

LATVIA 2018

STATISTICS IN BRIEF

Devoted to facts and people



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

LATVIA. STATISTICS IN BRIEF 2018

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

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The brochure "Latvia. Statistics in Brief 2018" gives an insight into the recent social and economic processes and development trends in Latvia. Each section contains short description of a domain, data tables, charts and maps. Some indicators for international comparisons are taken from Eurostat databases. All data contained in the publication are available on the CSB website <http://www.csb.gov.lv>.

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ISBN 978-9984-06-515-1
ISSN 2501-0026 (pdf)
ISSN 1407-0634 (printed)
018-003-000

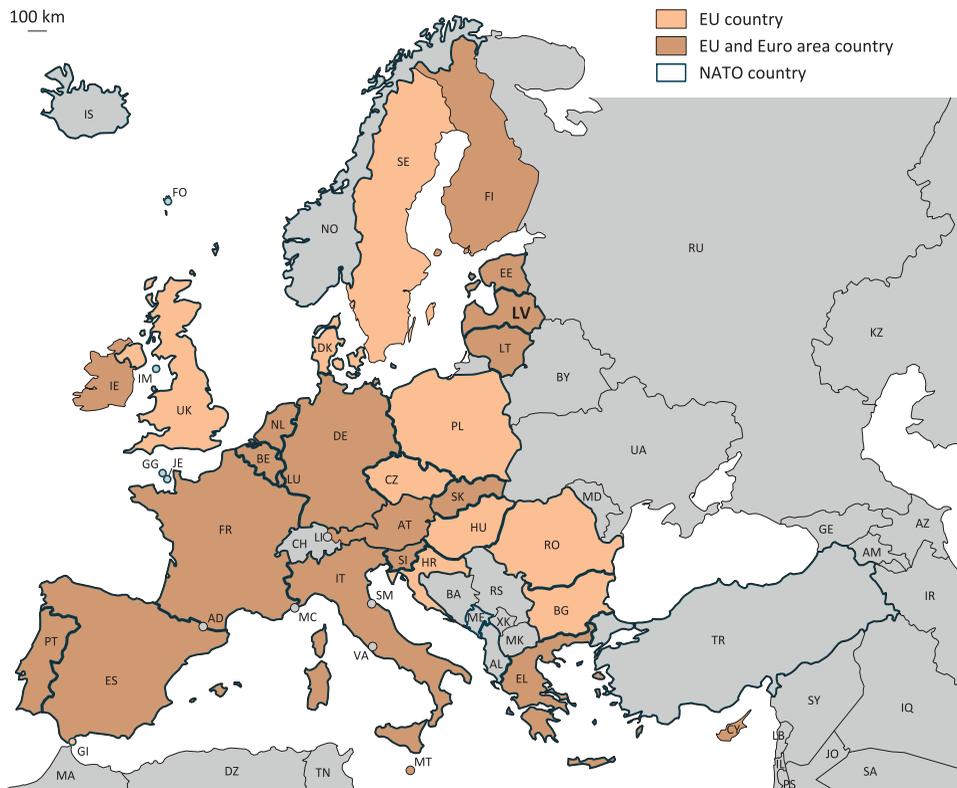
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Explanation of Symbols

-	magnitude zero
...	data are not available or too uncertain for presentation
•	data are not published due to confidentiality requirements
BEC	Classification by Broad Economic Categories
data source	code of the Eurostat table used (for example, [tec00114])
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)
EUR/€	euro is the official currency used in 19 Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
GWh	gigawatt hour
ha	hectare
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	information and communication technologies
IT	information technologies
km	kilometre
km²	square kilometre
m	metre
m³	cubic metre
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (Rev. 2)
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), Uzbekistan (UZ). Ukraine (UA) and Turkmenistan (TM) as associate members
PJ	peta joule
t	tonne
TJ	tera joule

Official name of the country	Republic of Latvia
Proclamation of independence	18.11.1918 (04.05.1990)
Territory	64.6 thousand km ²
Population on 01.01.2018	1 930 thousand
Capital city	Riga (32 % of the population)
Accession to NATO	29.03.2004
Accession to the European Union	01.05.2004
Accession into the euro area	01.01.2014
Time zone	GTM+2



Territory of Latvia is ten times smaller than that of France, the largest country of the European Union, slightly smaller than the territory of neighbouring Lithuania, but 1.4 times larger than the territory of Estonia. The total length of the country's borderline amounts to 1.8 thousand km, of which 1.4 thousand km make up the land border. Latvia has land border with Estonia (343 km), Russia (276 km), Belarus (173 km) and Lithuania (588 km), as well as a maritime border with Sweden, Lithuania and Estonia.

State system	Parliamentary republic
President	Raimonds Vējonis (since 08.07.2015)
Parliament	Saeima
Composition of Saeima	100 members
Official language	Latvian
Population density	30.5 persons/1 km ²
Share of Latvians	62.0 %
Females per 100 males	118
Mean age of population	42.3 years
GDP per capita	EUR 12.8 thousand
Unemployment rate	9.6 %
Minimum wage	EUR 370
Average gross wages and salaries	EUR 859
Annual inflation	0.1 %



Administrative territories	119
Cities under state jurisdiction	9 – Rīga, Daugavpils, Jēkabpils, Jelgava, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Rēzekne, Valmiera, Ventspils
Counties	110
Largest	Ogre county (33 448 inhabitants)
Smallest	Baltinava county (1 036 inhabitants)

POPULATION

Population decline still observed

Provisional estimates show that Latvia population accounted for 1 million 930 thousand at the beginning of 2018. Since 1990, population has dropped by 738 thousand. In 2017, population declined by approximately 20 thousand or 1.0 %. At the beginning of 2017, 68 % of Latvia population lived in urban areas, almost half or 48 % of them lived in Riga where population density constituted 2 110 persons/km² (30 persons/km² in Latvia on average).

Usually resident population of urban and rural areas

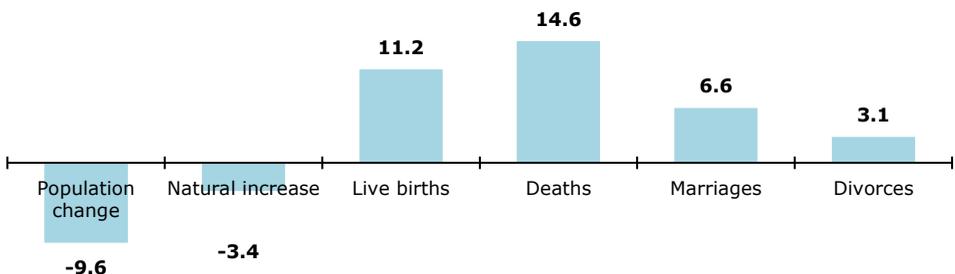
(at the beginning of the year, number)

Year	Total	Urban areas		Rural areas		Persons/km ²
		males	females	males	females	
2010	2 120 504	642 614	795 983	328 317	353 590	33
2011	2 074 605	626 171	780 581	321 768	346 085	32
2012	2 044 813	614 797	767 308	320 015	342 693	32
2013	2 023 825	608 412	757 913	318 168	339 332	31
2014	2 001 468	604 836	752 846	312 209	331 577	31
2015	1 986 096	601 388	747 467	309 819	327 422	31
2016	1 968 957	597 870	741 857	306 429	322 801	30
2017	1 950 116	594 744	737 802	300 939	316 631	30

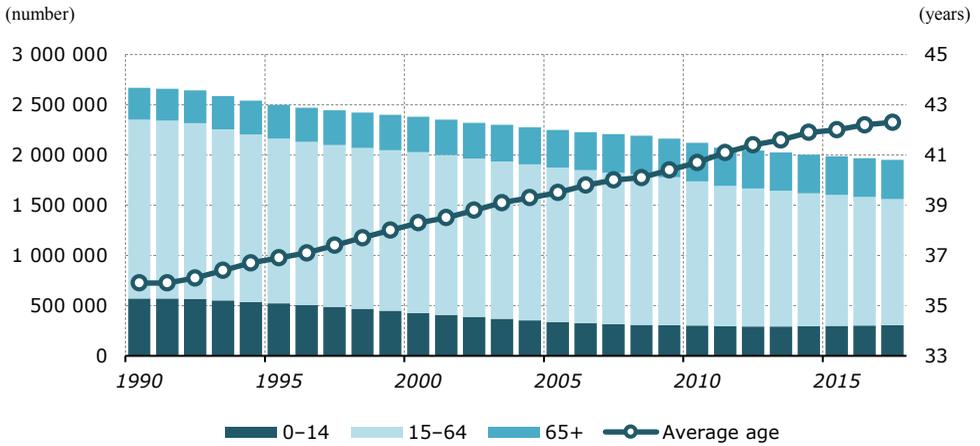
As indicated by the age structure statistics, like in the great majority of the EU countries, Latvia population is ageing. At the beginning of 2017, out of 1.950 million people, children aged under 15 constituted 15.6 %, population aged 15–64 (including) accounted for 62.2 %, and people aged 65 and over – for 22.2 %. Since the beginning of 2010, the number of children has grown slightly – by 1.1 %, population aged 15–64 (including) fell by 12.4 %, while the number of people at retirement age (aged 65 and over) has grown by 1.0 %. Drop in the population at working age is notably affected by migration.

Key vital statistics in 2016

(per 1 000 inhabitants)



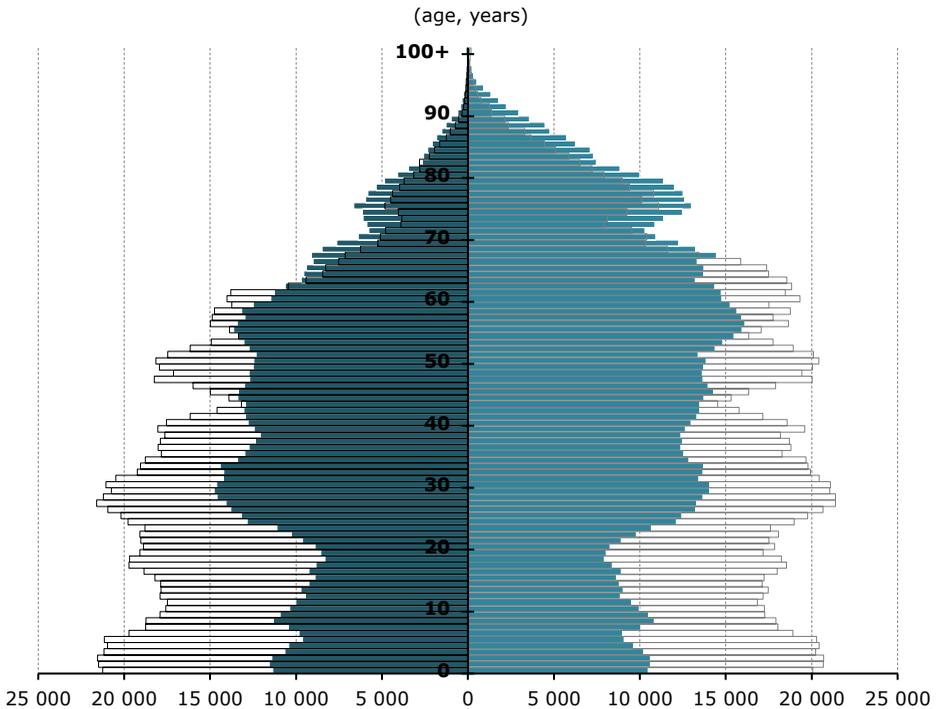
Age structure of usually resident population



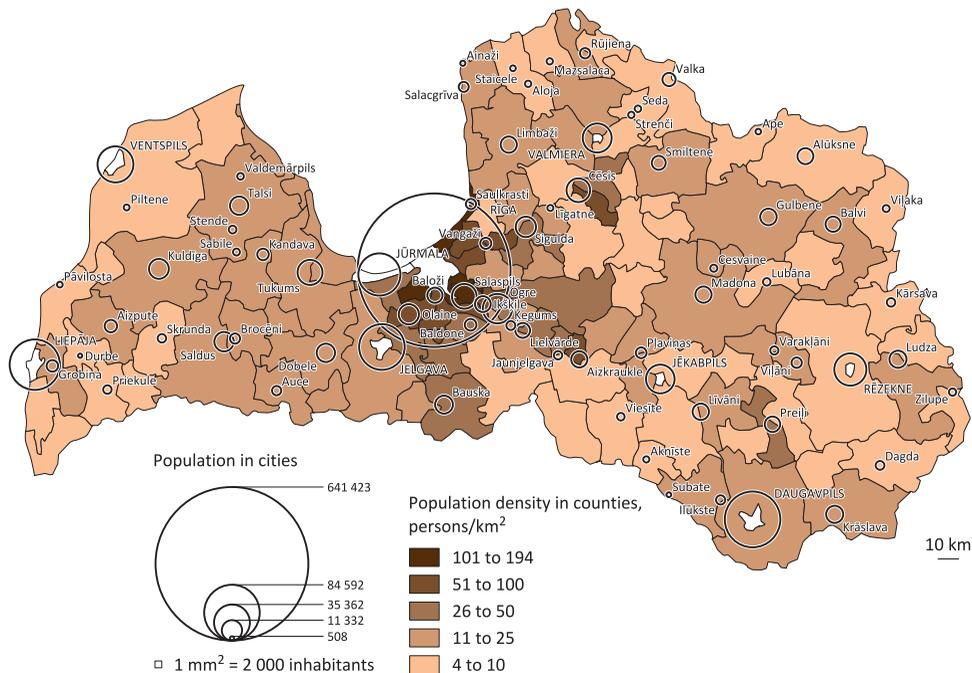
Population age and gender structure in 1990 and 2017

(number)

□ Males in 1990 ■ Males in 2017 □ Females in 1990 ■ Females in 2017

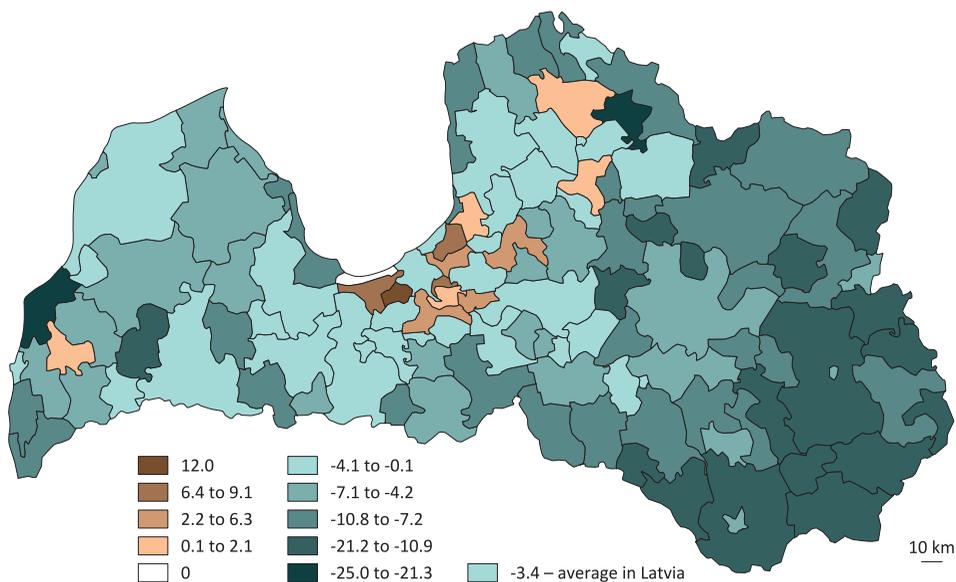


Population number in cities and density in counties at the beginning of 2017



Natural increase by administrative territory; 2016

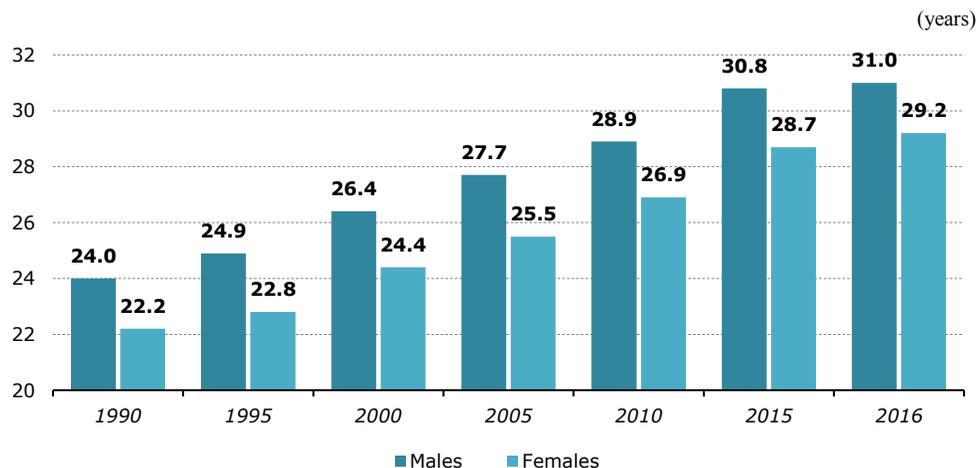
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



Marriages and divorces

Recent years indicate increase in the number of marriages concluded in Latvia – from 9 290 marriages in 2010 to 13 617 marriages in 2015, however in 2016 marriage number fell to 13 002.

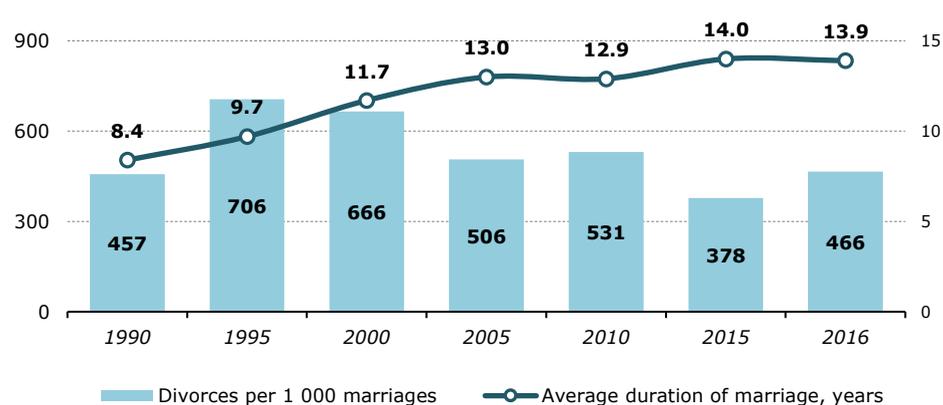
Average age at first marriage



The number of marriages per 1 000 inhabitants grew from 4.4 marriages in 2010 to 6.6 in 2016. Out of the persons married in 2016, 48 % of males and 62 % of females were aged under 30. The average age of males at the first marriage comprised 31 years, while that of females 29 years. In 2016, 29 % of males and 28 % of females entered into marriage repeatedly.

In 2016, 6 061 marriages were divorced, which is a rise of 23 %, compared to 2010. The average duration of marriage in Latvia constituted 14 years – one year more than in 2010.

