

Republic of Latvia

Entering A New Phase of Reforms

May 2018

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Five Points Underpinning Latvia's Credit Profile

Flexible, resilient economy, among fastest growing in the Eurozone

Broadly-diversified exports, important factor underpinning the stable current account balance

Fiscal discipline, deeply embedded, reflected in low, and still declining, government debt

New era of reforms launched in 2017, focused on improving productivity and more inclusive growth

Well-capitalized and profitable banking sector, supporting moderate expansion of credit, with tighter AML/anti-terrorism funding regime





1. Overview

Portrait of an Improving Sovereign Credit

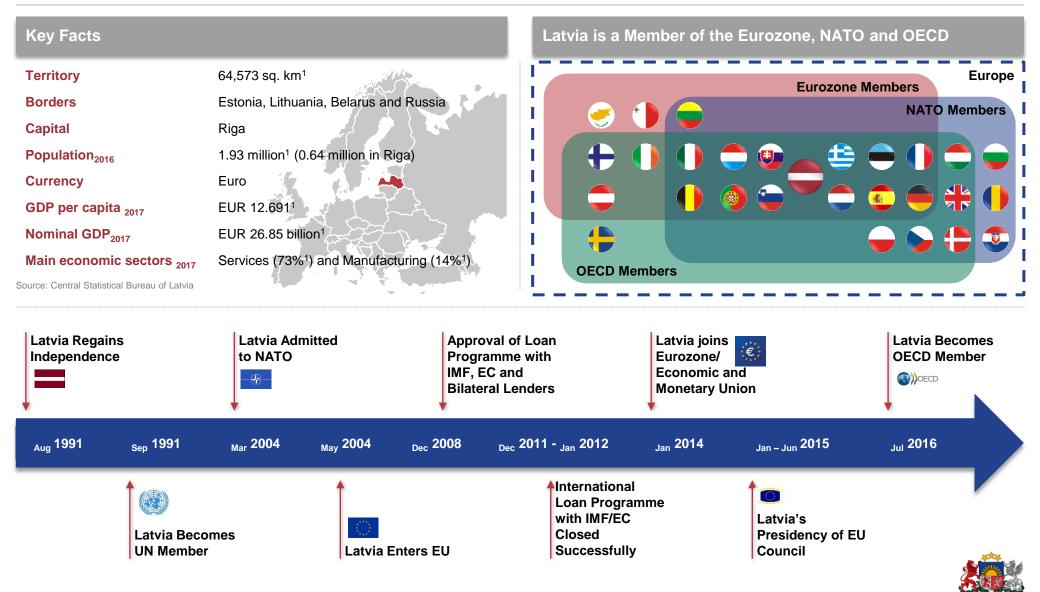
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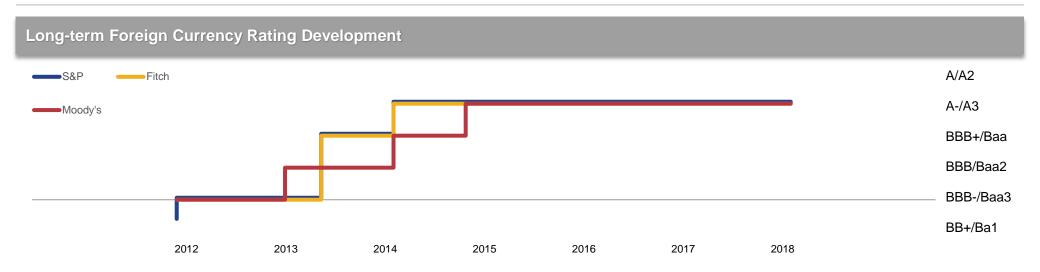
Latvia Belongs to Core Europe

Latvia belongs to core Europe. Latvia is deeply integrated in the international community and committed to high standards in terms of economic policies and governance.



