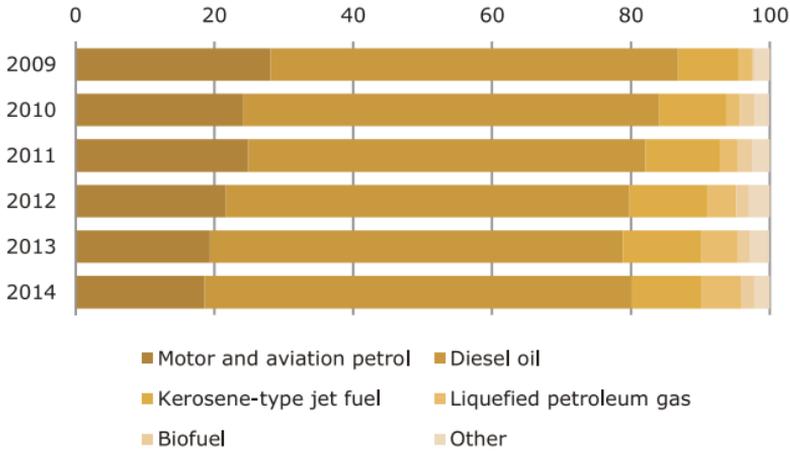
Share of renewables in final energy consumption; 2008–2014

(per cent)



Energy consumption in transport sector

(per cent)



Electricity production

	2013	2014
Total, GWh	6 209	5 140
hydropower plants	2 912	1 993
combined heat and power plants ⁽¹⁾	3 177	3 006
wind power plants	120	141

28. Transport

Volume of freights carried has declined

As compared to 2014, in 2015 total freight volume carried within the main transport sectors decreased by 2 %. The sharpest reduction was recorded in the volume of national road freights – of 2.4 million tons or 4.7 %.

Notable drop in rail freights

In 2015, 55.6 million tons of goods were carried by rail – a decrease of 2.4 %, as compared to 2014. National rail freight volume comprised 1.7 million tons (33 % more than a year before), while volume of international freights constituted 53.9 million tons (3.2 % less than in 2014). Out of the total international freight volume carried by rail, 48.3 million tons or 89.4 % were import freights (incl. freights transported to the Latvian ports). Volume of import freights decreased by 1.1 million tons or 2.3 %, as compared to 2014. The drop may be explained by the decline in the freights of coal, oil products, and iron ore from Russia. In 2015, 2.8 million tons of export freights were carried by rail (incl. from the Latvian ports) – 1.7 million tonnes (37 %) less than a year before. 2.8 million tons of freight were carried in transit through Latvia – 1 million tons (53.7 %) more than in 2014.

Increase recorded in international freight transport by road

In 2015, 62.2 million tons of freight were carried by road – the same volume as in 2014. Volume of national freights decreased by 2.4 million tons or 4.7 %; while volume of international freights grew by 2.3 million tons or 19.5 %. Export freights accounted for 4.3 million tons – 1 % more than in 2014. Compared to 2014, the volume of freights transported to Estonia grew by 9.7 %, to Germany – by 5.1 %, and to Lithuania – by 2.7 %. While the volume of freights transported to Russia fell by 28.7 %. As compared to 2014, in 2015 import freights constituted 2.6 million tons, showing a drop of 5.8 %. Significant reduction was recorded in freights from Lithuania – 33.2 % less than in 2014. Whereas volume of

⁽¹⁾ Including electric power plants.

freights imported from Estonia amounted to 0.6 million tons – 3.3 % more. In 2015, cross-trade and cabotage freights carried by vehicles registered in Latvia grew sharply. In 2015, cross-trade and cabotage freights accounted for 7.1 million tons – 2.4 million tons or 50.6 % more than in 2014. Due to the economic sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia and deterioration of economic situation in Russia, Latvian road freight carriers changed the activities thereof to providing services abroad. The bulk (1.1 million tons) of freights were carried in Sweden – 0.7 million tons (150.4 %) more than a year before; 0.8 million tons of freight were carried in Germany (0.5 million tons or 138.9 % more). In 2014, 5.7 million tons of oil products were transported by the oil products pipeline – 22.5 % more than in 2013.