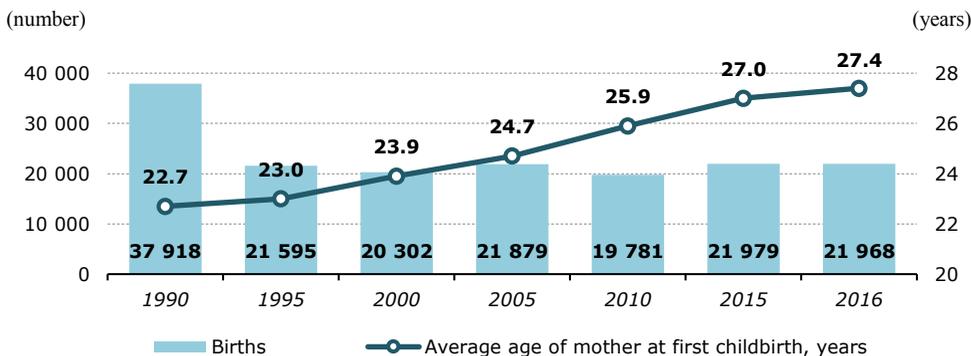
Divorces



Birth rates

More than a half of babies (59 %) were born in officially registered marriage (during 80-ties those were 85 %). In 2016, Latvian total fertility rate ⁽¹⁾, showing progress of the generation exchange, accounted for 1.7 and still lagged significantly behind the level desired (2.1–2.2). In 2015, the total European rate comprised 1.6, moreover in many countries it was even below the Latvian level.

Number of live births and average age of mother at childbirth

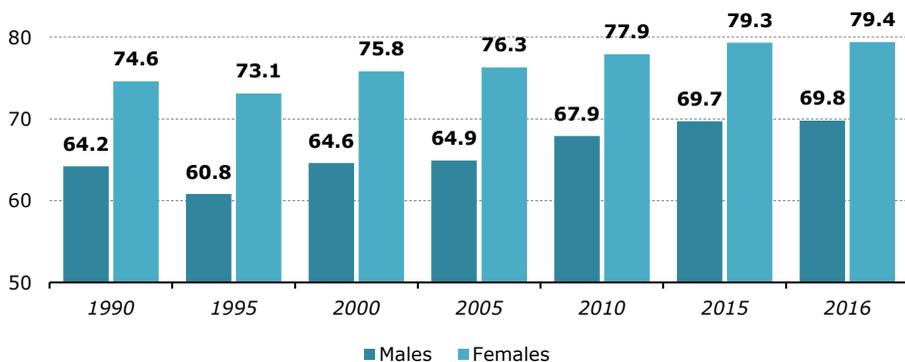


Mortality

In 2016, the number of deaths constituted 28.6 thousand. In 2016, the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births comprised 3.7 (in 2010 – 5.6). People in Latvia live on average five years longer than in 1991, and life expectancy is increasing gradually. However, males tend to live shorter life than females (by 9–11 years).

Life expectancy at birth

(years)



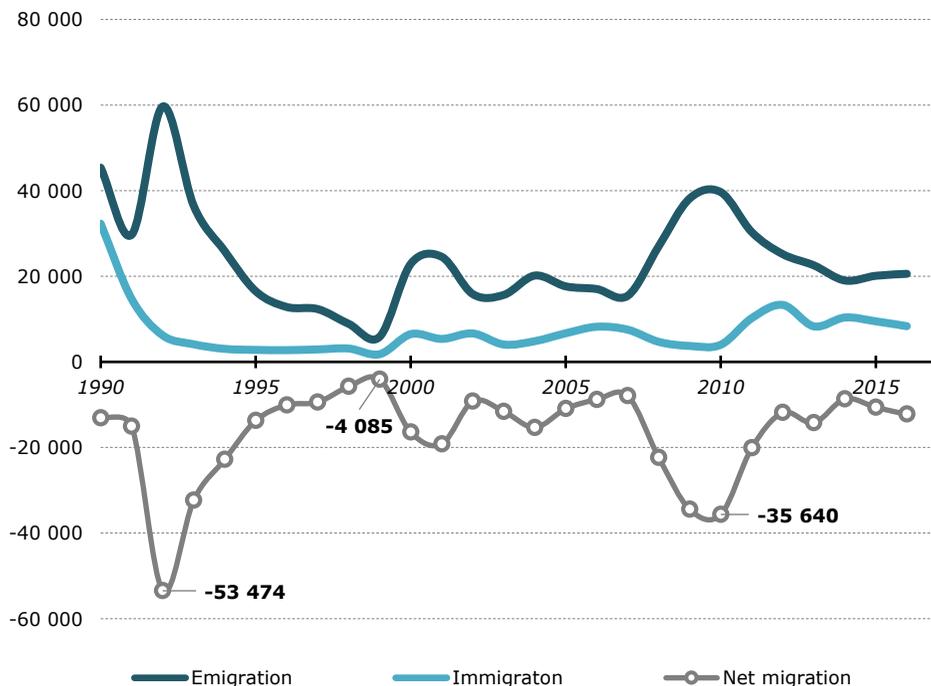
⁽¹⁾ The average number of children that would be born to a woman during her lifetime provided the birth rate of the given year remained at the previous level.

Migration rates still high

Due to migration, Latvia population has declined almost by half a million (by 450 thousand) since 1990. In 2010–2016, as a result of international long-term migration, population dropped by 113.4 thousand.

International long-term migration

(number)



In 2016, 8.3 thousand persons arrived for permanent residence in Latvia ⁽¹⁾ from other countries (12.0 % fewer than in 2015) and 20.6 thousand people left the country (2.3 % more than a year before). People at working age (aged 15–62 (including)) constituted very large share (17.3 thousand or 84 % of the emigrants, moreover people aged 20–39 (including) accounted for 10.9 thousand or 63 % of them. Out of the total number of immigrants, 75 % were at working age, of which people aged 20–39 (including) constituted 64 %. In 2016, 57 % of immigrants came from the EU countries, still notable part (31 %) was formed by immigrants coming from CIS countries. In 2016, 74 % of immigrants went to the EU countries.

⁽¹⁾ Period of one year or longer.

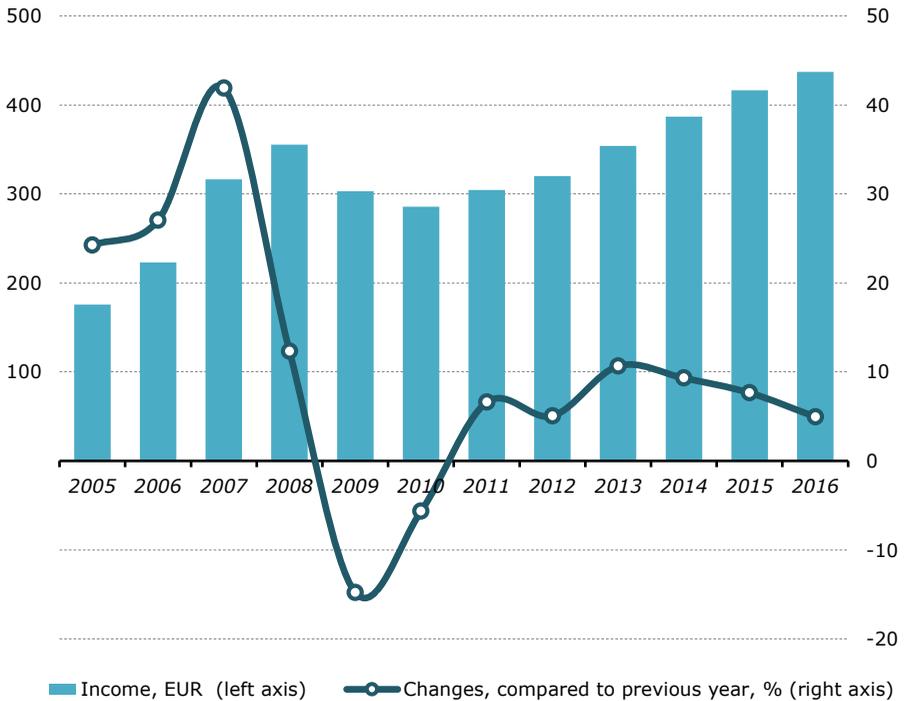
HOUSEHOLD INCOME, INCOME INEQUALITY, MONETARY POVERTY

Rise in household disposable income

Compared to 2015, in 2016 household disposable income increased by 4.9 %, reaching EUR 437 per household member monthly. Compared to the increase recorded in previous years – 7.6 % in 2015, 9.3 % in 2014 and 10.7 % in 2013 – household income growth rate kept slowing down.

Household disposable income in 2005–2016

(on average per household member monthly, EUR)

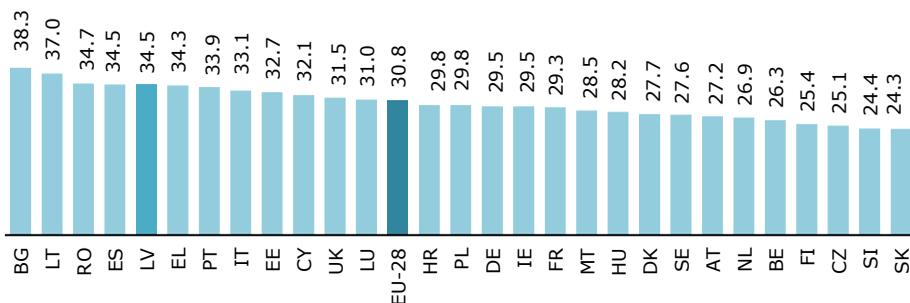


Income inequality in Latvia still high

The latest data available show that Latvia has the fourth highest Gini coefficient ⁽¹⁾ in the EU.

⁽¹⁾ 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.

Gini coefficient in EU countries; 2015 ⁽¹⁾



Data source: Eurostat [ilc_di12] 15.02.2018, Eurostat [ilc_di11] 15.02.2018.

22.1 % of Latvian population at risk of poverty

In 2016, 425 thousand people or 22.1 % of Latvia population were at risk of poverty, which is 0.3 percentage points more than in 2015. In 2016, as disposable income of the population grew, also at-risk-of-poverty threshold went up – to EUR 330 monthly (EUR 318 monthly in 2015).

The lowest at-risk-of-poverty was observed among population aged 25–50 (14.6 %) and people aged 18–24 (including) (16.1 %), while among population aged 50 and over it was significantly higher. In 2016, 22.7 % of population aged 50–64 (including) and 39.9 % of people aged 65 and over were at risk of poverty. Moreover, the highest at-risk-of-poverty (72.8 %) was recorded among senior population (aged 65 and over) who lived alone.

At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and gender; 2016

(%)

	Total	Males	Females
Total	22.1	19.1	24.6
0–17	18.4	17.2	19.7
18–24	16.1	15.9	16.3
25–49	14.6	14.8	14.4
50–64	22.7	23.1	22.4
65+	39.9	29.1	45.1

The data show that at-risk-of-poverty among unemployed persons still is very high – above 50 %. The only exception was 2009 when poverty risk of unemployed fell to 47.9 %, whereas in 2016 it reached 56.5 %. The lowest poverty risk is observed among working population. In 2016, only 8.8 % of employed persons were at risk of poverty (in 2015 – 8.3 %).

⁽¹⁾ Eurostat data show results of survey 2016 (income reference period – 2015), the data on Latvia show results of survey 2017 (income reference period – 2016).

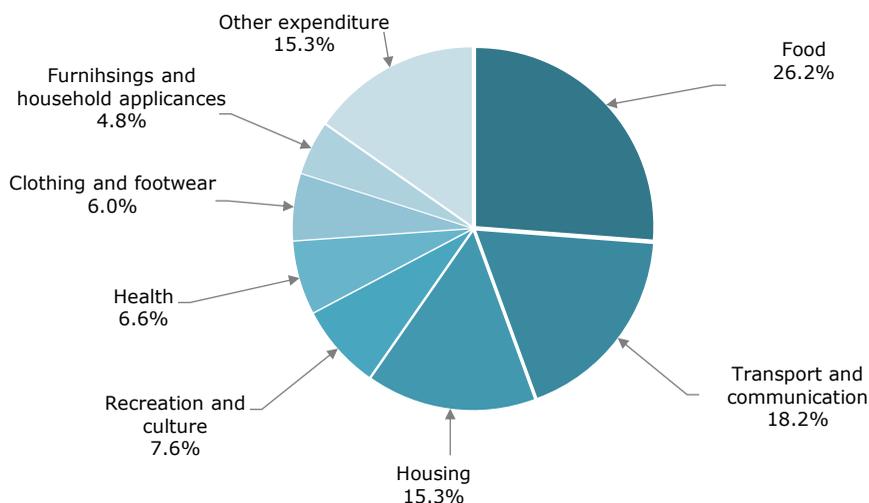
CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE AND CONSUMPTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS

In 2016, household consumption expenditure grew by 5.4 %

In 2016, household consumption expenditure amounted to EUR 333 on average per household member monthly, which is EUR 17 or 5.4 % more than in 2015. Considering the increase of 0.1 % in consumer prices, consumption expenditure at constant prices grew by 5.3 %.

Structure of consumption expenditure is one of the key indicators characterising population welfare. Compared to the previous year, consumption expenditure priorities almost have not changed in 2016: food constitutes 26.2 %, housing and public utilities 15.3 % and transport 13.9 %.

Consumption expenditure structure in 2016



Increase in consumption of fruit and milk, while drop in potato and fish consumption

Compared to 2015, in 2016 changes may be observed in consumption of food products. Consumption of some food products is reducing, which is partly because households choose to eat outside home or change their eating habits/ diet. Consumption of potatoes, sugar, fish, cabbage, butter, margarine and vegetable fat has dropped, while consumption of milk, pork, poultry, fruit, local garden fruit and drupes has gone up. The decline in consumption of sugar and potatoes may be influenced by the increase in consumer prices (of 11.8 % and 10.0 %, respectively).

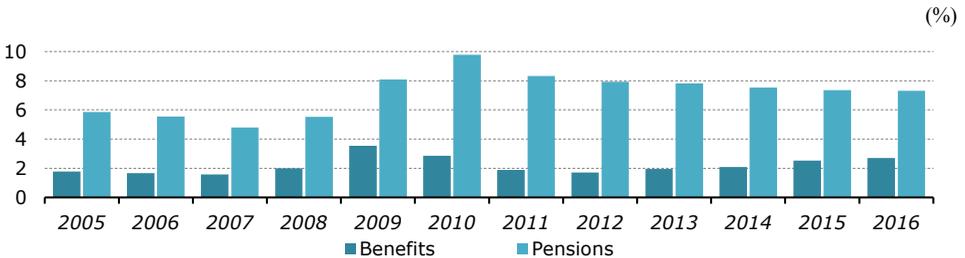
Survey results show that in 2016 one household member on average consumed 47 l of milk, 14 kg of cheese and curd, 31 kg of bread, 207 eggs, 19 kg of fresh pork, 12 kg of fresh poultry, 21 kg of sausage products and smoked meat, 62 kg of potatoes and 5 kg of fresh fish. In respect to fruit, the greatest numbers per one household member annually were recorded in consumption of local garden fruit and drupes (21 kg), tropical fruit and berries (11 kg) and citrus fruit (10 kg).

SOCIAL SECURITY

Expenditure on pensions and benefits growing gradually

Data of the State Social Insurance Agency show that in 2016 total expenditure on state pensions and social benefits comprised EUR 2 billion 502 million, which is EUR 97.1 million more than in 2015. State pensions comprised largest share of the expenditure (72.7%), and the total expenditure on state pensions constituted EUR 1 billion 819 million in 2016 (EUR 26.9 million more than in 2015).

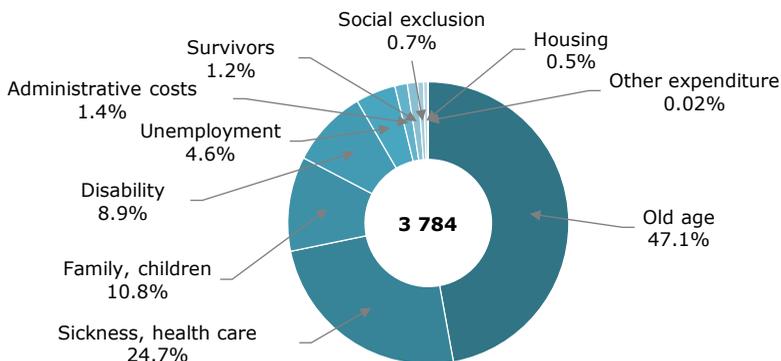
Proportion of expenditure on benefits and pensions in GDP



In 2016, expenditure on pensions constituted 7.3 % of GDP, which is 0.1 percentage points less than in 2015 (7.4 % of GDP). Expenditure on state social benefits, in this turn, amounted to EUR 684 million in 2016, exceeding the expenditure of 2015 by 11.4 % or EUR 70.2 million. In 2016, the expenditure on state pensions amounted to 2.7 % of GDP – 0.2 percentage points more than in 2015 (2.5 % of GDP).

Social protection expenditure by ESSPROS classification; 2016

(million EUR)



State social benefits

Last year, the average size of sickness, maternity and paternity benefits paid per day increased. In 2017, the size of sickness benefit reached the highest amount recorded ever – EUR 15.67 per day.

Latvian paternity benefit since the introduction thereof (except for 2008) has been greater than maternity benefit. Last year, paternity benefit on average constituted EUR 29.55 per day, and it has grown by 8.1 %, compared to 2016. Maternity benefit to be paid in 2017 on average comprised EUR 23.54 per day – increase of 6.7 % over the year. Regardless size of both maternity and paternity benefits is growing gradually, it still lags behind that registered in 2009.

State pensions

Compared to 2016, the number of pension recipients decreased by 0.8 % in 2017, while the size of monthly pension increased by 3.5 %, reaching on average EUR 270. In 2017, monthly old-age pension paid on average was EUR 9.81 higher than that paid in 2016 and reached EUR 289.40 on average.