Latvia`s Credit Ratings are on an Improving Trend

Rating agencies acknowledged Latvia's low general government debt, small fiscal deficit and institutional strength



Key Strengths of Latvia's Sovereign Credit Rating

- Rapid growth without worries about overheating
- Eurozone membership enhances Latvia's creditworthiness:
 - underpins economic policy coherence and credibility
 - improves fiscal and external financing flexibility
 - reduces foreign-currency risks on balance sheets
 - gives Latvian banks access to European Central Bank liquidity facilities
- Membership in the OECD with its accompanying commitments to structural reforms and economic liberalization
- Sound banking sector dominated by foreign Scandinavian banks

Key Risk Factors Affecting Latvia's Sovereign Credit Rating

- Social expenditures and defence spending could be higher than anticipated
- External financing risks and geo-political tensions with Russia continue to constrain the ratings
- Latvia is a small and highly open economy, making it vulnerable to external shocks

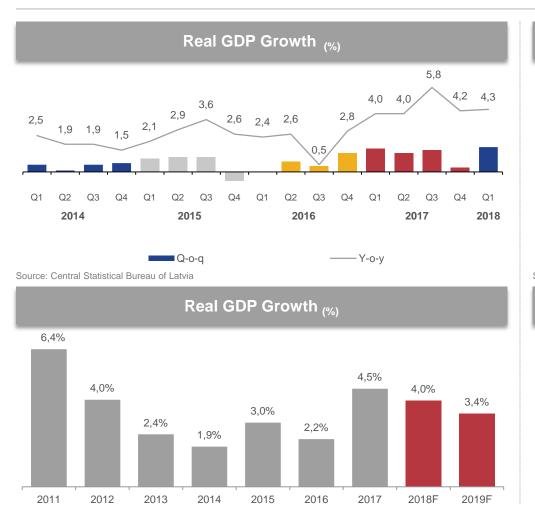


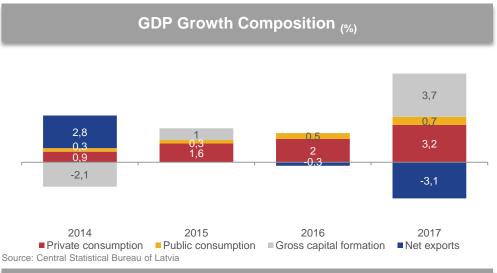
2. The Economy

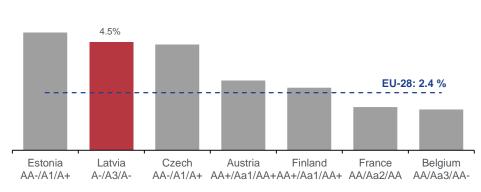
Strong, Sustainable Growth

Growth Accelerated in 2017 and expected to remain solid in 2018

Latvia is among the top 5 fastest growing countries in the EU with a 3.0% average growth in the last 6 years. Robust growth is currently supported by strong consumption, private investment inflows, the EU funding cycle and favourable foreign trade conditions.







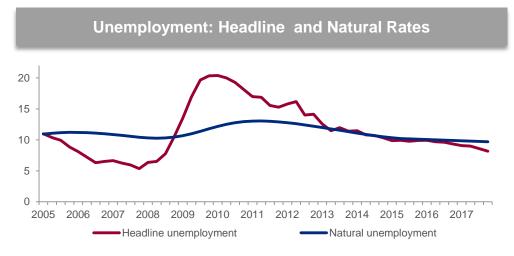
GDP Growth (2017, %)

Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Ministry of Finance

Source: Eurostat

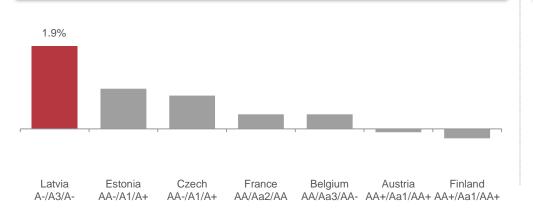
Wage and Employment Growth Boosted By Domestic Demand

