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Chapter 1

136

1.1 136.guide

Texified version of data for Latvia.

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Latvia

1.2 136.guide/Latvia

Latvia

Geography (Latvia)
 People (Latvia)
 Government (Latvia)
 Government (Latvia 2. usage)
 Economy (Latvia)
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1.3 136.guide/Geography (Latvia)

Geography (Latvia)

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Location:

Eastern Europe, bordering on the Baltic Sea, between Sweden and Russia

Map references:

Arctic Region, Asia, Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area: 64,100 km²

land area:

64,100 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than West Virginia

Land boundaries:

total 1,078 km, Belarus 141 km, Estonia 267 km, Lithuania 453 km, Russia ←
217

km

Coastline:

531 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

the Abrene section of border ceded by the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic to Russia in 1944

Climate:

maritime; wet, moderate winters

Terrain:

low plain

Natural resources:

minimal; amber, peat, limestone, dolomite

Land use:

arable land:

27%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

13%

forest and woodland:
 39%
 other:
 21%
 Irrigated land:
 160 km2 (1990)
 Environment:
 heightened levels of air and water pollution because of a lack of waste
 conversion equipment; Gulf of Riga and Daugava River heavily polluted;
 contamination of soil and groundwater with chemicals and petroleum products
 at military bases

1.4 136.guide/People (Latvia)

People (Latvia)

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Population:
 2,735,573 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.5% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 13.99 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 12.73 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate: 3.72 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 22 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 69.23 years
 male:
 64.15 years
 female:
 74.55 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Latvian(s)
 adjective:
 Latvian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Latvian 51.8%, Russian 33.8%, Belarusian 4.5%, Ukrainian 3.4%, Polish 2.3%,
 other 4.2%
 Religions:
 Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox
 Languages:
 Latvian (official), Lithuanian, Russian, other
 Literacy:
 age 9-49 can read and write (1970)
 total population:
 100%

male:
 100%
 female:
 100%
 Labor force:
 1.407 million
 by occupation:
 industry and construction 41%, agriculture and forestry 16%, other 43%
 (1990)

1.5 136.guide/Government (Latvia)

Government (Latvia)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Latvia
 conventional short form:
 Latvia
 local long form:
 Latvijas Republika
 local short form:
 Latvija
 former:
 Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic
 Digraph:
 LG
 Type: republic
 Capital:
 Riga
 Administrative divisions:
 none (all districts are under direct republic jurisdiction)
 Independence:
 6 September 1991 (from Soviet Union)
 Constitution:
 adopted NA May 1922, considering rewriting constitution
 Legal system:
 based on civil law system
 National holiday:
 Independence Day, 18 November (1918)
 Political parties and leaders:
 Democratic Labor Party of Latvia, Juris BOJARS, chairman; Inter-Front of ←
 the
 Working People of Latvia, Igor LOPATIN, chairman (Inter-Front was banned
 after the coup); Latvian National Movement for Independence, Eduards
 BERKLAVS, chairman; Latvian Democratic Party, Janis DINEVICS, chairman;
 Latvian Social Democratic Workers' Party, Uldis BERZINS, chairman; Latvian
 People's Front, Uldis AUGST-KALNS, chairman; Latvian Liberal Party, Georg
 LANSMANIS, chairman
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:

President:

last held October 1988 (next to be held NA); note - Anatolijs V. GORBUNOVŠ elected by Supreme Soviet; elected to restyled post of Chairman of the Supreme Council on 3 May 1990; new elections have not been scheduled

Supreme Council:

last held 18 March 1990 for the Supreme Soviet (next to be held 5-6 June 1993 for the Saeima); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (234 total) Latvian Communist Party 59, Latvian Democratic Workers Party 31, Social Democratic Party of Latvia 4, Green Party of Latvia 7, Latvian Farmers Union 7, Latvian Popular Front 126; note - the Supreme Council is an interim 201-seats legislative body; a new parliament or Saeima to be elected in June 1993

Congress of Latvia:

last held April 1990 (next to be held NA); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (231 total) number of seats by party NA; note - the Congress of Latvia is a quasi-governmental structure

Executive branch:

Chairman of Supreme Council (president), prime minister, cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral Supreme Council

1.6 136.guide/Government (Latvia 2. usage)

Government (Latvia 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:

Supreme Court

Leaders:

Chief of State:

Chairman Supreme Council Anatolijs V. GORBUNOVŠ (since NA October 1988)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Ivars GODMANIS (since NA May 1990)

Member of:

CBSS, CSCE, EBRD, ECE, FAO, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, ILO, IMF, IOM (observer), ITU, NACC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO

Diplomatic representation in US:

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Ambassador Ojars KALNINS

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Raina Boulevard 7, Riga 226050

mailing address:

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telephone:

0-11 [358] (49) 311-348 (cellular)
 FAX:
 [358] (49) 314-665 (cellular), (7) (01-32) 220-502
 note:
 dialing to the Baltics still requires use of an international operator,
 unless you use the cellular phone lines
 Flag:
 two horizontal bands of maroon (top and bottom), white (middle, narrower
 than other two bands)

1.7 136.guide/Economy (Latvia)

Economy (Latvia)

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Overview:

Latvia is in the process of reforming the centrally planned economy inherited from the former USSR into a market economy. Prices have been freed, and privatization of shops and farms has begun. Latvia lacks natural resources, aside from its arable land and small forests. Its most valuable economic asset is its work force, which is better educated and disciplined than in most of the former Soviet republics. Industrial production is ← highly diversified, with products ranging from agricultural machinery to consumer electronics. One conspicuous vulnerability: Latvia produces only 10% of its electric power needs. Latvia in the near term must retain key commercial ties to Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine while moving in the long run toward joint ventures with technological support from, and trade ties to the West. Because of the efficiency of its mostly individual farms, Latvians enjoy a diet that is higher in meat, vegetables, and dairy products and lower in grain and potatoes than diets in the 12 non-Baltic republics of the former USSR. Good relations with Russia are threatened by animosity between ethnic Russians (34% of the population) and native Latvians. The cumulative difficulties in replacing old sources of supply and old markets, together with the phasing out of the Russian ruble as the medium of exchange, help account for the sharp 30% drop in GDP in 1992.

National product:

GDP \$NA

National product real growth rate:

-30% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$NA

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2% per month (first quarter 1993)

Unemployment rate:

3.6% (March 1993); but large numbers of underemployed workers

Budget:

revenues \$NA; expenditures \$NA, including capital expenditures of \$NA

Exports:

\$NA

commodities:

NA

partners:

NA
 Imports:
 \$NA
 commodities:
 NA
 partners:
 NA
 External debt:
 \$650 million (1991 est.)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate -35% (1992 est.)
 Electricity:
 2,140,000 kW capacity; 5,800 million kWh produced, 2,125 kWh per capita
 (1992)
 Industries:
 employs 33% of labor force; highly diversified; dependent on imports for
 energy, raw materials, and intermediate products; produces buses, vans,
 street and railroad cars, synthetic fibers, agricultural machinery,
 fertilizers, washing machines, radios, electronics, pharmaceuticals,
 processed foods, textiles

1.8 136.guide/Economy (Latvia 2. usage)

Economy (Latvia 2. usage)

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Agriculture:
 employs 16% of labor force; principally dairy farming and livestock feeding ↔
 ;
 products - meat, milk, eggs, grain, sugar beets, potatoes, vegetables;
 fishing and fish packing
 Illicit drugs:
 transshipment point for illicit drugs from Central and Southwest Asia to
 Western Europe; limited producer of illicit opium; mostly for domestic
 consumption; also produces illicit amphetamines for export
 Economic aid:
 NA
 Currency:
 1 lat = 100 NA; introduced NA March 1993
 Exchange rates:
 lats per US\$1 - 1.32 (March 1993)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 136.guide/Communications (Latvia)

Communications (Latvia)

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Railroads:

2,400 km; does not include industrial lines (1990)

Highways:

59,500 km total; 33,000 km hard surfaced 26,500 km earth (1990)

Inland waterways:

300 km perennially navigable

Pipelines:

crude oil 750 km, refined products 780 km, natural gas 560 km (1992)

Ports:

coastal - Riga, Ventspils, Liepaja; inland - Daugavpils

Merchant marine:

96 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 905,006 GRT/1,178,844 DWT; includes ←
 14
 cargo, 27 refrigerated cargo, 2 container, 9 roll-on/roll-off, 44 oil ←
 tanker

Airports:

total:

50

useable:

15

with permanent-surface runways:

11

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

7

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

7

Telecommunications:

NMT-450 analog cellular network is operational covering Riga, Ventspils, Daugavpils, Rezekne, and Valmiera; broadcast stations - NA; international traffic carried by leased connection to the Moscow international gateway switch and through new independent international automatic telephone exchange in Riga and the Finnish cellular net

1.10 136.guide/Defense Forces (Latvia)

Defense Forces (Latvia)

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Branches:

Ground Forces, Navy, Air Force, Security Forces (internal and border troops), Border Guard, Home Guard (Zemessardze)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 648,273; fit for military service 511,297; reach military age (18) annually 18,767 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

176 million rubles, 3-5% of GDP; note - conversion of the military budget into US\$ using the current exchange rate could produce misleading results