Pension recipients

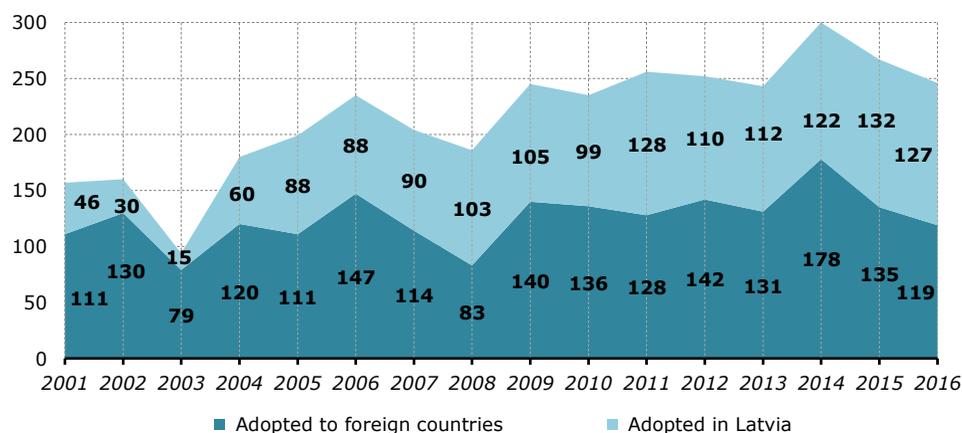
(x qwcpfu)

	2016	2017
Total	564.8	560.2
Old-age pensions	460.7	456.7
Disability pensions	74.5	74.4
Survivor's pensions	19.0	18.4
Service pensions	10.6	10.7
Statutory retirement age, years	62.75	63.00

Over the year, decline observed in number of adopted children

In 2016, number of persons in long-term social care institutions fell (12 834 persons in 2016 and 12 984 in 2015), as did number of children under guardianship (4 548 children in 2016 and 4 620 in 2015) and number of adopted children (246 children in 2016 and 267 in 2015).

Number of adopted children; 2001–2016

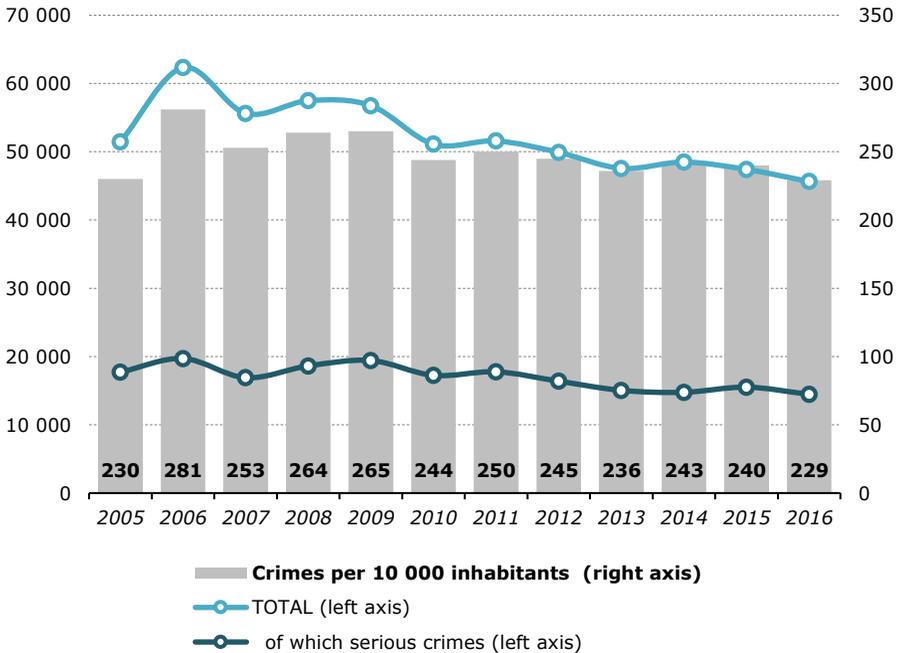


CRIME

Decline in recorded crimes

In 2016, 45 639 crimes were registered, which is 3.7 % less, compared to 2015 (47 406).

Number of recorded crimes; 2005–2016



Theft still the most common crime

In 2016, 20 817 thefts (including fraud and misappropriation on a small scale) were recorded, comprising 46 % of all crimes recorded. Over the recent years, the number of thefts is declining, even though slightly – a drop of 4.5 %, compared to 2015, and of 18.9 %, compared to 2010. Approximately one third of the crimes recorded were classified as serious (31.7 % in 2016 and 32.7 % in 2015). In 2016, the number of intentional homicide went down by 23 % – 67 cases of homicide were recorded (87 in 2015). At the end of 2016, prison population of Latvia comprised 4.2 thousand people, which is 3.7 % less than in 2015.

The share of juveniles in the total number of offenders is comparatively small: juveniles constituted 5.1 % of offenders in 2016. The share of female offenders (13.8 %) almost has not changed, compared to 2015 when indicator constituted 14.4 %.

Number of recorded crimes

(number)

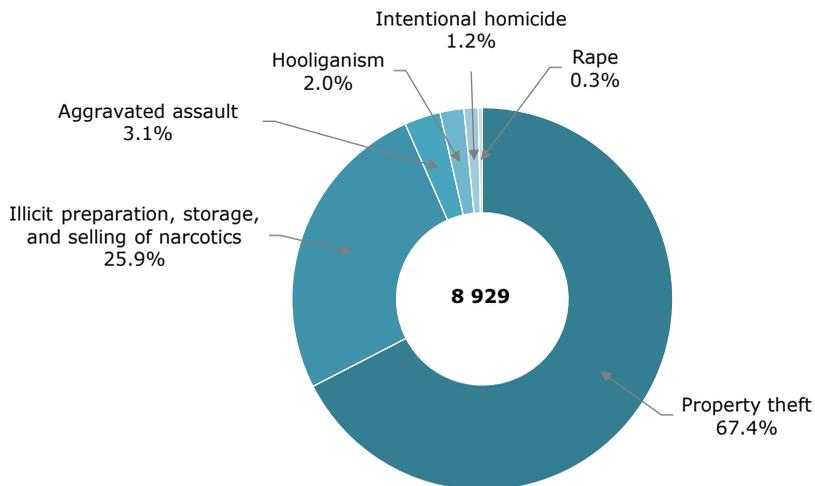
	2016
Total	45 639
Intentional homicide	67
Aggravated assault	195
Rape	59
Robbery	651
Property theft ⁽¹⁾	20 817
Hooliganism	214
Violation of traffic regulations resulting in serious injuries	573
Illicit preparation, storage, and selling of narcotics	1 195

Number of offenders

	2015	2016
Accused persons	10 060	10 478
In the total number of offenders, %:		
females	14.4	13.8
juveniles	4.9	5.1

Convicted persons by type of crime; 2016

(number of persons)



⁽¹⁾ As of 2011, including fraud and misappropriation on a small scale.

HEALTH CARE

Number of medical practitioners keeps declining

In 2016, 7 480 medical practitioners had medical practice as the main job thereof – 146 persons fewer than in 2015. The total number of physicians in main job has been declining gradually since 2010. Over the five recent years, the most notable drop was recorded in the number of paediatricians, neurologists, oncologists and gynaecologists/obstetricians. In-service training in health care institutions was undertaken by 732 residents and physicians in service; during the four recent years their number has gone up by 61.9 %.

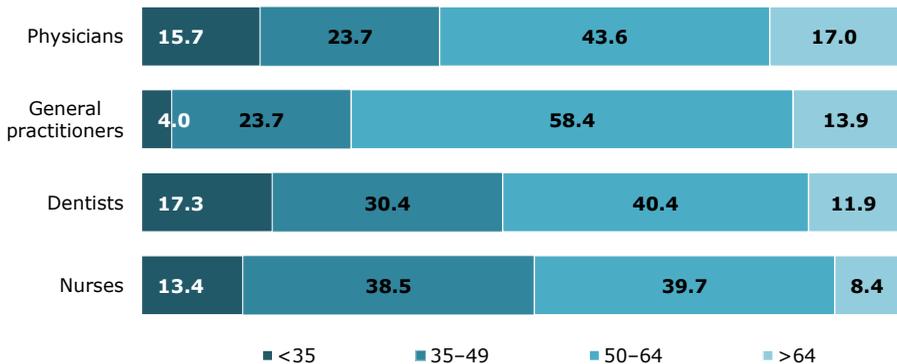
Key health care indicators

(number at the end of the year)

	2010	2015	2016
Physicians of all specialities (in main job)	7 951	7 626	7 480
Residents and physicians in service training	463	649	732
Specialists with higher medical professional education	519	980	1 038
Nurses with higher education	1 090	1 987	3 106
Health care professionals with secondary medical education	13 217	11 625	10 318
Hospitals	67	67	65
Hospital beds (on average annually)	11 920	11 261	11 208

Practising medical specialists: age group proportions in selected specialities; 2016

(by age group, %)



Self-perceived general health and illnesses

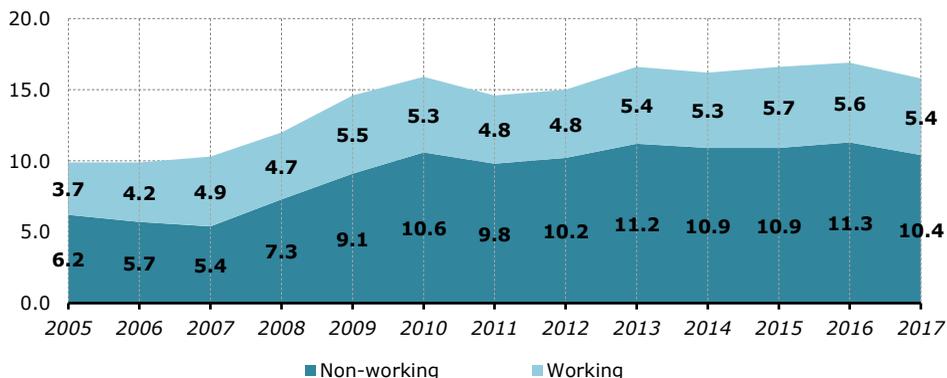
In 2017, 42.7 % of Latvia population aged 16 and over had suffered from a longstanding (lasting for more than six months) illness or health problem. Some differences may be observed in breakdown of indicators by gender – 47.4 % of females had longstanding illness compared to 36.9 % of males.

Out of the total population of Latvia, 16.9 % had unmet need for dental care, however the indicator varies among different income groups. Almost every third (27.6 %) person with low income (belonging to the 1st quintile group) did not visit dentist, compared to only 7.6 % of the population with the highest income (living in households of the 5th quintile group).

In 2015, 11 118 patients were first diagnosed with malignant neoplasms, and 74.5 thousand persons were registered under oncological care system at the end of the year. In 2017, 371 new HIV cases were registered (365 in 2016).

New cases of disability among working and non-working persons; 2005–2017

(thousand persons)



In 2015, the number of new cases of adult disability registered accounted for 15 837, of which 5 384 were employed persons. Malignant neoplasms (24.8 %), diseases of musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (23.8 %), and diseases of the circulatory system (15.8 %) were the most common causes of disability among working population.

In 2017, number of new and repeated cases of children (aged under 18) disability comprised 2 704.

Data of the Disability Information System show that 182 048 persons with disability were registered in Latvia in 2016. Out of the total number, 2 350 persons had hearing disability, 9 191 vision disability, 29 316 musculoskeletal disability and 25 158 persons suffered from psychical and behavioural disorder.

Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy indicators are acquired from information on chronic diseases and self-assessed state of health. In 2015, healthy life expectancy in Latvia constituted 51.8 years among males and 54.1 years among females. Healthy life years comprise 74.3 % of male life expectancy and 68.1 % of female life expectancy, indicating that males tend to live greatest part of their lives without serious health problems. In 2015, the difference between male and female healthy life expectancy constituted 2.3 years.

EDUCATION

Decline in children population

Since 2005, the number of children has declined by 20 %, thus having direct influence on the enrolments that have dropped by 21.6 % over the period. However, compared to the year before, in 2016 the total Latvian enrolments grew by almost 1 %.

Enrolments by level of education (ISCED 2011)

(at the beginning of the school year)

	2015/2016	2016/2017
Enrolments	417 672	421 078
Pre-primary education (Level 0)	92 095	94 249
children aged 0–2 (including)	17 667	19 247
children aged 3–6 (including)	74 428	75 002
First stage of basic education (grades 1–6)	120 308	121 506
Second stage of basic education (grades 7–9 and vocational education)	56 128	56 282
(Upper) secondary education (grades 10–12 and secondary vocational education)	60 343	61 078
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	4 516	5 049
First stage of tertiary education (higher education)	81 972	80 623
Second stage of tertiary education (doctoral studies)	2 310	2 291

Enrolments in pre-school education up by 2 %

The number of children aged 3–6 in pre-school education has increased – 93.5 % of children at this age attended pre-school education institutions in 2016 (92.7 % in 2015 and 88.4 % in 2010).

In 2016, 94.2 thousand children attended pre-school education institutions, which is the highest indicator recorded during the recent years. Most children attended local government pre-school education institutions, while 8 thousand or 8.5 % – private kindergartens. The number of private pre-school education institutions has risen twice since 2010, and the highest increase was observed in Riga.

Enrolments in pre-school education institutions by age; 2016

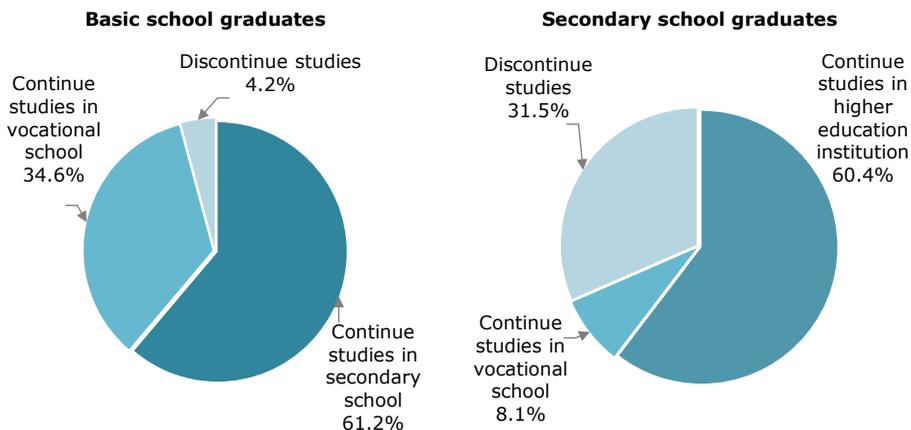
(%)



Further education after basic and secondary education

Data show that in 2016, number of basic school graduates which decided to continue studies in vocational schools rose by 3 percentage points, while number of young people that discontinue studies (4.2 %) dropped. Out of the secondary school graduates, 60.4 % continue studies in higher education institutions and colleges and 31.5 % discontinue studies.

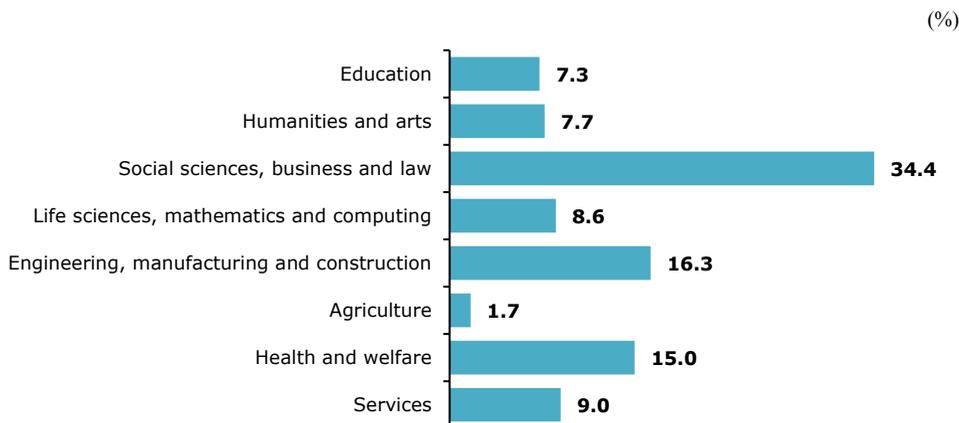
Further education in 2016



Student number dropped by 35 % over the decade

In the academic year 2017/2018, 81.6 thousand students entered 54 higher education institutions – in 29 higher education institutions and 25 colleges. During the past decade, number of students reduced by 43.8 thousand or 35 %. This year, 27.1 thousand students entered higher education institutions of Latvia, which is 5 % less than a year ago.

Enrolment by field of education and training; at the beginning of the school year 2017/2018



As usual, the majority of the new students (43 %) choose social sciences and humanities. In the same time, the number of engineering and life sciences programme entrants fell by 8.2 %. Out of the total number of entrants, females accounted for 15.2 thousand or 55.9 %. Studies of more than a half of the entrants (55.4 %) were non-subsidised, and studies of 44.6 % of students were state-subsidised.

Number of vocational school entrants down by 7 %

In the school year 2017/2018, the total vocational school enrolments accounts for 28.5 thousand. Vocational education is provided by 46 vocational schools (five schools fewer than a year ago) and 11 colleges. Engineering and services are the most popular fields of education – chosen by 35.4 % and 25.4 % of the vocational students, respectively.

After significant increase in 2016, at the beginning of school year 2017/2018 the number of vocational school entrants dropped again. Studies were entered by 11.6 thousand students, which is 7 % fewer than before.

Just like the year before, also in 2017 vocational education was acquired by 7.8 thousand students. Out of the number, 35.2 % graduated from engineering, manufacturing and construction programmes, and 26.4 % from services programmes.

State funding in higher education institutions and colleges rose by 5 %

Compared to the year before, state-funding for students in higher education institutions and colleges increased by EUR 2 million. As minimum wage of academic staff and state compulsory social security rate increased, basic costs for one student went up from EUR 1 393.11 in 2017 to EUR 1 458.51 in 2018. ⁽¹⁾

Expenditure on education

(million EUR)

	2010	2015
Total	1 138.7	1 473.4
Government expenditure	911.5	1 298.0
Private expenditure	185.2	153.3
Foreign sources of finance	42.0	22.1
Government expenditure on education, as % of the GDP	5.0	5.3

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/aktualitates/2756-par-2-miljoniem-eiro-pieaudzis-pieejamais-valsts-finansejums-studiju-vietam-izm-augstskolam-un-koledzam>.

CULTURE

Increase in attendance of cultural institutions

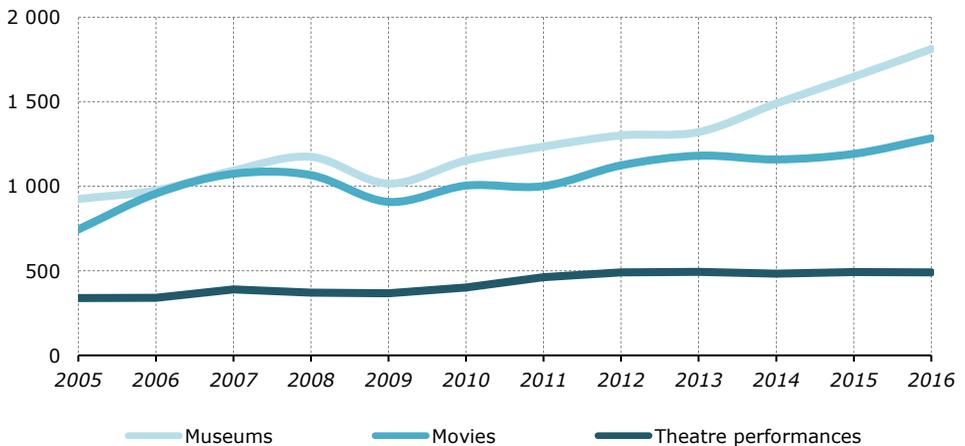
In 2016, attendance of museums reached 3 550 thousand entries and increased by 8.5 %, compared to 2015. Information compiled by the Ministry of Culture shows that 128 museums, of which 93 in regions, participated in international event “Museum Night 2016” which was attended by more than 250 thousand visitors. Cinema attendance increased slightly as well.