Less passengers carried by public transport

In 2015, 250.7 million passengers were carried by public transport – a decrease of 2.6 % or 6.6 million passengers, as compared to 2014. Changes in the number of passengers carried have no explicit trend since 2010. As compared to 2010, during the time period from 2011 till 2014, the number of passengers carried increased (in 2011 – by 2.2 %, in 2012 – by 0.8 %, in 2013 – by 3.1 %, in 2014 – by 2.4 %); whereas in 2015 the indicator dropped slightly – by 0.2 %.

Length of transport roads at the end of the year

	2005	2010	2014
State railway lines, km	2 270	1 897	1 860
State roads, thsd km	20.2	20.2	20.2
Municipal roads, thsd km	31.6	30.7	30.4
Tram lines, km	162	167	157
Trolley-bus lines, km	211	210	204
Oil products pipelines, km	417	417	417
Gas pipelines, km	1 281	1 240	1 242

Number of vehicles at the end of the year

	2005	2010	2014	2015
Passenger cars, thsd ⁽¹⁾	742.4	636.7	657.8	679.0
of private owners, %	88.9	87.5	89.9	90.2
Buses, thsd ⁽¹⁾	10.6	5.4	4.8	4.8
of private owners, %	26.4	13.0	8.0	8.1
Lorries (including road tractors), thsds ⁽¹⁾	113.1	71.6	83.2	86.0
of private owners, %	37.0	27.8	25.9	26.5
Trolley-buses	322	302	257	269
Tramcars	336	319	274	266
State Railway locomotives	205	197	206	204
State Railway passenger carriages ⁽²⁾	492	238	238	238
Vessels with gross registered tonnage of 100 or over	206	176	172	175
Aircrafts (engine propelled)	95	215	247	258

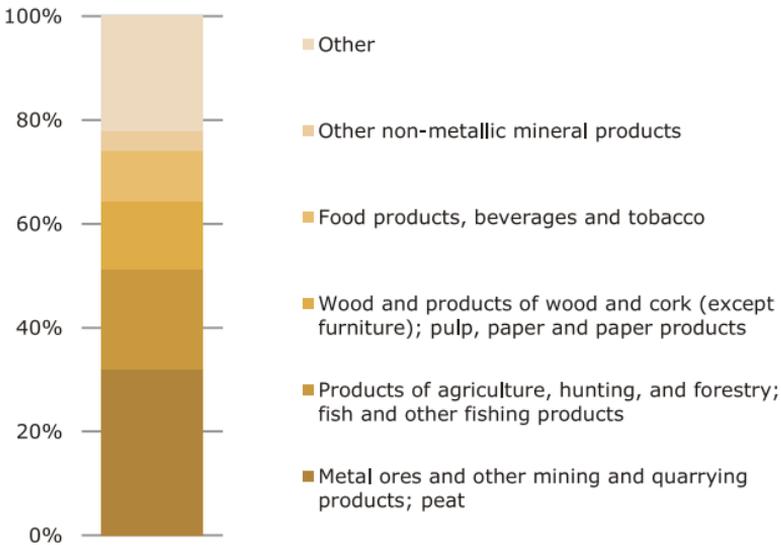
⁽¹⁾ Starting from 30 December 2009, a new rule has been introduced to the Cabinet Regulations "On Vehicle Registration" – vehicle removal from the Register. A vehicle removed from the Register of Vehicles in the following cases: if the vehicle is permanently registered in a foreign country and this fact is confirmed by the information of the foreign register (provided that the Road Traffic Safety Directorate has automated access to the corresponding register) or document is issued by the corresponding foreign register; if the vehicle has not undergone technical inspection and no registration activity has been done to the vehicle for five years.

⁽²⁾ Including carriages in electric and diesel trainsets.