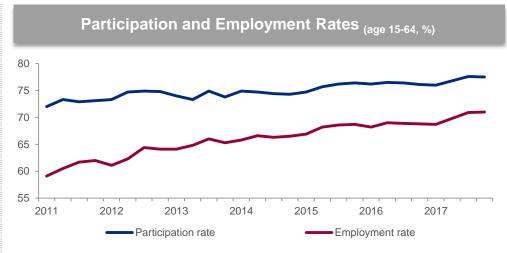
Unemployment is close to the natural rate since 2013 and productivity growth is on the rise



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data, Bank of Latvia

Real Productivity Growth Per Worker (2012-2016 average, %)





Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data

Average Net Monthly Wage For Full-time Job (Y-o-y, %)



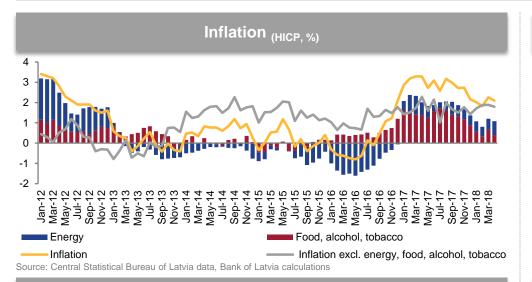
Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data



Source: Eurostat

Inflation decreased to slightly above 2%

Latvia has maintained moderate and predictable inflation for years. Headline inflation decreased recently; core inflation moderate and stable

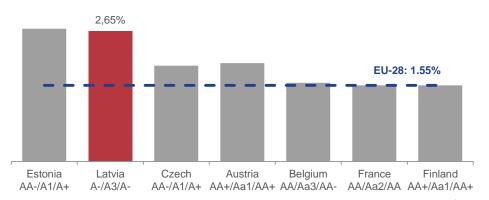


Estonia AA-/A1/A+ A-/A3/A-Estonia AA-/A1/A+ A-/A3/A-Estonia AA-/A1/A+ A-/A3/A-A-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+ AA-/A1/A+

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)(March 2018, yoy%)

Source: Eurostat

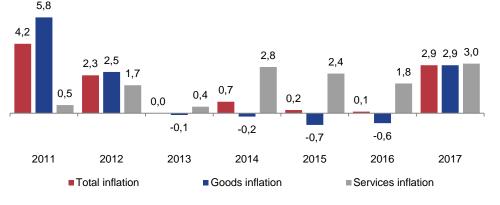




Source: European Commission, Spring projection, 2018



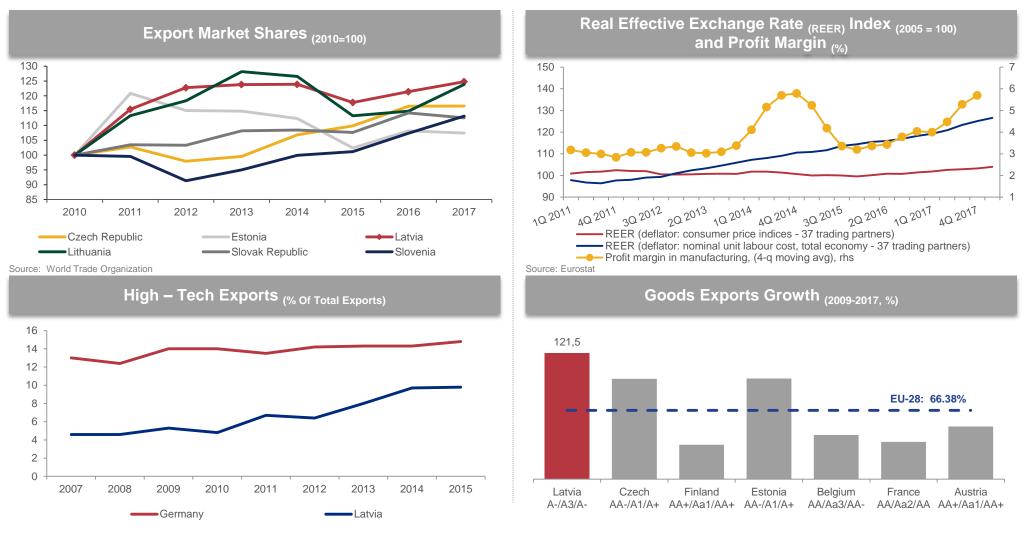
Inflation In Latvia (HICP, %)