Activities of cultural institutions

	2015	2016
Museums, incl. branches; at the end of the year	113	115
Museum visitors; thousands	3 260	3 550
Places where movies are shown, total	22	22
Seats in cinemas and large places where movies are shown	11 474	12 052
Cinema attendance in cinemas and cultural centres; thousands	2 358	2 516
Cinema attendance per 1 000 inhabitants	1 192	1 284
Theatres; at the end of the year	9	9
Theatre performances	3 253	3 296
Theatre attendance; thousands	975	963
Theatre attendance per 1 000 inhabitants	493	491

Attendance of museums, theatres and cinemas

(number per 1 000 inhabitants)



Libraries

In 2016, there were 1 679 libraries in Latvia – the number has dropped by 152, compared to 2010. The sharpest decline (of 110 or 12.1 %) was recorded in the number of libraries of general and vocational educational institutions, which is because of the reduction in the number of educational institutions. Library services more often are used online. Out of the total 379 968 library loans in 2016, National Library of Latvia issued 269 601 printed loans and 110 367 electronic loans.

Library activities in 2016

	Number	Active users	Loans, million copies
Libraries – total	1 679	863 945	19.4
National Library of Latvia	1	119 283	0.3
Academic Library of the University of Latvia	1	8 567	0.4
Higher education institution libraries	47	78 170	1.7
Specialised libraries	31	6 272	0.2
Public libraries	799	431 301	11.9
General and vocational school libraries	800	20 352	4.9

Publishing

In 2016, 7 866 various publications in total circulation of 111 966 293 copies were received from more than 900 Latvian publishers. Compared to 2015, in 2016 number of magazines and other periodicals rose by 12.4 %, number of newspapers by 5.6 %, and number of books and brochures by 0.2 %.

Titles and total circulation

	Titles		Total circulation, million copies	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Books and brochures	2 187	2 191	3.1	2.8
Magazines	322	362	29.3	32.6
Newspapers	252	266	79.7	75.0

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

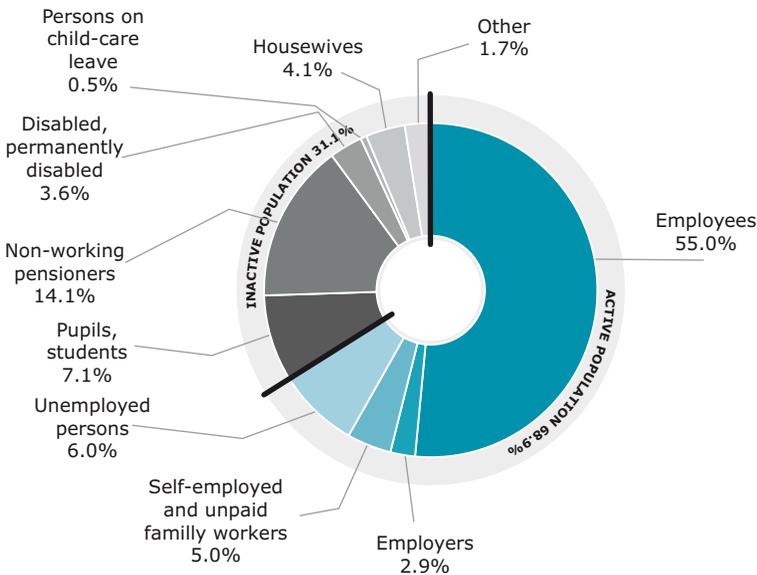
Activity indicators keep growing

Based on the activity status, population is divided into active (employed and unemployed persons) and inactive (pupils, students, non-working pensioners, etc.).

In 2017, 980.3 thousand people or 68.9 % of the population aged 15–74 (including) in Latvia were active. In 2017, compared to the year before, active population declined by 8.3 thousand people or 0.8 %, while activity rate increased by 0.7 percentage points. Activity rate of males is higher than that of females – 73.2 % and 65.1 %, respectively.

During the recent years, approximately one third of the population aged 15–74 (including) consists of people neither employed, nor actively seeking work (31.1 % or 443.1 thousand people in 2017).

Labour status of population in 2017

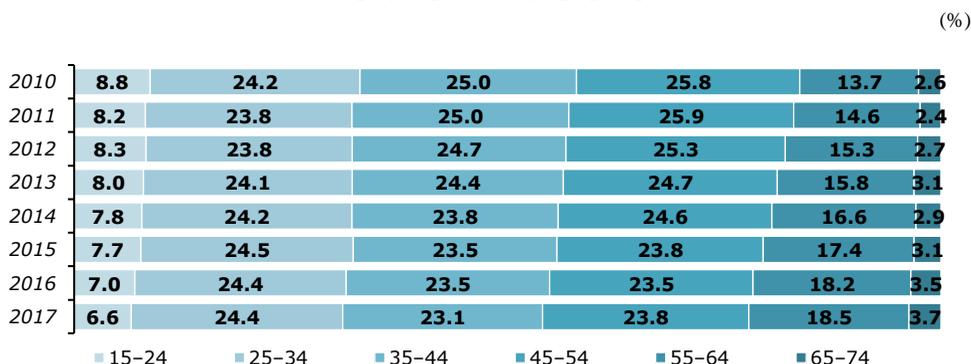


Gradual employment increase recorded

In 2017, 894.8 thousand people or 62.9 % of population aged 15–74 (including) in Latvia were employed. Compared to the year before, in 2017 employment rate grew by 1.3 percentage points.

In 2017, young people aged 15–24 constituted 6.6 % of all employed persons, 23.8 % of all employed were aged 45–54, whereas 3.7 % were aged 65–74.

Employed persons by age group



During the recent years, number of persons employed in agriculture is reducing, while number of those engaged in other economic activities (except for manufacturing) is rising.

Employed persons by main kind of economic activity

(thousands)

(NACE Rev. 2)	2010	2016	2017
Employed persons – total ⁽¹⁾	850.7	893.3	894.8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	73.3	68.7	61.4
Manufacturing, energy, construction (B–F)	196.2	215.3	208.4
Trade and services (G–N)	347.9	363.9	375.9
Other services (O–U)	233.1	244.9	248.6

Unemployment rate tends to reduce

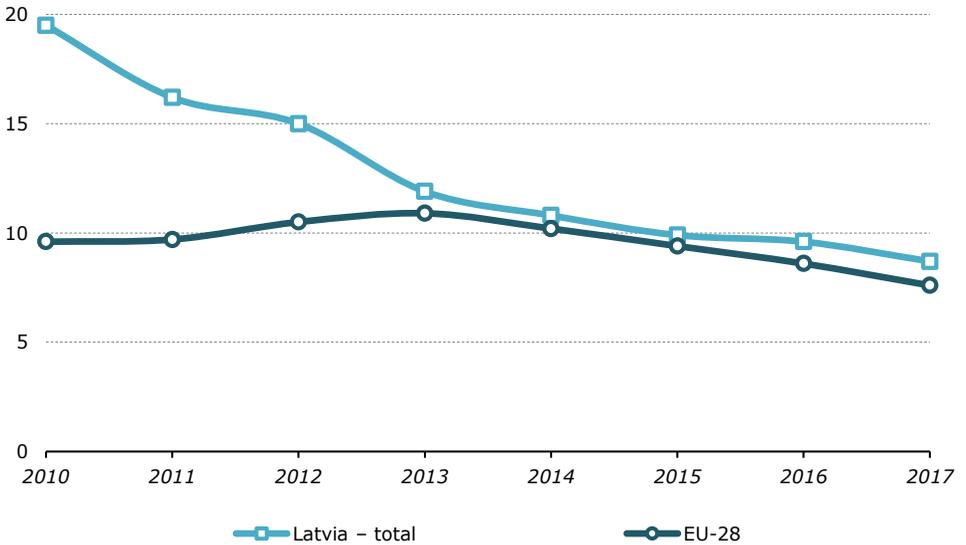
In 2017, there were 85.4 thousand unemployed persons in Latvia. Along with the economic recession, unemployment rate grew sharply in 2009, reaching the peak value (19.5 %) in 2010. Since 2011, the number of unemployed persons has been declining gradually, and it constituted 8.7 % in 2017. Unemployment rate among females still was lower than among males – 7.7 % and 9.8 %, respectively.

In 2017, Latvian youth unemployment rate constituted 17.0 %. The lowest youth unemployment rate among the Baltic states was recorded in Estonia – 12.1 % (compared to 13.3 % in Lithuania).

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

Unemployment rate

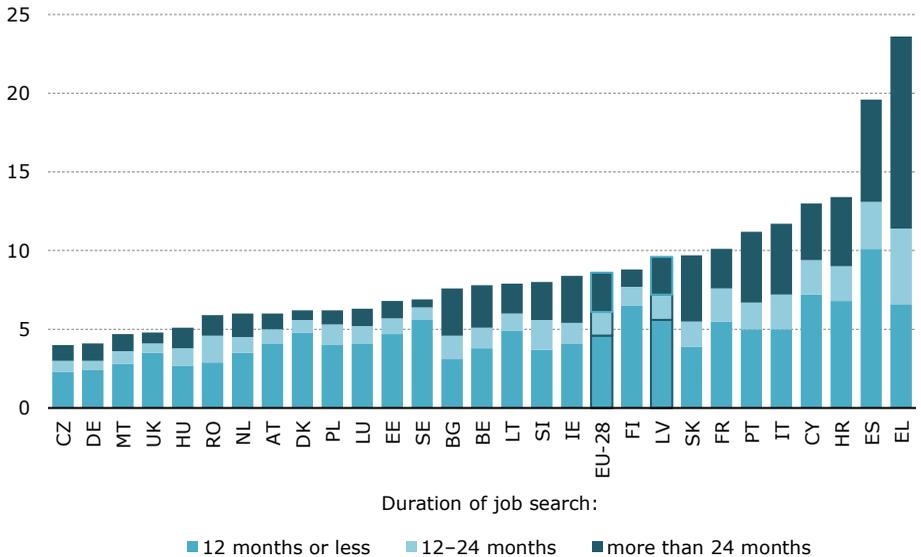
(share of unemployed persons in total active population aged 15–74 (including), %)



Data source: Eurostat [une_rt_a] 01.03.2018.

Unemployment rate in EU Member States by duration of work search; 2016

(as % of total active population aged 15–74 (including))



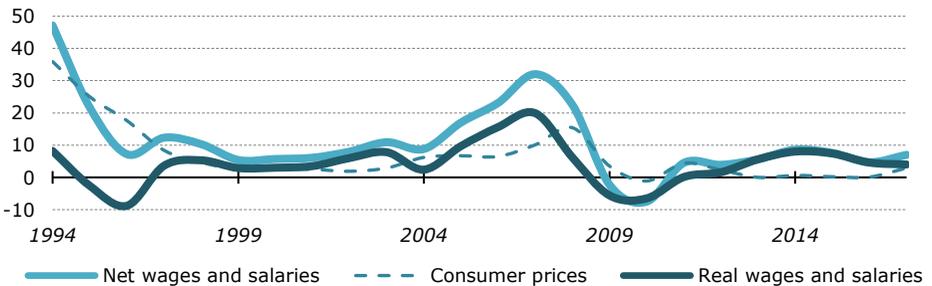
EARNINGS

Average earnings keep growing

In 2017, monthly average gross wages and salaries in the country reached EUR 926. Over the year, they rose by EUR 67 or 7.9 %. The average net wages and salaries, calculated using minimum differentiated non-taxable minimum applicable at workplace, constituted EUR 676 or 72.9 % of the gross wages and over the year grew slower (by 7.0 %) than wages and salaries before taxes. In 2017, consumer price increase reduced purchasing power of employees by 2.9 % (real rise of net wages and salaries constituted 4.0 %).

Changes in earnings and consumer prices

(as %, compared to the previous year)

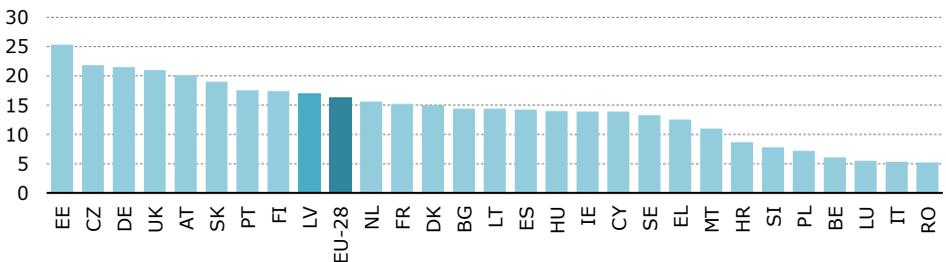


Gender pay gap is not growing

Similarly to females in other EU countries, also employed Latvian women earn less than men. In 2016, hourly earnings gender pay gap in Latvia comprised 17.0 % and was above the European Union average indicator (16.2 %). The average gender wage gap is calculated without excluding a range of influencing factors which would allow to explain the reasons behind the gap. They can be objective, for example, women work in sectors and professions having low average wage, or may indicate to discrimination in the labour market.

Hourly earnings gender pay gap in 2016

(%)



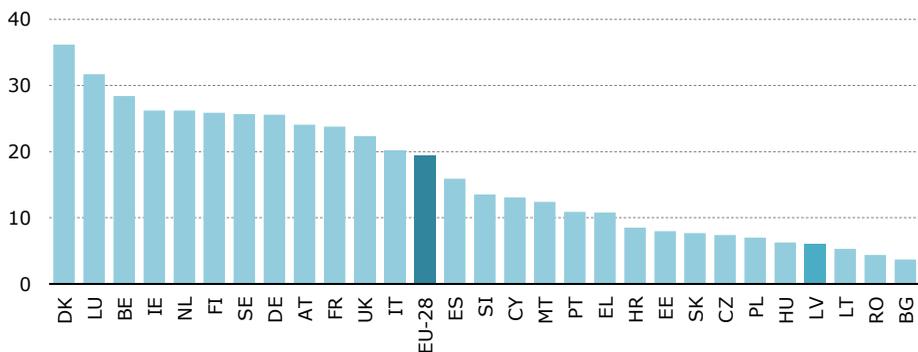
Data source: Eurostat [earn_gr_gpgr2] 28.02.2018.

Latvian wages and salaries among the EU lowest

Compared to other EU countries, the average earnings in Latvia are among lowest. In 2016, average hourly earnings constituted EUR 6; the EU average indicator was 3.2 times higher.

Hourly earnings in 2016 ⁽¹⁾

(EUR)

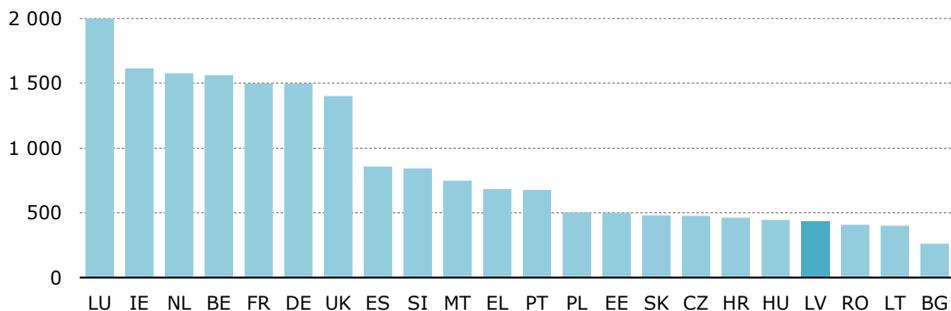


Data source: Eurostat [lc_lci_lev] 28.02.2018.

Also minimum wage in Latvia was one of the lowest among EU countries that have national minimum. At the beginning of 2018, lower minimum wage was recorded only in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Romania. However, at the beginning of 2018 minimum wage was increased in all Baltic states: in Estonia up to EUR 500 (of 6.4 %, compared to 2017), in Latvia to EUR 430 (13.2 %) and in Lithuania to EUR 400 (5.3 %).

Minimum wage on 1 January 2018

(monthly average, EUR)



Data source: Eurostat [earn_mw_cur] 28.02.2018.

⁽¹⁾ Excluding agriculture, forestry and fishing; public administration and defence.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

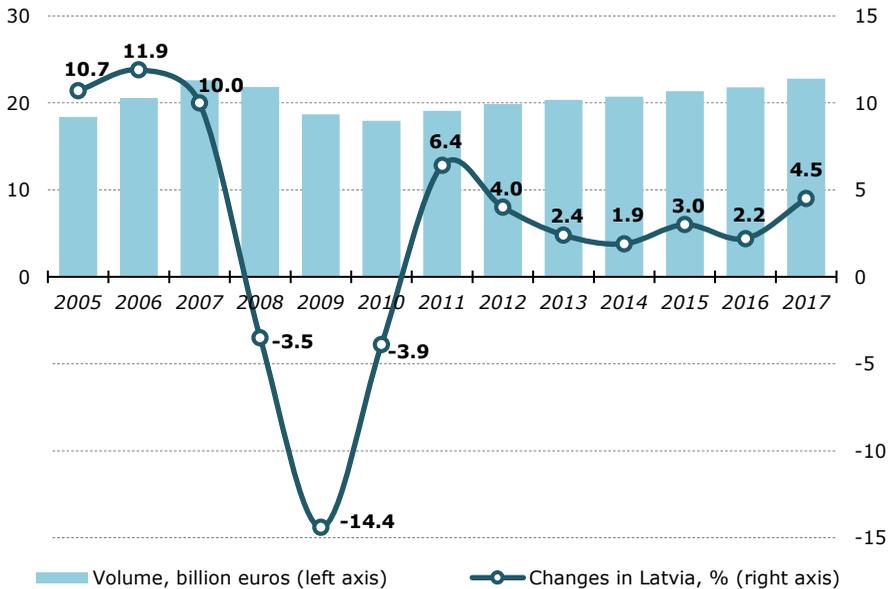
Latvian economy continues to grow

In 2017, GDP at current prices increased to EUR 26.9 billion, while at constant prices of 2010 – EUR 22.8 billion. The growth rate of the economy amounted to 4.5 % in comparison to the previous year.

Owing to economic growth, as compared to the previous lowest point recorded in 2010, in 2017 there was a significant increase in GDP per capita – by 37.5 % (at constant prices).