Road freight transport in 2015

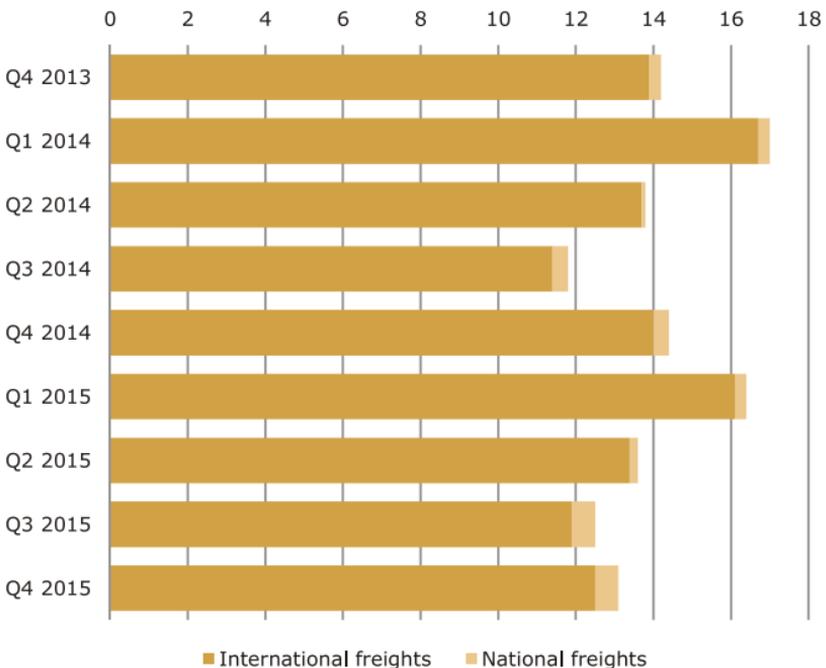
	Total, mln. t	Changes over 2014, %
Total	62.2	-0.1
National freights	48.2	-4.7
Export freights	4.3	1.0
Import freights	2.6	-5.8
Cross trade and cabotage freights	7.1	50.6

Key commodity groups in road freight transport; 2015



Rail freight transport in 2014 and 2015

(by quarter, million tons)

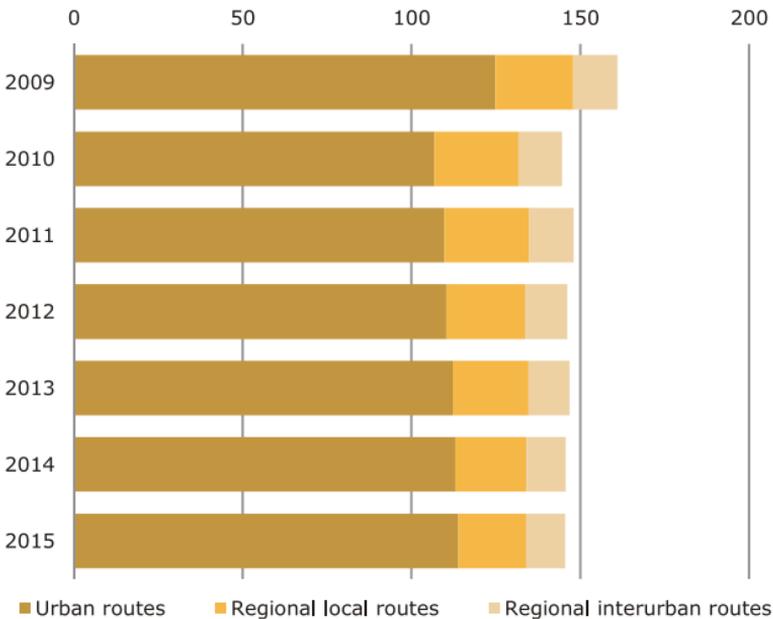


Passenger transport

	2005	2010	2014	2015
Number of passengers arrived at Riga International Airport, thsd pers.	939	2 315	2 409	2 584
Number of passengers departed from Riga International Airport, thsd pers.	938	2 349	2 403	2 576
Passenger arrivals at the Port of Riga by ferry, thsd pers.	45.0	319.3	332.0	224.3
Passenger departures from the Port of Riga by ferry, thsd pers.	53.1	327.6	345.0	232.8
Passenger arrivals at the Port of Riga by cruise ship in transit, thsd pers.	48.8	58.6	60.8	69.2
Rail passenger transport, mln pers.	25.9	20.9	19.2	17.1
Regular bus passenger transport, mln pers.	221.2	145.0	146.1	145.7
Trolley-bus passenger transport, mln pers.	91.4	44.4	47.0	44.8
Tram passenger transport, mln pers.	90.9	41.0	45.0	43.1
in Riga	72.8	31.4	34.7	33.4
in Liepāja	8.8	2.9	3.7	3.0
in Daugavpils	9.3	6.7	6.6	6.7

Passengers in regular domestic bus traffic lines and routes

(million persons)





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