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data

Improved Competitiveness and Value-Added Products Drive Exports

Favourable position in both price and quality competitiveness



Source: Eurostat

Source: Eurostat



3. Banking Sector

Well-Capitalized, Profitable, and Beginning to Lend Again

Sound, Well Capitalised and Liquid Banking Sector

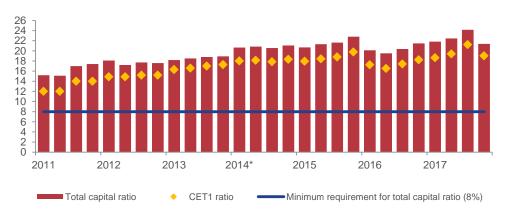
Latvia's outstanding growth engine has been supported by well capitalized banking sector, majority of which is owned by large Nordic banking groups.

Key Highlights

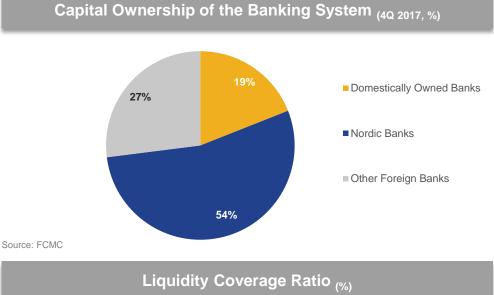
- The Latvian banking sector is dominated by subsidiaries and branches of banks from the European Economic Area, mostly Nordic countries¹ (54% of the banking sector capital, 51% of assets, 81% of domestic loans and 80% of domestic deposits)
- Capitalisation and liquidity ratios are well above minimum requirements. The banking sector's capital is mostly made of CET1 capital:
 - CET1 ratio 4Q 2017 = 19.0% vs. EU average 2Q 2017 = 14.8%²
 - FCMC liquidity ratio $_{4Q 2017} = 59\%$
 - LCR _{1Q 2018} = 264%
- The four largest banks are directly supervised by the ECB. Five banks fall under the remit of the Single Resolution Mechanism

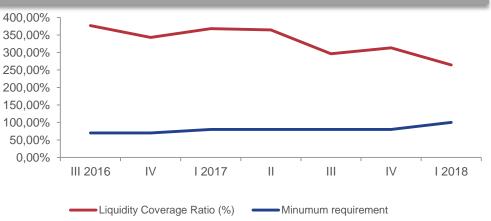
Source: ¹FCMC, ²EBA risk dashboard

Capital Adequacy (%)



Source: FCMF | Note: As of Q1 2014 capital adequacy is calculated according to the CRDIV/CRR requirements and is not directly comparable with the data until Q1 2014 due to differences in methodology. Tier 1 ratio matches CET 1 ratio. The regulatory minimum capital adequacy requirement is 8%. Since 28 May 2014 the FCMC also applies a 2.5% capital conservation buffer.