Gross Domestic Product and its changes over the previous year

(at constant prices of 2010)



Gross Domestic Product at current and constant prices

(million EUR)

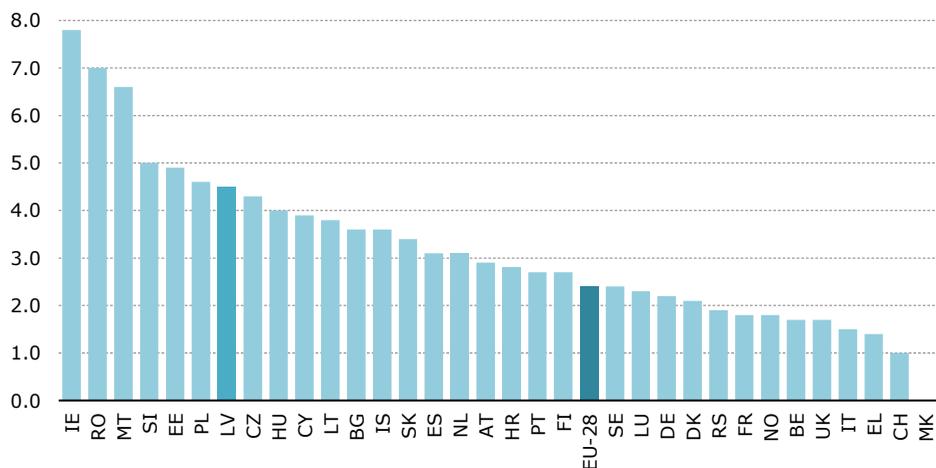
	2016	2017
Gross Domestic Product – total		
At current prices	24 926	26 857
At constant prices of 2010	21 799	22 791
Per capita, EUR		
At current prices	12 721	13 855
At constant prices of 2010	11 126	11 758

Value added structure and changes by kind of economic activity; 2017

	In 2017, at current prices, %	Changes compared to 2016, at constant prices, %
(A..T) Total value added	100	4.8
(A) Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3.9	1.9
(B,C,D,E) Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	16.4	7.9
(F) Construction	5.9	19.4
(G,H,I) Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transport and storage; accommodation and food service activities	25.9	5.9
(J) Information and communication	5.0	6.1
(K) Financial and insurance activities	4.0	-16.6
(L) Real estate activities	11.7	0.3
(M,N) Professional, scientific and technical services; administrative and support service activities	8.0	6.6
(O,P,Q) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; health and social work	16.1	4.6
(R,S,T) Arts, entertainment and recreation; other services; activities of households as employers	3.1	6.0

GDP changes in the EU countries in 2017

(at constant prices, compared to the previous year, as %)



Data source: Eurostat [nama_10_gdp] 23.03.2018.

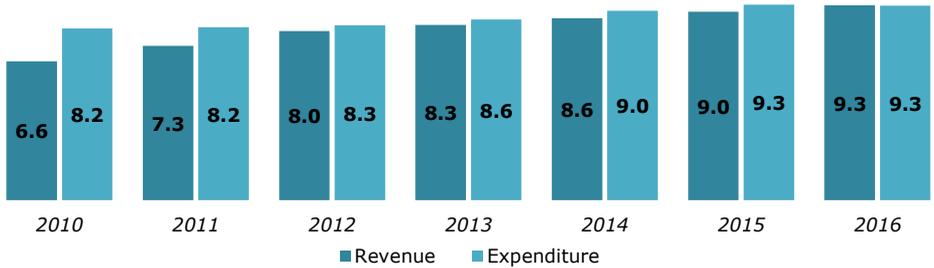
GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Increase in general government budget tax revenue

The fight against the shadow economy and tax administration improvement measures promoted rise in the revenue from taxes and social contributions in the general government sector in 2016. General government deficit continues to increase every year, reaching in 2016 EUR 7 865.4 million or 31.6 % of GDP, which is more by EUR 477.5 million than in 2015.

Revenues and expenditures of general government sector

(billion EUR)

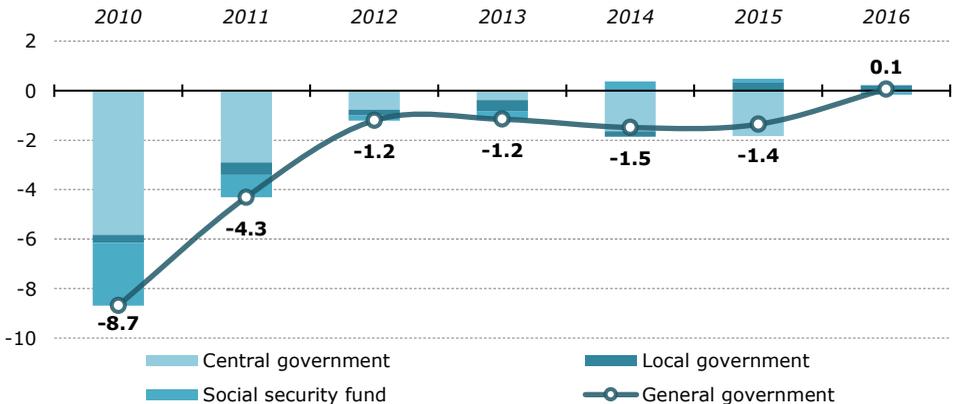


General government sector key indicators

	2014	2015	2016
Revenue, million EUR	8 649.0	8 964.7	9 272.1
Expenditure, million EUR	9 000.6	9 295.5	9 256.5
Deficit, surplus, million EUR	-351.6	-330.8	15.6
Deficit, surplus, % over GDP	-1.5	-1.4	0.1

General government deficit, surplus over GDP

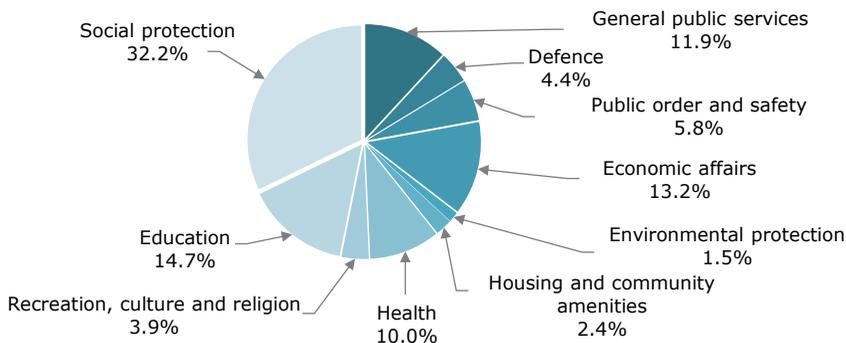
(%)



Structure of general government expenditure

Almost one third (32.2 %) of total general government expenditure in 2016 was expenditure on social protection (pensions, benefits and other forms of social support), 14.7 % was allocated to education, while 13.2 % – to economic affairs. Expenditure on general public services and health sector accounts for 11.9 % and 10.0 %, respectively. The remaining share of expenditure (18 %) is allocated to public order and safety, recreation, culture and religion, housing and community amenities, and environmental protection.

General government expenditure structure; 2016

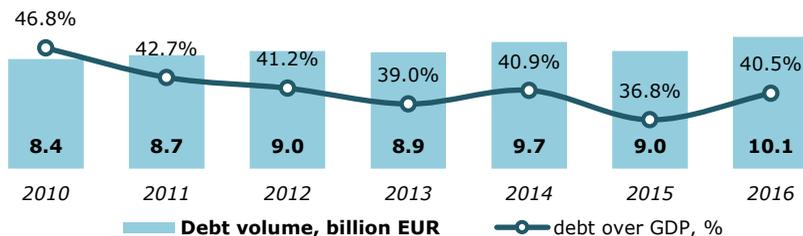


General government budget: revenues, expenditure, surplus and debt

In 2016, there was a EUR 15.6 million surplus in general government sector, as compared to 2015, general government budget balance has improved by EUR 346.4 million or 1.4 % of GDP. General government revenues in 2016, as compared to the previous year, rose by EUR 307.4 million and comprised EUR 9 272.1 million, which was due to the rapid increase in tax revenues. General government expenditure in 2016 reached EUR 9 256.5 million, which is EUR 39.0 million less than in 2015.

In 2016, general government debt in absolute terms increased and reached EUR 10 091.6 million or 40.5 % of GDP. As compared to the end of the previous year, debt has increased by EUR 1 138.3 million or 12.7 % mainly due to increase in long-term debt securities and demand deposits and short-term deposits.

General government debt



PRICE STATISTICS

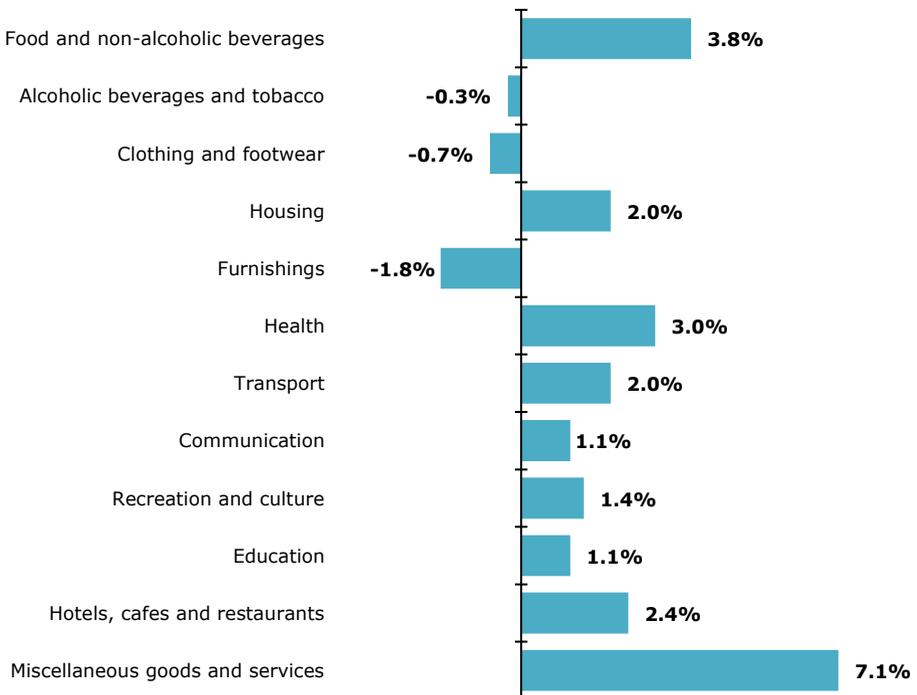
Price indices

	2015=100				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Consumer Price Index	99.2	99.8	100	100.1	103.1
House Price Index	97.6	103.5	100	108.5	...
Producer price index in industry – total	100.5	101.0	100	97.6	100.2
Products sold on the domestic market	101.2	101.4	100	96.9	99.4
Exported products	99.9	100.5	100	98.4	101.1
Construction cost index	99.5	99.9	100	99.5	101.4
Import unit value index	102.6	102.1	100	94.0	97.1
Export unit value index	101.1	99.7	100	97.3	101.3

Over a year consumer prices increased by 2.2 %

In December 2017, as compared to December 2016, consumer prices rose by 2.2 %, of which prices of goods increased by 2.0 % and of services – by 2.6 %.

Consumer price changes during 2017



Level of consumer prices in 2017 was significantly affected by price rise for food and non-alcoholic beverages, miscellaneous goods and services group, goods and services related to housing, goods and services related to transport, as well as for health care.

Average level of food and non-alcoholic beverage prices went up by 3.8 %, which was significantly affected by price rise for butter (55.8 %), eggs (24.7 %), dried, salted or smoked meat (4.1 %), milk (13.7 %) and other dairy products (19.1 %).

In miscellaneous goods and services group average level of prices increased by 7.1 %, which was mainly determined by price rise of motor vehicle insurance (by 64.1 %). Prices of goods and services related to housing grew by 2.0 %, which was influenced by rise of heat energy (by 3.5 %) and natural gas (by 9.8 %) prices. Rise in prices of goods and services related to transport by 2.0 % was mainly influenced by the increase in prices of fuel (by 4.8 %). Prices went up on health care, which was affected by price growth on pharmaceutical products (2.8 %), as well as on dental services (by 5.7 %).

Over a year level of producer prices in industry increased by 3.1 %

In December 2017, compared to December 2016, the level of producer prices in Latvian industry increased by 3.1 %. Prices of products sold on the domestic market rose by 3.0 %, while prices of exported products went up by 3.3 %. Prices of products exported to euro area countries grew by 3.8 %, whereas prices of products exported to non-euro area countries rose by 2.9 %.

The most significant impact was made by the price increase in manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture, and of food products, as well as in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery. Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products, manufacture of chemicals and chemical products as well as production of electricity had the largest downward effect.

Producer price changes in industry in 2017

(as per cent over the previous year)

	Industrial production, total	Products sold on the domestic market	Exported products
Total	3.1	3.0	3.3
Mining and quarrying	-0.3	1.1	-1.0
Manufacturing	3.8	4.6	3.3
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	-0.5	-0.5	...
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	6.7	5.8	12.9

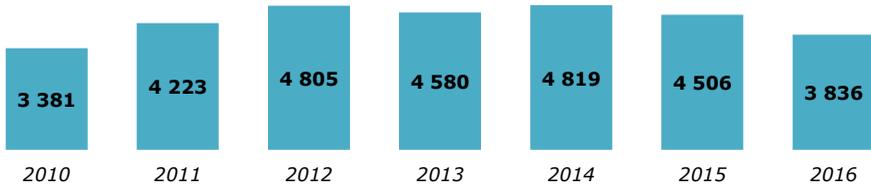
NON-FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

Size of non-financial investment reduced

In 2016 non-financial investment reached EUR 3.8 billion. Non-financial investment in 2016 at current prices was 15.4% of GDP. Compared to the previous year, in 2016 non-financial investment at constant prices reduced by 14.9%.

Non-financial investment

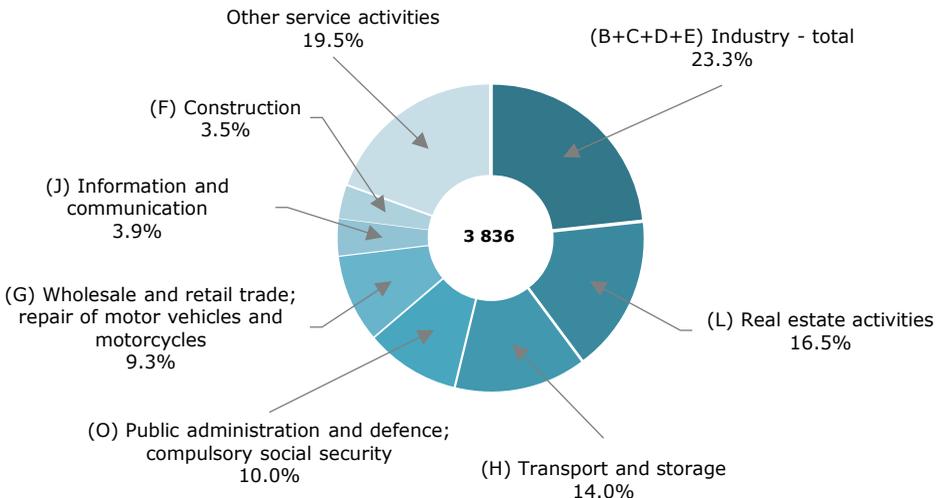
(at constant prices of 2016, in million EUR)



The largest they were in real estate activities – EUR 633.7 million or 16.5 % of total non-financial investment. It was followed by transport and storage (EUR 535.1 million or 14.0 %), manufacturing (EUR 440.6 million or 11.5%), public administration and defence; compulsory social security (EUR 383.6 million or 10.0 %) and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply – EUR 364.8 million or 9.5%

Non-financial investment by kind of activity in 2016

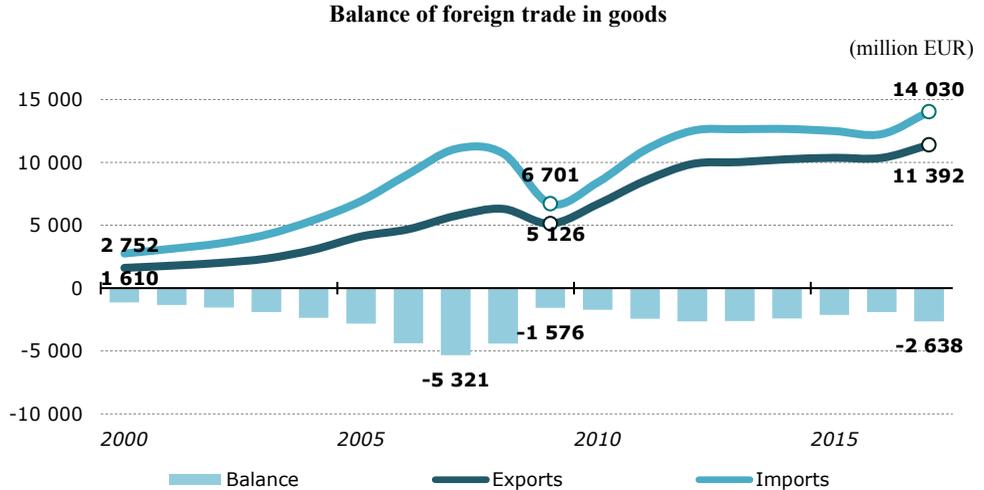
(at constant prices of 2016, in million EUR)



FOREIGN TRADE IN GOODS

Balance of foreign trade in goods

From 2000 to 2017 turnover of foreign trade in goods increased 5.8 times. During this period of time balance of foreign trade has remained negative as imports value exceeds exports value.



Turnover of foreign trade in goods

In 2017, the foreign trade turnover of Latvia at current prices was EUR 25 421.4 million – EUR 2 814.4 million or 12.4 % more than in 2016. Both exports and imports value increased. Of which exports value constituted EUR 11 391.6 million (an increase of EUR 1 033.9 million or 10.0 %), whereas the imports value –EUR 14 029.7 million (an upturn of EUR 1 780.5 million or 14.5 %).

Exports and imports by country group

(million EUR)

Year	Exports				Imports			
	total	EU-28	CIS	other	total	EU-28	CIS	other
2011	8 535.1	6 188.5	1 246.0	1 100.6	10 983.3	8 438.4	1 605.0	939.9
2012	9 871.1	6 863.5	1 521.8	1 485.8	12 512.3	9 680.5	1 878.8	953.0
2013	10 021.3	7 121.5	1 603.2	1 296.6	12 635.1	10 074.3	1 553.7	1 007.1
2014	10 248.6	7 449.0	1 522.4	1 277.2	12 654.3	10 096.8	1 503.4	1 054.1
2015	10 363.2	7 533.1	1 234.1	1 596.0	12 492.1	9 831.9	1 505.1	1 155.1
2016	10 357.7	7 615.7	1 182.7	1 559.3	12 249.2	9 761.5	1 278.9	1 208.8
2017	11 391.6	8 139.1	1 477.6	1 774.9	14 029.7	10 898.6	1 461.7	1 669.4

Most important goods in exports and imports

The largest share of Latvian exports of the total export value in 2017 was taken by machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment (17.4 % of total exports value), wood and articles of wood (16.5 %) and prepared foodstuffs (9.5 %). Among the most imported commodities there were machinery, mechanical appliances and electrical equipment (21.0 % of the total imports value), products of chemical and allied industries (10.3 %) and mineral products (9.4 %).

