



LATVIA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Egils LEVITS

Head of Government

Prime Minister Krisjanis KARINS

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Riga

Legislature

unicameral Parliament or Saeima (100 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court (consists of the Senate with 36 judges); Constitutional Court (consists of 7 judges)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Andris TEIKMANIS

US Ambassador

Ambassador John Leslie CARWILE

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 64,589 sq km

Land: 62,249 sq km

Water: 2,340 sq km

Climate

maritime; wet, moderate winters

Natural Resources

peat, limestone, dolomite, amber, hydropower, timber, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

small, open economy with exports contributing more than half of GDP; transit services are highly developed; corruption impedes foreign direct investment

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$54.02 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$27,700 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$12.84 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Lithuania 15.8%, Russia 14%, Estonia 10.9%, Germany 6.9%, Sweden 5.7%, UK 4.9%, Poland 4.3%, Denmark 4.1% (2017)

Imports

\$15.79 billion (2017 est.)

partners: Lithuania 17.6%, Germany 11.7%, Poland 8.7%, Estonia 7.6%, Russia 7.1%, Netherlands 4.2%, Finland 4.2%, Italy 4% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

1.88 mil. (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth

-1.12% (2020 est.)

Ethnicity

Latvian 62.2%, Russian 25.2%, Belarusian 3.2%, Ukrainian 2.2%, Polish 2.1%, Lithuanian 1.2%, other 1.5%, unspecified 2.3% (2018 est.)

Language

Latvian (official) 56.3%, Russian 33.8%, other 0.6% (includes Polish, Ukrainian, and Belarusian), unspecified 9.4% (2011 est.)

Religion

Lutheran 36.2%, Roman Catholic 19.5%, Orthodox 19.1%, other Christian 1.6%, other 0.1%, unspecified/none 23.5% (2017 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 68.3% of total population (2020)

rate of urbanization: -0.93% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

99.9% (2015)