Source: FCMF | Note: Data on 1Q 2018

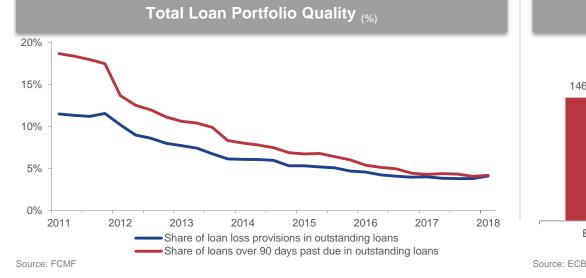


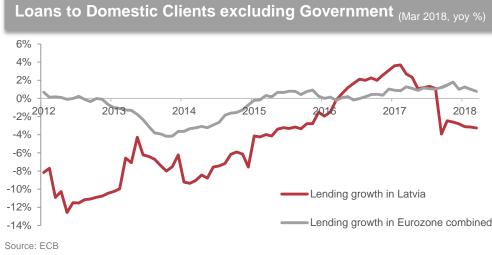
Bank Lending Recovers and Supports Growth

Domestic lending recovers and loan portfolio quality is above EU average

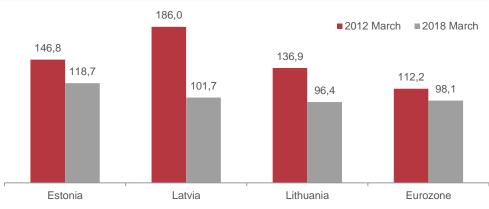
Key Highlights

- After prolonged period of deleveraging, lending growth turned positive in April 2016
- Loans to domestic households and NFCs stand at 46% of GDP, down from almost 100% at the outset of the crisis
- Loan-to-deposit ratio has fallen substantially leading to more balanced and sustainable domestic funding for loans
- The guality of loan portfolio is above EU average and continues improving further. The coverage ratio of overdue loans remains high
- The ECB bank lending survey indicates gradual increase in demand for • loans in Latvia, Lending standards remain stable, however, banks plan to ease them. Expansionary monetary policy of the ECB is a supportive factor for lending





Domestic Loan-to-Deposit Ratio (%)

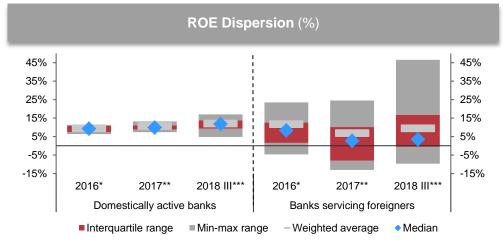


Banking Sector Profitability Remains Healthy

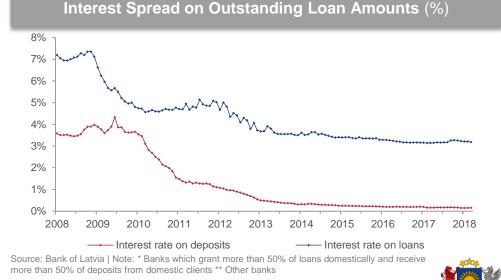
Banking sector profitability is supported by stable interest spread and economic growth

Key Highlights

- In 2017, profitability of domestically active banks appears to be lower due to two one-off effects:
- o The write-down of deferred tax assets by Citadele banka and Signet Bank
- The creation of Luminor Bank
- When adjusted for these two effects, domestically active banks profit posted an 3.1% increase
- The profit of banks servicing foreigners continued to decrease due to decline in business and increased administrative expenses, which were largely caused by implementing enhanced AML/CFT requirements. In the light of recent events, a further deterioration of their profitability is expected.
- RoE and RoA of the Latvian credit institutions are relatively high, and still exceeds the EU average. In 2017, RoE was 9.1% (when adjusted for the two one-off effects mentioned above); EU average – 6.1% (EBA Risk Dashboard Q4 2017). Domestically active banks' returns are more stable and less dispersed than returns of banks servicing foreigners
- With record-low loan and deposit rates, interest rate spread on outstanding amounts remains stable at around 3%



Source: Bank of Latvia | Noted: *One-off adjusted data – VISA transaction in 2016, **One-off adjusted data – write-off of DTAs of Citadele Banka and Signet Bank, and creation of Luminor Bank.