Most important goods in exports

	2016		2017	
	million EUR	%	million EUR	%
Total	10 357.7	100	11 391.6	100
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	1 857.9	17.9	1 979.9	17.4
Wood and articles of wood	1 779.9	17.2	1 880.6	16.5
Prepared foodstuffs	836.1	8.1	1 085.5	9.5
Base metals and articles of base metals	833.8	8.1	1 018.2	8.9
Products of the chemical and allied industries	805.0	7.8	888.6	7.8
Vegetable products	727.6	7.0	779.6	6.8
Transport vehicles	660.8	6.4	697.9	6.1
Mineral products	512.2	4.9	542.8	4.8
Goods not elsewhere specified	2 344.4	22.6	2 518.5	22.2

Most important goods in imports

	2016		2017	
	million EUR	%	million EUR	%
Total	12 249.2	100	14 029.7	100
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	2 631.8	21.5	2 949.2	21.0
Products of the chemical and allied industries	1 291.5	10.5	1 445.9	10.3
Mineral products	1 103.7	9.0	1 321.5	9.4
Transport vehicles	1 223.8	10.0	1 294.3	9.2
Prepared foodstuffs	1 015.5	8.3	1 257.1	9.0
Base metals and articles of base metals	935.0	7.6	1 131.1	8.1
Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	684.7	5.6	800.1	5.7
Vegetable products	552.2	4.5	611.7	4.4
Goods not elsewhere specified	2 811.0	23.0	3 218.8	22.9

Main export and import partners

In 2017, exports to the European Union countries accounted for EUR 8 139.1 million or 71.4 % of the total exports value (increase of 6.9 %), and exports to CIS countries comprised EUR 1 477.6 million or 13.0 % (rise of 24.9 %). Main export partners were Lithuania (16.9 % of total export), Estonia (11.7 %), Russia (9.1 %), Germany (7.3 %) and Sweden (6.2 %).

In 2017, imports from the European Union countries in total imports of Latvia accounted for EUR 10 898.6 million or 77.7 % (increase of 11.6 %), and imports to CIS countries comprised EUR 1 461.7 million or 10.4 % (rise of 14.3 %). Main import partners were Lithuania (18.5 % of total import), Germany (11.3 %), Poland (9.1 %), Estonia (7.7 %) and Russia (7.4 %).

Main export and import partners of Latvia and main commodities in 2017

(million EUR)

Exports		Imports	
Lithuania – total	1 927.1	Lithuania – total	2 590.7
Agricultural and food products	431.0	Agricultural and food products	617.0
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	378.5	Mineral products	506.0
Mineral products	215.4	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	464.9
Estonia – total	1 333.9	Germany – total	1 579.3
Agricultural and food products	276.7	Transport vehicles	452.8
Wood and articles of wood	202.0	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	346.1
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	194.9	Agricultural and food products	168.4
Russia – total	1 039.2	Poland – total	1 279.4
Agricultural and food products	435.5	Agricultural and food products	245.3
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	239.8	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	217.4
Products of the chemical and allied industries	129.7	Products of the chemical and allied industries	164.4
Germany – total	832.9	Estonia – total	1 076.1
Wood and articles of wood	192.9	Agricultural and food products	237.0
Agricultural and food products	135.0	Transport vehicles	187.4
Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	104.6	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	134.3
Sweden – total	700.7	Russia – total	1 043.2
Wood and articles of wood	183.4	Mineral products	438.9
Base metals and articles of base metals	94.2	Base metals and articles of base metals	232.2
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, glassware and ceramic products	79.6	Products of the chemical and allied industries	113.3

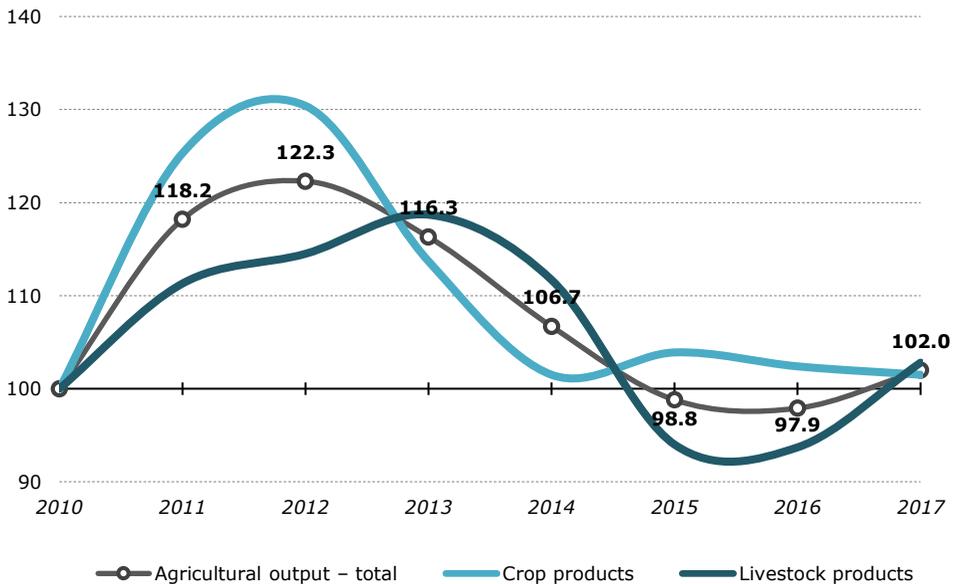
AGRICULTURE

Slight increase in agricultural output

Compared to 2016, in 2017 the total agricultural output at constant prices grew by 2.0 % (crop production by 1.5 % and livestock production by 2.8 %). Increase in agricultural output was mainly facilitated by the growth in prices of grain (of 8.6 %, nevertheless harvested production thereof fell by 0.4 %), milk (42.6 %) and meat (2.5 %).

Agricultural output indices

(2010=100)



Agricultural output

(per capita, kg)

	2015	2016	2017
Grain	1 527	1 378	1 388
Potatoes	251	251	210
Vegetables	99	100	81
Fruit and berries	6	7	6
Meat (slaughter weight)	43	44	47
pork	18	19	20
Milk	495	503	516
Eggs	353	383	413

Sown area of agricultural crops, harvested production and average yield

In 2017, the second highest yield of cereals harvested from one hectare was reached – 38.3 q (the highest yield was reached in 2015 – 44.9 q/ha). In 2017, 703.5 thousand ha of land were covered with cereals, which is 12.5 thousand ha or 1.7 % less than a year before.

Nevertheless sown area of cereals is reducing, harvested production thereof reached 2.7 million t in 2017, which is only 10.7 thousand t or 0.4 % less than in 2016. Harvested production of grain was significantly influenced by the increase in average yield of winter cereals – from 46.8 q/ha in 2016 to 49.9 q/ha in 2017. Harvested production of winter cereals exceeded that harvested previous year by 109.8 thousand t or 6.2 %. The average yield of winter wheat reached 51.5 q/ha (48.0 q/ha in 2016), and their share in the harvested production of grain went up from 58.6 % in 2016 to 63.3 % in 2017.

Key crop production indicators

	Sown area, thousand ha		Average yield, q/ha		Harvested production, thousand t	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Cereals	716.0	703.5	37.8	38.3	2 703	2 693
Rape	101.1	117.4	27.8	27.8	281	326
Potatoes	23.3	22.7	211	180	492	408
Vegetables	8.1	8.0	225	182	197	157

Compared to the year before, in 2017 sown area of rape increased by 16.3 thousand ha or 16.1 %. Nevertheless the average rape yield from one hectare did not change (27.8 q/ha), increase in the total rape area resulted in the rise in the total yield of rape seeds (of 44.9 thousand t or 16.0 %).

In 2017, planted area and harvested production of potatoes fell by 2.6 % and 16.9 %, respectively, while the average yield thereof dropped from 211 q/ha to 180 q/ha.

Last year, 157.1 thousand t of vegetables were produced (including vegetables in greenhouses), and it is 39.5 thousand t or 20.1 % less than a year before. Area of open field vegetables diminished only by 0.1 thousand ha, whereas harvested production by 37.4 thousand t or 20.4 %. The average yield of open field vegetables decreased from 225 q/ha in 2016 to 182 q/ha in 2017. Out of all vegetables produced, 11.5 thousand t were produced in greenhouses (15.9 % less than in 2016).

Decline in cattle and pig number, whereas increase in sheep number

At the end of 2017, agricultural holdings were breeding 405.8 thousand cattle heads, which is 6.5 thousand heads or 1.6 % less than a year ago. Number of dairy cows dropped by 3.7 thousand or 2.4 %. At the end of 2017, pig number fell by 15.8 thousand or 4.7 %. Horse number keeps reducing as well, and at the end of 2017 it was 4.4 % smaller than a year ago. Compared to the end of 2016, number of sheep rose by 5.6 thousand or 5.2 % and number of poultry by 232.1 thousand or 4.9 %.

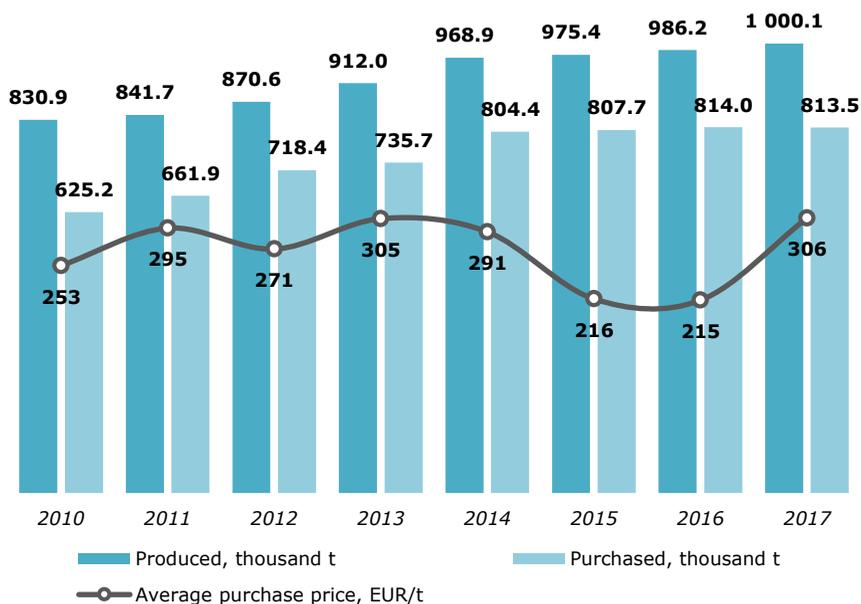
Output of livestock products

In 2017, 91.2 thousand t of meat were produced in Latvia, which is 4.0 thousand t or 4.6 % more than in 2016. The largest increase was recorded in output of poultry and pork – of 11.3 % and 4.7 %, respectively. Production of beef and veal fell by 5.2 % and production of mutton and goat meat by 2.3 %.

The average purchase price of meat rose from 1 492 EUR/t in 2016 to 1 529 EUR/t in 2017 or by 2.5 %. The sharpest increase was observed in purchase prices of beef and veal (of 11.5 %, reaching 1 782 EUR/t). The average purchase prices of pork grew from 1 406 EUR/t in 2016 to 1 504 EUR/t in 2017 or by 7.0 %, and prices of mutton rose from 3 358 EUR/t to 3 400 EUR/t or by 1.3 %.

In 2017, 1 000.1 thousand t of milk (incl. goat milk) were produced, which is 13.9 thousand t or 1.4 % more than in 2016. The total increase in milk output was affected by the rise in milk yield per dairy cow – by 343 kg or 5.5 %, reaching 6 525 kg annually. The average purchase prices of milk grew by 42.6 % – from 215 EUR/t in 2016 to 306 EUR/t in 2017.

Production, purchase and average purchase price of milk



KEY BUSINESS STATISTICS

Key business statistics indicators by kind of activity in 2016

(at current prices, million EUR)

(NACE)	Total	Industry	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Services
	B-N; 95 without K	B-E	F	G	H-N; 95 without K
Turnover	51 208	10 275	3 030	26 068	11 834
Value of products	28 316	9 526	3 053	5 455	10 282
Value added	10 921	3 156	742	2 494	4 530
Purchase of goods and services	41 320	7 306	2 331	23 788	7 894
Personnel costs	5 991	1 515	538	1 413	2 526
Gross capital investment in tangible goods	3 241	883	173	359	1 826

Trade sector takes half of total goods and services turnover

In 2016, total turnover of goods and services comprised EUR 51.2 billion; trade sector constituted half of it – EUR 26.1 billion or 50.9 %. In services and industry the indicator accounted for EUR 11.8 billion or 23.1 % and EUR 10.3 billion or 20.1 %, respectively, while in construction – for EUR 3.0 billion or 5.9 %. Compared to the year before, in 2016 turnover fell, which was affected by drop in construction turnover by 24.4 %.

In 2016, value of products manufactured in enterprises remained the same

Compared to 2015, in 2016 value of products manufactured in enterprises reduced by 0.5 %. In 2016, enterprises totally manufactured products at the value of EUR 28.3 billion (at current prices), of which majority was manufactured by services enterprises (EUR 10.3 billion or 36.3 % of total production value) and industry enterprises (EUR 9.5 billion or 33.6 %). The value of products manufactured by trade and construction enterprises comprised EUR 5.5 billion or 19.3 % and EUR 3.1 billion or 10.8 %, respectively.

Value added grows by 3.2 %

Compared to 2015, in 2016 value added generated by enterprises grew by 3.2 %. The highest value added at current prices, just like in 2015, was generated by services enterprises – EUR 4.5 billion or 41.5 % of the total value. The value generated by industry and trade enterprises was smaller – EUR 3.2 billion or 28.9 % and EUR 2.5 billion or 22.8 %, respectively. Value added generated in construction enterprises comprised EUR 0.7 billion or 6.8 % of the total value. Value added generated by one person employed reached EUR 17.5 thousand in 2016, and it grew by 4.7 %, as compared to 2015. The highest value added per person employed was recorded in industry (EUR 22.4 thousand), followed by services sector (EUR 17.1 thousand), trade (EUR 15.9 thousand) and construction (EUR 11.8 thousand). Value added generated by one person employed in trade grew by 9.9 %, in industry – by 4.7 %, in services – 3.3 %, while in construction it reduced by 6.1 %.

INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

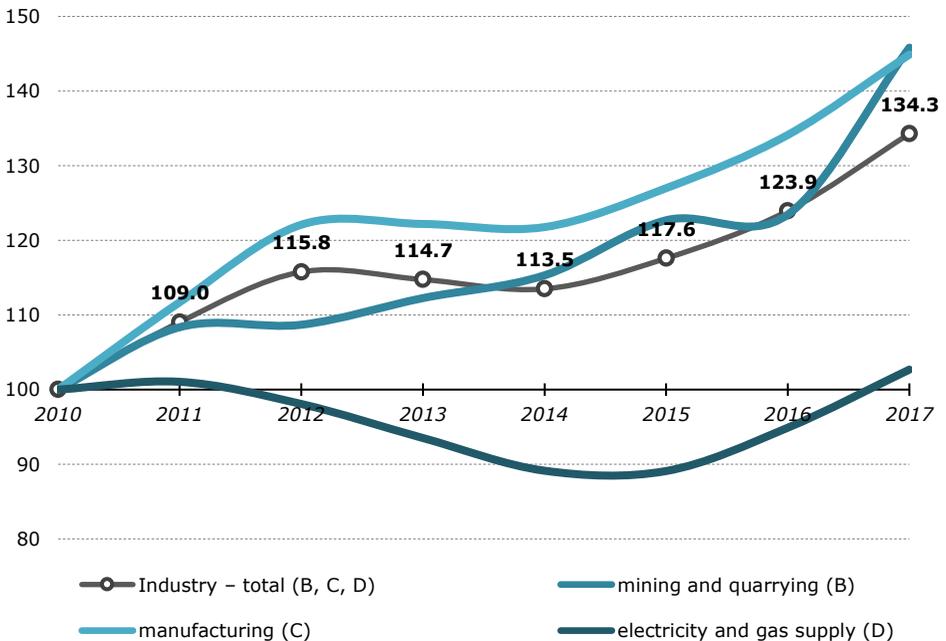
Increase in industrial production output

Compared to 2016, in 2017 industrial production output grew by 8.3 %. The rise was influenced by the upturn in manufacturing (of 8 %), mining and quarrying (18.1 %) and electricity and gas supply (8.2 %).

Compared to the year before, in 2017 the greatest upward influence on manufacturing output was exerted by manufacture of motor vehicles trailers and semi-trailers (of 26.8 %), manufacture of machinery and equipment (21.5 %), manufacture of electrical equipment (20.9 %), and manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (20.6 %).

Volume indices of industrial production

(at constant prices, non-adjusted; 2010=100)



Compared to 2016, in 2017 output decline was observed in manufacture of basic metals (of 2.4 %), as well as manufacture of paper and paper products (0.3 %). Compared to 2016, in 2017 manufacturing turnover grew by 9.5 %; 65.5 % of the products sold were exported (64.6 % in 2016).

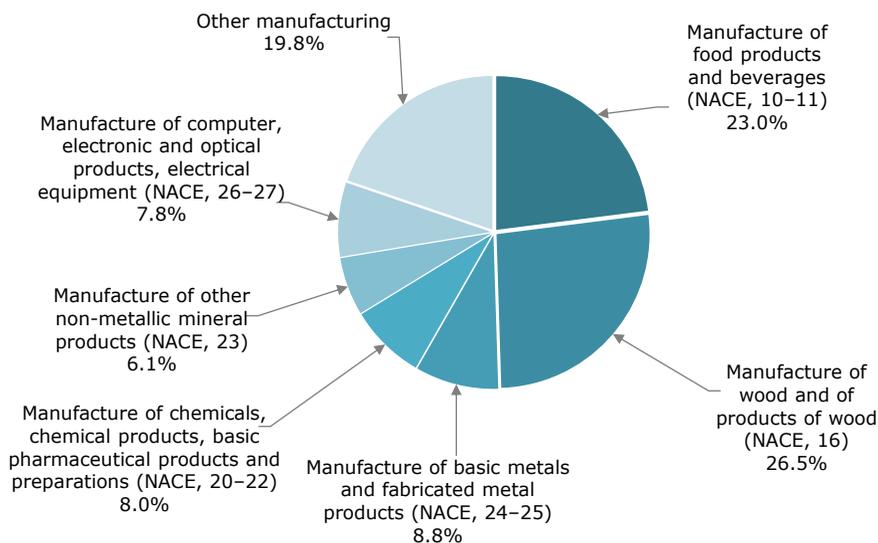
Manufacturing turnover by direction of production sales

(%)

Year	Sold on domestic market	Exported to euro area	Exported to non-euro area
2015	36.1	26.7	37.2
2016	35.4	27.6	37.0
2017	34.5	29.5	36.0

■ Sold on domestic market ■ Exported to euro area ■ Exported to non-euro area

Manufacturing output by economic activity; 2017



Rise of 19.5 % in construction output

Compared to 2016, in 2017 construction output (according to calendar adjusted data) increased by 19.5 %. Construction output at current prices amounted to EUR 1 736 million. Construction output rise was influenced by the increase in civil engineering works of 30.6 %. Output growth was recorded almost in all types of civil engineering works: construction of highways, streets and roads, airfield runways, and railways (of 28.2 %), construction of harbours, waterways, dams and other waterworks (of 51.4 %). Significant output upturn was observed also in construction of long-distance pipelines, communication and electricity lines (of 49.5 %), local pipelines and cables (41.0 %) and other civil engineering works (81.7 %).