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Parent Banks are Stable, Financially Sound and Profitable

Banks have high credit ratings, good profits, and on average they outperform their European peers on stock exchanges (compared to Eurostoxx Bank index)

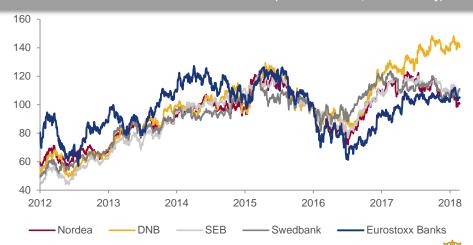
Key Highlights

- Financial performance and capitalization level of the parent banks are strong
- Nordic banking groups' profitability is higher than the average in Europe
- Banks continue to invest in IT related projects to increase their operational efficiency and lower administrative expenses
- Since October 1, 2017, Nordea Bank AB Latvia branch and DNB Bank have merged their operations in the Baltic States. The newly-established Luminor Bank. Today, Luminor Bank is
 - The second largest bank in Latvia by assets (4.9 billion EUR, 17% market share)
 - The second largest bank by equity (526 million EUR) and deposits value (2.9 billion EUR, 15% market share)
 - The first largest bank by the issued loans value (3.5 billion EUR, 25% market share)

Banks Financial Information Luminor* Swedbank SEB

	Swedbank	Swedbank SEB			
	Swedballk	SEB	DNB	Nordea	
Assets (EUR mil)*	5,331	3,725	4 9)34	
CET1 ratio (%)*	25.57	22.49	17	.35	
ROE (%)*	13.19	9.37	-0,	16	
S&P Global long term rating	AA-	A+		*	
Moody's long term rating	Aa3	Aa3		*	
Fitch long term rating	AA-	AA-		*	

Source: Association of Latvian Commercial Banks – financial reports, 4th quarter 2017 | *October 2017 Nordea group and DNB entities merged in the Baltics into one financial institution Luminor. Data on Luminor credit rating to be assigned.



Banking Groups' Equity Prices (01.01.2016 = 100, local currency)

4. Banking Sector Reforms

Strengthening AML/Anti-Terrorism Funding Controls

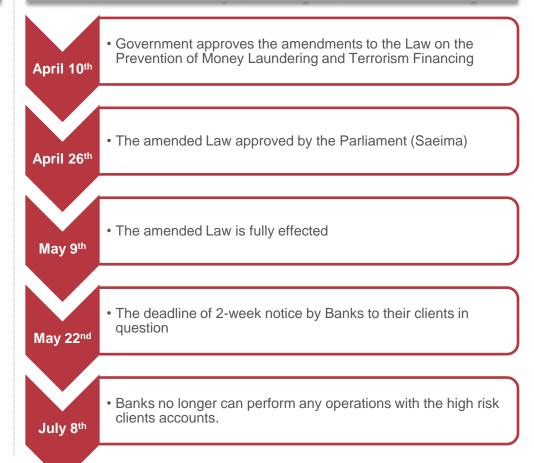
Tougher AML and CFT requirements are on the way

The events leading to the liquidation of ABLV Bank triggered regulatory efforts to significantly reduce high risk transactions by Latvian banks. New business models are being implemented in targeted banks as part of this initiative.

Key Highlights

- All credit institutions in Latvia specialising in foreign customer service have been provided with initial information about the necessity to ensure faster changes in the business model of the bank, in order to prevent and decrease the share of high risk transactions and in doing, non-residents servicing banks had to submit the FCMC plans for restructuring their business by April. As of April 5, no bank has indicated of their plans to restructure by closing the business
- FCMC is supervising the change of the business models of the credit institutions, by reducing the share of large exposure customers and achieving the target variables set by the FCMC for the sector as a whole.
- On April 10 the Government approved the amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing banning cooperation between banks and shell companies in Latvia which have no real economic activity, thus even more strengthening the AML/CFT requirements.
- In addition Law plans to establish Financial Crime Investigation Special Task force, enabling effective cooperation of private and public sector in financial intelligence and investigation of financial crimes.
- Respective amendments were adopted by the Parliament on April 26 and the amended Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing is fully effective from May 9, 2018
- The Law would prescribe that within 14 days after the date when the Law is effected, banks shall notify their high-risk clients of closing their accounts and within 60 days banks no longer can perform any operations with the accounts.