Construction of buildings went up by 11.8 %, which was because of the output rise in construction of non-residential buildings (of 20.2 %). Construction of residential buildings, in turn, fell by 11.0 %.

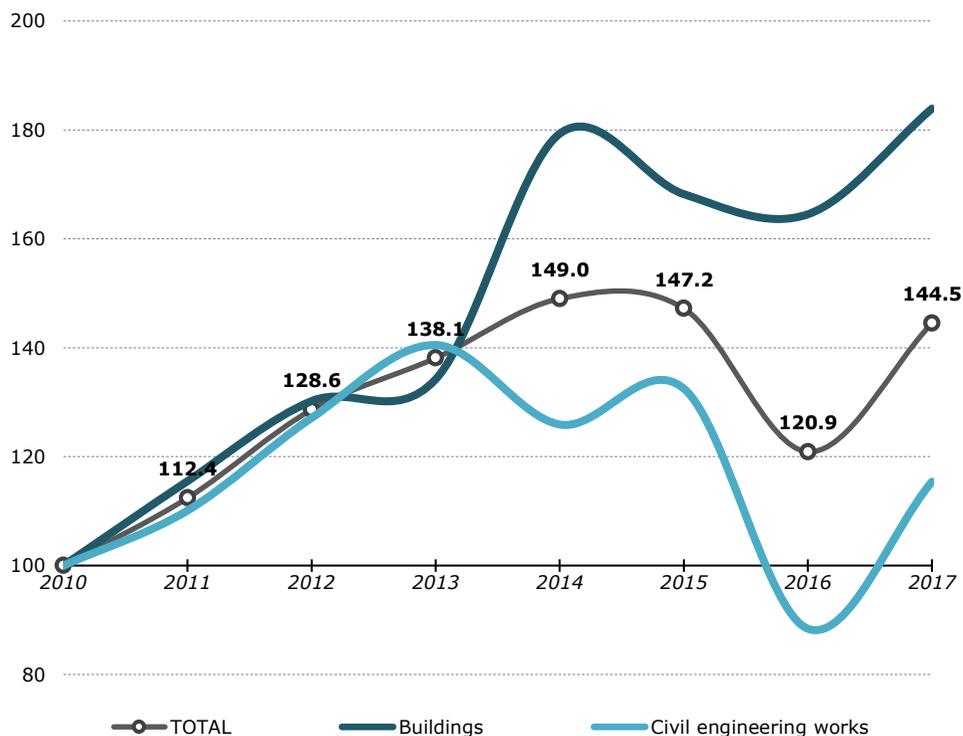
Changes in construction output

(non-adjusted data; as %, compared to the previous year)

	2015	2016	2017
Construction – total	-1.2	-17.9	19.3
buildings	-6.2	-2.2	11.8
civil engineering works	5.2	-33.3	30.4

Indices of production in construction

(at constant prices, non-adjusted; 2010=100)



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

In 2017, 1 948 building permits ⁽¹⁾ were issued for construction of new one-dwelling buildings and 592 permits for construction, capital repairs, reconstruction and restoration of existing one-dwelling houses; 113 permits were granted for construction of new industrial buildings and warehouses, and 89 for works in existing industrial buildings and warehouses.

⁽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.

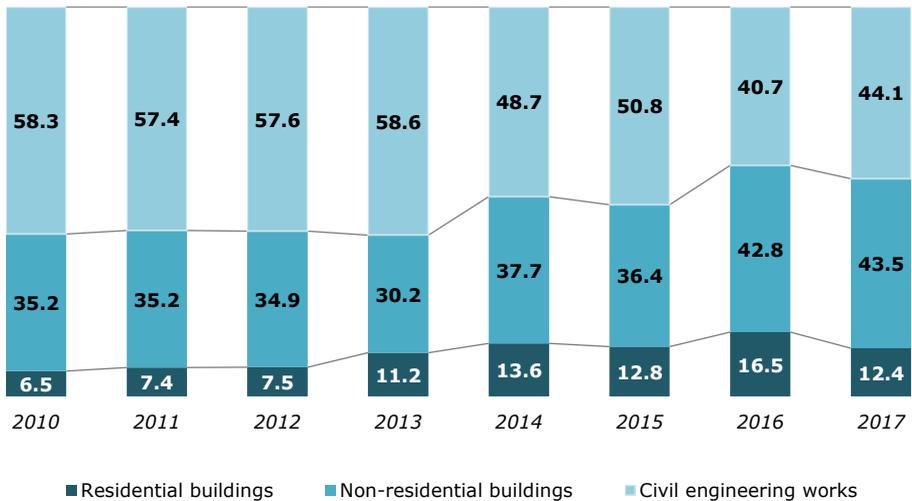
Building permits granted for new construction

(number)

	2015	2016	2017
One-dwelling houses	1 386	1 329	1 948
Two- and more dwelling houses	49	54	98
Hotels and similar buildings	52	18	15
Office buildings	11	13	20
Wholesale and retail trade buildings	36	18	26
Industrial buildings and warehouses	151	99	113

Construction output by type of building

(%)



RETAIL TRADE

Retail trade turnover increased by 4.3 %

Compared to 2016, in 2017 retail trade turnover rose by 4.3 %. Retail sale of food rose by 3.9 %, retail sale of non-food products, except of retail sale of automotive fuel, increased by 5.1 %, but retail sale of automotive fuel – by 2.8 %.

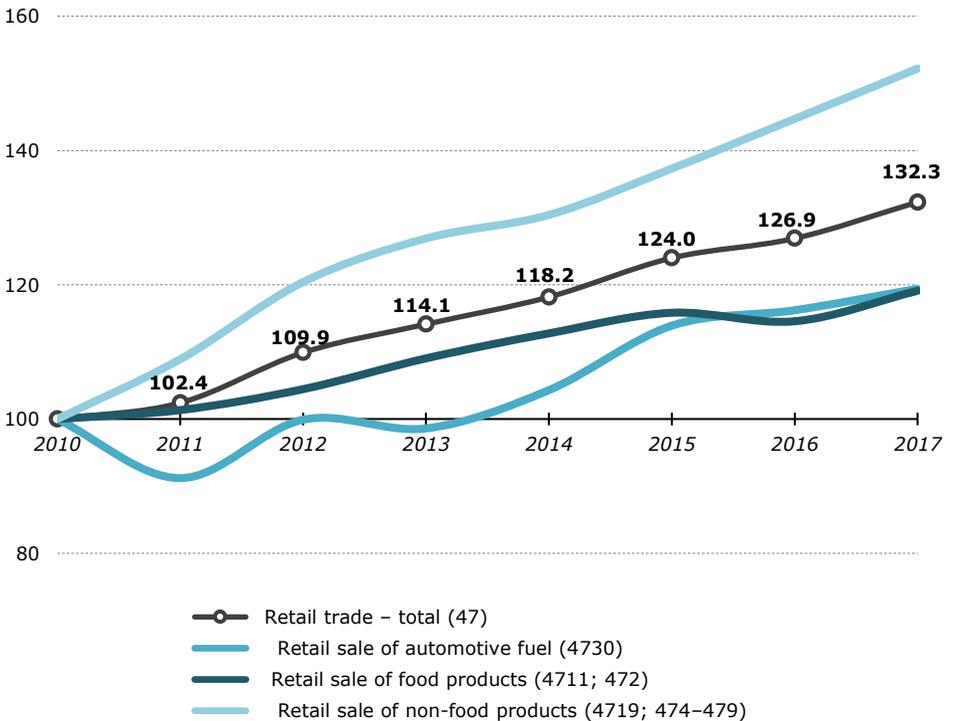
Changes in turnover of retail trade enterprises

(at constant prices; over the previous year, in %)

(NACE)	2015	2016	2017
Retail trade – total (47)	4.9	2.3	4.3
Retail sale of food products (4711; 472)	2.7	-1.1	3.9
Retail sale of non-food products (4719; 474–479)	5.3	5.4	5.1
Retail sale of automotive fuel (4730)	9.2	2.0	2.8

Turnover indices of retail trade enterprises

(at constant prices; 2010=100)

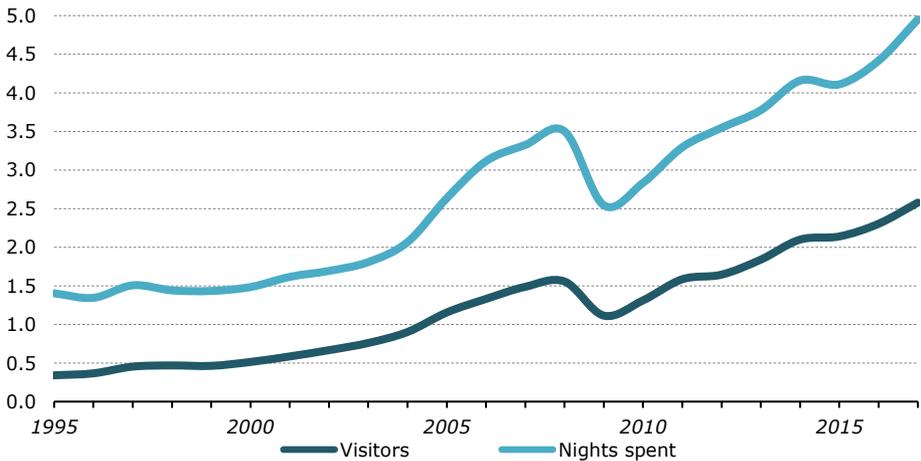


Number of visitors in Latvian tourist accommodation establishments gone up

In 2017, the number of visitors in Latvian tourist accommodation establishments accounted for 2.58 million, which is an increase of 11.9 % as compared to 2016. Compared to the previous year, the number of visitors staying overnight grew by 12.1 % reaching 4.95 million. Average length of visitors in accommodation establishments comprised 1.9 nights.

Number of visitors in hotels and other tourist accommodation establishments

(million)



In 2017, number of foreign visitors accounted for 1.78 million, which is 13.0 % more than last year, but the number of nights spent by foreign visitors increased by 11.9 %, reaching 3.41 million. In 2017 the number of Latvian residents in accommodation establishments comprised 798.4 thousand, which is 9.4 % more than in 2016, but the number of overnight stays grew by 12.6 % reaching 1.54 million.

The majority of foreign visitors came from Russia (241.4 thousand), Germany (207.8 thousand), Lithuania (181.3 thousand), Estonia (161.2 thousand), Finland (114.9 thousand) and the United Kingdom (95.4 thousand).

Last year the number of visitors from Canada (4.9 times), Israel (41.8 %), Denmark (16.6 %), Austria (15.7 %), Russia and France (15.6 %) has increased significantly.

Out of all foreign visitors 34.9 % or 620.6 thousand were from the neighbouring countries – Russia (13.6 %), Lithuania (10.2 %), Estonia (9.1 %) and Belarus (2.1 %).

The largest number of foreign visitors stayed in Riga 78.2 %, Jūrmala – 7.8 %, Sigulda county – 1.7 %, Liepāja – 1.6 %, Ventspils and Daugavpils – 1.3 %. Most popular places of Latvian residents were Riga, where 24.0 % of visitors stayed, Jūrmala – 8.9 %, Liepāja – 7.7 %, Daugavpils – 4.0 %, Ventspils – 3.1 %.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

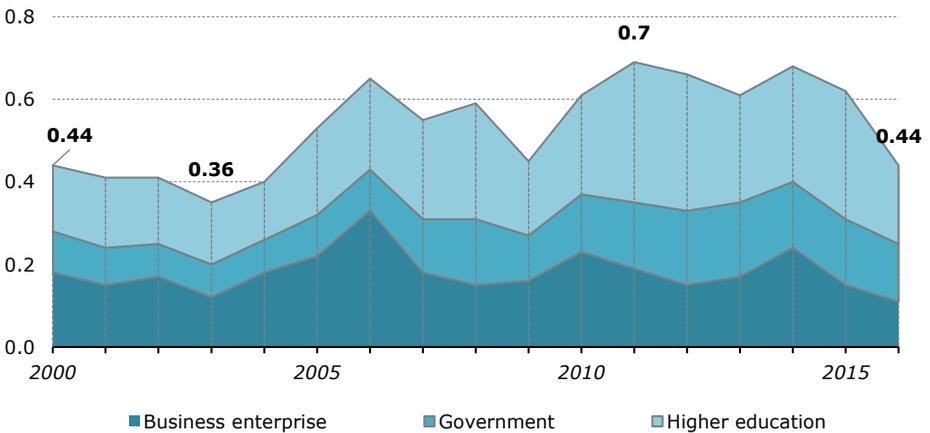
R&D funding in Latvia

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 % until 2020 and of 3 % until 2030.

Compared to 2015, in 2016 Latvian R&D expenditure has reduced by 0.18 percentage points, comprising 0.44 % of the GDP. For comparison, Lithuanian R&D expenditure constituted 0.85 % of the GDP and Estonian 1.28 %. In 2016, the average R&D intensity in the EU accounted for 2.03 % of the GDP.

R&D intensity by sector

(as % of GDP)



R&D funding in 2016

	TOTAL, thousand EUR	As % of GDP	Funding by source of funds:			
			business enterprise sector	govern- ment sector	higher education sector	abroad
Funding	110 409	0.44	23.8	52.7	3.2	30.7
higher education sector	48 279	0.19	2.7	31.3	3.2	11.1
government sector	35 148	0.14	3.4	20.7	-	11.0
business enterprise sector	26 982	0.11	17.7	0.7	-	8.6
R&D intensity, % of GDP	0.44	x	0.10	0.21	0.01	0.12

R&D personnel

In 2016, 11 029 employees were engaged in R&D, of which researchers accounted for 7 400 (67.1 %). Two thirds (69.6 %) of the R&D personnel were employed in higher education sector. The number of young researchers is still small; internal researchers aged under 35 constituted 27.1 % in 2016. The share of R&D personnel at retirement age (aged over 65) is large – 15.4 %. Women constitute more than a half of researcher number (52.4 %). In 2016, the greatest proportion of female researchers was observed in government sector (58.0 %) and higher education sector (54.1 %), business enterprise sector employed fewer female researchers – 38.1 %.

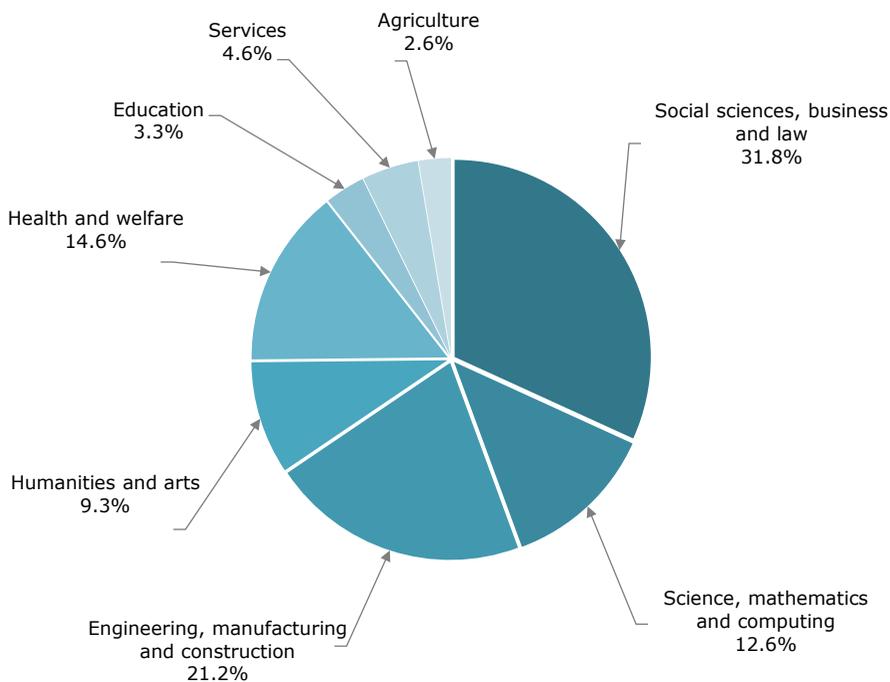
Researchers – doctorate holders

(number of persons)

	2015	2016
Total	3 809	3 628
higher education sector	3 226	2 990
government sector	422	433
business enterprise sector	161	205

Graduates of doctoral studies by field of education

(in academic year 2016/2017)



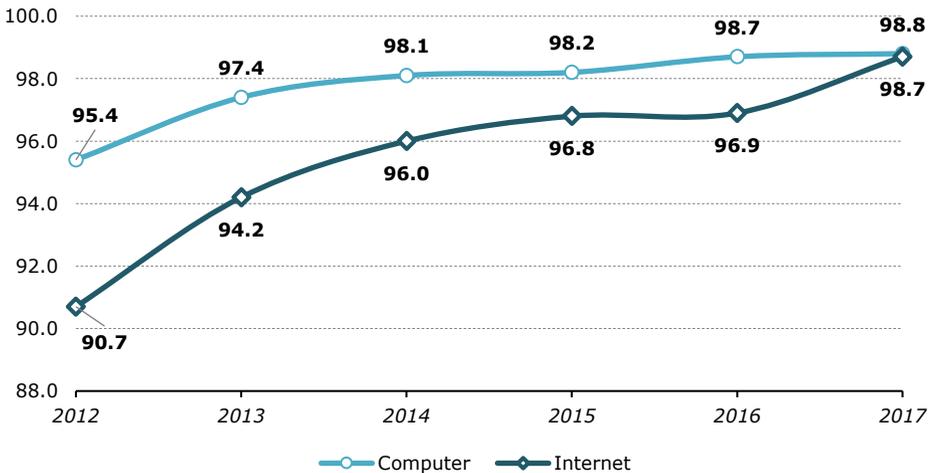
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Information and communication technologies are available to almost all Latvian enterprises

In 2017, almost all Latvian enterprises used computer and information technologies (ICT). Computer and the Internet was used by all large enterprises and almost all medium-sized enterprises (99.8 %), but in small enterprises group computer was used by 98.6 %, but the Internet – by 98.4 %.

Share of enterprises using computer and the Internet

(of total number of enterprises with the number of employees 10 and more, as %)



More than a half of enterprises have website

In 2017, 62.9 % of enterprises had website (homepage). Existence of website greatly depends on the size of enterprise: only half of small enterprises (58.3 %) had their own website. While medium-sized and large enterprises had own website – 82.5 % and 96.2 %, respectively.

Enterprises mainly used website to ensure customers with description and price list of goods and services (58.8 %). Enterprise websites use links or references to enterprise profiles in social media (for example, *Facebook*, *Instagram*, *Twitter*) more (in 2017 – 25.7 %).

Enterprises use social networks more actively

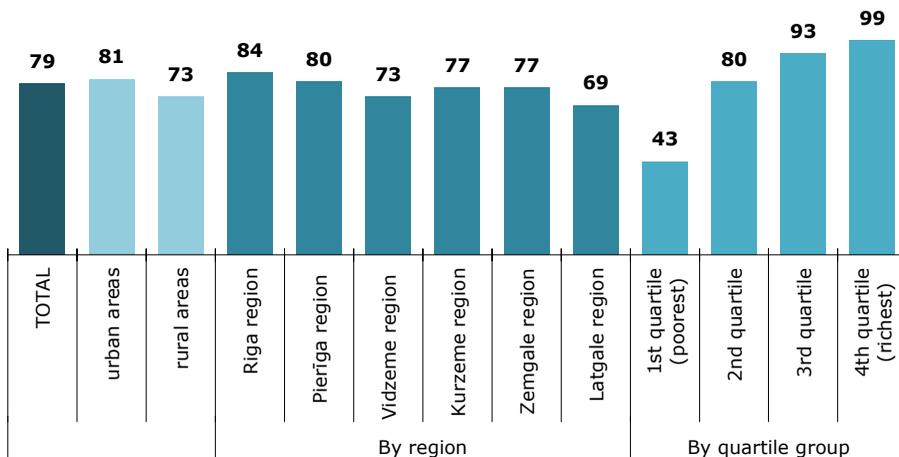
Enterprises providing information and communication services (70.7 %) and accommodation services (69.2 %) used social network the most in their activity. Enterprises engaged in transportation and storage activities (14.0 %) and construction (11.8 %) used social networks less.

79 % of households have access to Internet

In 2017, 79 % of households had access to the Internet, while in 2007 those were only 51 %. In 2017, almost all households (77 %) had broadband Internet connection. During the last five years, this indicator increased by 10 percentage points.

Internet in households in 2017

(% of the total number of households in the respective group)



Increasing number of Latvian residents use Internet outside home and work. 52 % of residents used mobile telephone or smartphone, 22 % – portable computer (for example, laptop, tablet PC, etc.) and 2 % – other portable devices (e.g., e-book reader, smartwatch, game consoles, etc.) to access the Internet outside home or work.

The most Internet is used to access e-mail

In 2017, population used Internet the most to send or receive e-mail (86 %), to read online news sites, newspapers and news magazines (84 %) and to use Internet Banking (75 %). 74 % of persons, who have used Internet during the last 3 months, have participated in social networks. Comparatively smaller amount of population used platforms available on the Internet to express own opinion on civic or political issues (6 %).

In 2017, 47 % of females and 44 % of males made online purchases. Population in age group 25–34 years (74 %) and youth 16–24 years (65 %) makes online purchases the most. Interest on online purchases is increasing in age group 45–64 years. Respectively, 40 % of population in age group 45–54 years and 23 % – in age group 55–64 years have made online purchases during the last year.

In 2017, amount of purchases mostly is below EUR 50. This amount was spent by 42 % of population, who made online purchases during the last 3 months, while 4 % of population spent more than EUR 500.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In 2016, amount of household waste generated per capita constituted 410 kg (EU average 482 kg). Lower municipal waste generation per capita was recorded in Romania (261 kg) and Poland (307 kg), while the highest rates were observed in Denmark (777 kg), Malta (647 kg), Cyprus (640 kg), and Germany (626 kg). Largest part (68 %) of all household waste generated consisted of mixed waste.

In general, air quality in Latvia may be regarded as good; the limit values for SO₂, ozone and CO pollutants have not been exceeded.

In 2016, EUR 205 million were spent on research and management of environmental quality. The greatest share of environmental protection funding (EUR 93.5 million) was provided for the waste treatment and disposal facilities. During the past six years, the volume of municipal waste generated has grown. However, compared to the year before, in 2015 this indicator diminished by 5.0 % – from 2 014 thousand t to 1 913 thousand t, respectively. The second greatest share of environmental protection funding (EUR 60.1 million) was spent on protection of water resources.

Environmental protection expenditure by environmental domain

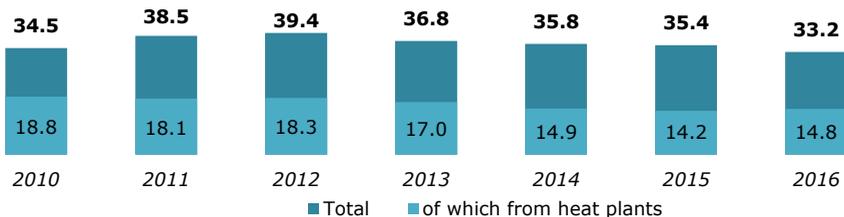
(million EUR)

	2015	2016
Total	167.0	204.6
waste treatment and disposal facilities	69.7	93.5
protection of water resources	56.1	60.0
soil and groundwater protection	20.2	25.0
air protection	13.7	8.8
biodiversity and landscape protection	3.4	3.7
other	6.9	13.6

In 2015, 11.32 million t of greenhouse gasses (GHG) were emitted in Latvia. Energy and transport sector were among the greatest GHG sources in 2015, emitting 63 % of the total GHG volume. Since 1995, agricultural sector has been emitting approximately 2 million t of CO₂ equivalent annually. Over the past ten years, GHG emissions from this sector have grown by 22 %.

Emissions from stationary sources

(tonnes)



No changes in gross energy consumption

In 2016, gross energy consumption constituted 184.6 PJ, which is 0.4 % more than in 2015. Over the past ten years, gross energy consumption has dropped notably: in 2007 it constituted 204.9 PJ, which is only 9.9 % more than in 2016.

Gross energy consumption

(TJ)

	2015	2016
Total	183 930	184 646
Oil products	62 640	62 782
Solid fuel	1 961	1 713
Natural gas	46 096	46 935
Fuelwood	52 561	54 258
Electricity	13 783	13 287
Other fuels	6 889	5 671
Mean air temperature in autumn/winter, °C	4.2	2.0

Increase in share of renewable energy resources

During recent years, changes were recorded in the structure of gross energy consumption – the share of natural gas is reducing and the share of renewable energy sources is growing. In 2016, gross consumption of renewable energy resources constituted 58.7 PJ, which is 2.2 % more than in 2015. The share of fuelwood in the gross energy consumption rose by 4.4 percentage points over the past ten years, reaching 29.4 % in 2016. Compared to 2015, in 2016 volume of wood chips produced grew by 18.8 % resulting in an increase of wood chip consumption in transformation sector of 23.7 % and rise in exports thereof of 79.4 %. In 2016, 29.3 PJ of pellet wood were exported, which is 4.7 % more than in 2015. The bulk of pelleted wood was exported. The renewable energy resources used in Latvia are local, therefore, as the gross consumption thereof increases, Latvian energy dependence ⁽¹⁾ upon imported energy resources is reducing – from 62.5 % in 2007 to 47.2 % in 2016.

Heat and electricity production (transformation sector) consumed 54.3 PJ of energy resources, and 42.5 PJ of energy were produced – 28.9 PJ of heat energy and 13.6 PJ of electricity. Heat and electricity production in Latvia is mainly based on fossil resources – natural gas, the share of which is decreasing gradually: 81.0 % in 2010, 64.3 % in 2014, 63.5 % in 2015 and 54.7 % in 2016. The proportion of energy produced from renewable sources is growing every year. Over a five-year period, the share of renewables consumed in transformation sector went up by 16.1 %, reaching 39.5 % in 2016.

⁽¹⁾ Energy dependence indicator is calculated as follows: net imports divided by gross energy consumption plus bunkering.

Share of renewables in final energy consumption

(%)



During the period from 2007 to 2016, i.e., over the past ten years, the volume of electricity produced in wind power stations increased from 53 GWh to 1 128 GWh, while the volume of electricity produced in biomass (wood, wood waste) power stations and combined heat and power (CHP) plants grew from 5 GWh to 427 GWh, and in biogas CHP plants – from 37 GWh to 397 GWh. It may be assessed as a very positive trend, bearing in mind that the renewables used in transformation sector are local energy resources: fuelwood, biogas and other biomass.

Electricity production

(GWh)

	2015	2016
Total	5 533	6 425
Hydropower plants	1 860	2 530
Combined heat and power plants ⁽¹⁾	3 526	3 767
Wind power plants	147	128

In 2016, final consumption of energy resources almost did not change

In 2016, final consumption of energy resources amounted to 164.1 PJ, which is 0.3 % more than in 2015. In 2016, rise in final consumption of energy resources was recorded in households, agriculture and transport sector, while consumption in industry reduced (by 7.4 %).

In 2016, transport sector consumed 49.8 PJ of energy resources, which is 1.6 % more than in 2015. Diesel is the main energy resource used in transport sector, since the share thereof took 63.3 % in 2016. During the recent years, the share of consumption of liquefied petroleum gas rose notably – from 1.0 PJ in 2010 to 2.6 PJ in 2016 or by 162.0 %. In its turn, consumption of gasoline in transport sector fell by 30.3 % over the period from 2010 to 2015, reaching 8.4 PJ.

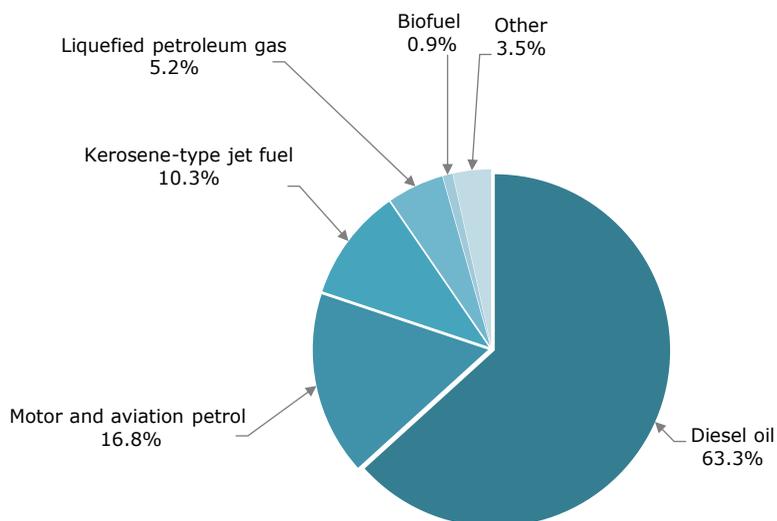
⁽¹⁾ Including electrical power plants.

Final consumption of energy resources

(TJ)

	2015	2016
Total	163 498	164 113
Industry (incl. construction)	36 766	34 047
Transport	48 979	49 777
Households	46 296	47 935
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing	6 826	7 415
Other	24 631	24 939

Energy consumption in transport sector; 2016

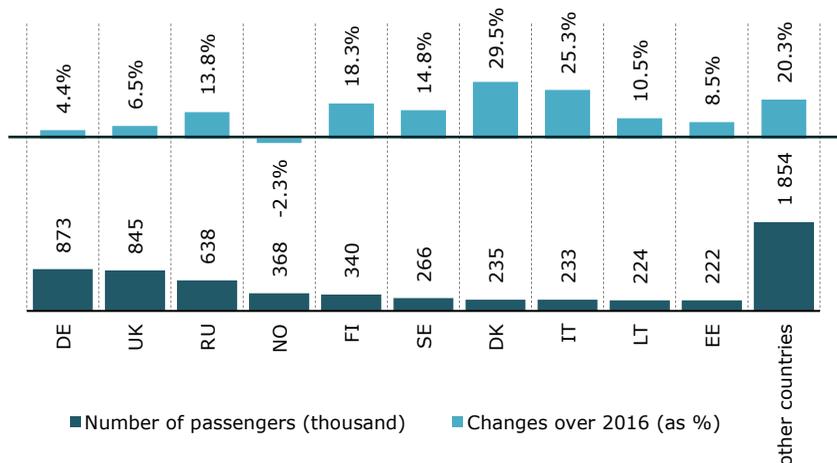


TRANSPORT

In 2017, number of passengers in Riga International Airport exceeded 6 million

In 2017, 6.1 million passengers arrived at and departed from the Riga International Airport, which is 12.9 % more than in 2016. The largest passenger turnover at the Riga International Airport was with German airports (0.9 million passengers or increase of 4.4 % over 2016), British airports (0.8 million passengers or 6.5 % more) and Russian airports (0.6 million passengers or 13.8 % more).

Passengers arriving at and departing from the Riga International Airport in 2017 by countries



Passenger turnover at ports is increasing

In 2017, the number of passengers arrived at and departed from Latvian ports with ferries accounted for 994 thousand, which is 37.5 % more than in 2016. 743 thousand passengers arrived at and departed from the Riga Passenger Terminal, which is 45.6 % more, but at the port of Liepāja – 41.1 thousand passengers, which is 24.6 % more than in 2016. Since 2010 continued significant rise in passenger turnover was observed at the port of Ventspils, where in 2017 there were 209.9 thousand passengers that arrived at and departed from the port, which is 16.6 % more than a year ago. There were 87.4 thousand passengers who arrived at the Riga Passenger Terminal via cruise ships – 22.4 % more than in 2016.

In 2017, 242.8 million passengers were carried by land passenger transport, which was 0.8 % less than in 2016. The number of passengers carried by rail transport increased by 1.5 %, the number of passengers carried by regular bus traffic lines decreased by 1.9 %, but the number of passengers carried by urban electrified transport increased by 0.6 %.

Passenger traffic

(thousand passengers)

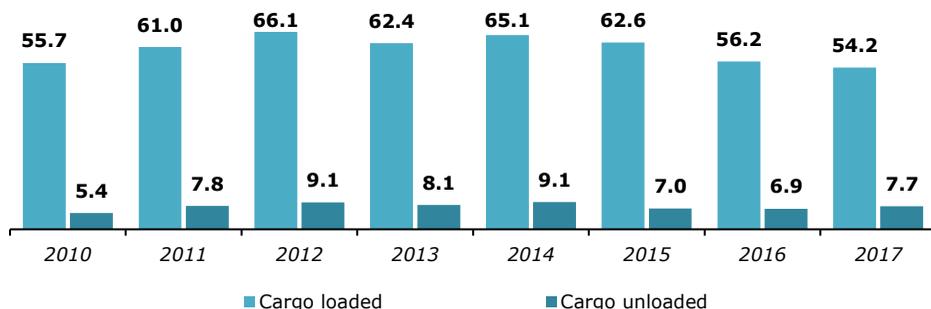
	2016	2017
Regular bus traffic lines – total	142 871	140 153
National routes	142 667	139 968
International routes	204	185
Rail transport – total	17 228	17 494
National traffic	17 071	17 327
International traffic	157	167
Arrived via ferries	243	365
Departed via ferries	267	378
Arrived via cruise ships	71	87
Riga International Airport – total	5 401	6 097
Arrived at	2 709	3 053
Departed from	2 692	3 044
Trolleybuses, thousand persons	43 443	42 528
Trams, thousand persons	41 175	42 617

Freight turnover decreases at ports

In 2017, freights transported to and from Latvian ports accounted for 61.9 million tonnes, which is 2 % less than in 2016. 54.2 million tonnes of freight were shipped from ports, which was 3.7 % less than a year ago. The reduction in the volume of freights shipped was mainly caused by a decrease in the volume of oil products by 16.9 %, as well as of grain and grain products – by 8.9 %, of timber – by 5.8 %, of mineral fertilisers – by 20 %. In turn, volume of coal loaded increased by 5.2 %, goods in containers – by 13.1 % and roll on/roll off – by 14.4 %. The volume of freights received at ports rose by 11.9 %. This was mainly due to rise in the volume of unloaded goods in containers and roll on/roll off by 14.2 % and 14.8 %, respectively, as well as due to increase in oil products unloaded by 16.1 %. Riga International Airport received and shipped 23.4 thousand tonnes of cargo, which was 20 % more than in 2016.

Cargoes loaded and unloaded at ports of Latvia

(million tonnes)

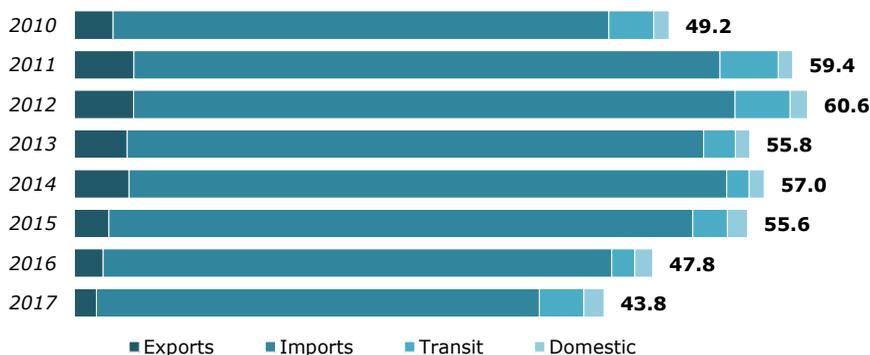


Freight transport by rail has reduced

In 2017, 43.8 million tonnes of freight were carried by rail, which is a decrease of 8.4 % compared to 2016. National freights by rail accounted for 1.6 million tonnes – 11.3 % more. In international traffic the volume of freights carried by rail reduced by 4.2 million tonnes or 9.1 %. Freight traffic by rail to/from ports of Latvia fell by 11.3 %, their share in international traffic comprised 83.2 %.

Freight traffic by rail

(million tonnes)

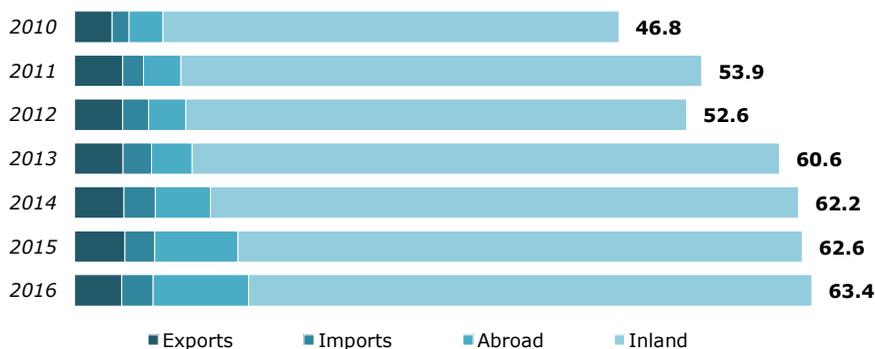


Freight transport by road is increasing

In 2017, 68 million tonnes of freight were carried by road, which is a rise of 4.6 million tonnes or 7.3 % compared to 2016. Growth in the volume of freights was mainly determined by increase of 32.5 % in the transportation of products of mining and quarrying. The bulk (76.7 %) of the total freight volumes by road was national freight, where the indicator increased by 3.8 million tonnes or 7.8 %. International freight traffic rose by 0.8 million tonnes (5.7 %).

Freight transport by road

(million tonnes)





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