Timeline for the enforcement of the amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing





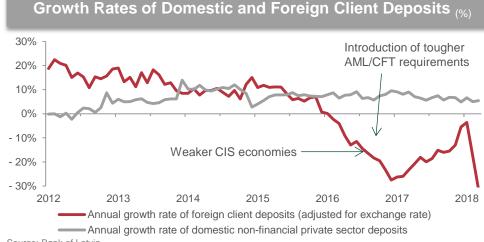
The Economic Impact of Tighter AML CFT is Minimal

Latvia's banking system is dominated by banks owned by strong Nordic parents, funded through domestic deposits, lending to Latvia-based clients. Banks funded through foreign currency deposits play a small role in Latvia's economy



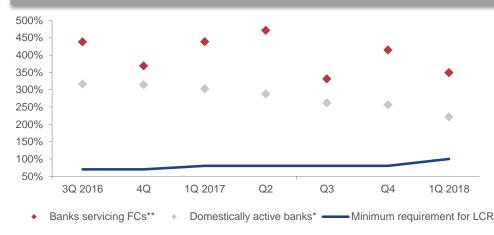
Economic Impact of ABLV Bank Liquidation

- The liquidation of ABLV has had little impact on the Latvian economy
 - Government revenues from ABLV were 0.06 % from GDP in 2017, with 0.3 % from GDP generated overall from NRD sector.*
 - o Funds covering guaranteed deposits were transferred from ABLV
 - ABLV has already repaid the emergency liquidity assistance extended to it earlier by the Bank of Latvia.
 - Deposit flight has not spread to other banks whose business models are based primarily on domestic funding and lending.



Source: Bank of Latvia

Bank Liquidity Ratios Well Above FCMC Requirement



Source: Bank of Latvia

Source: Bank of Latvia,

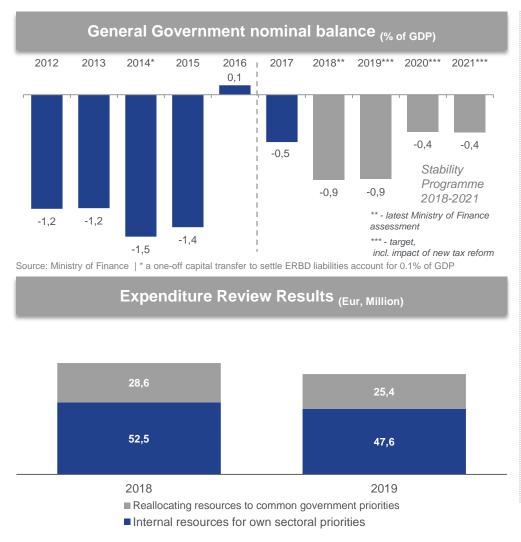
*Fitch (Latvia sovereign risk from ABLV Bank failure appears limited, 27.02.2018.)

5. Fiscal Policy

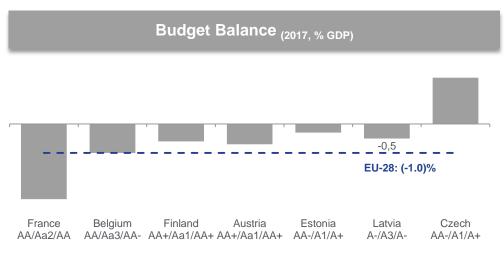
Disciplined Approach Supports Improved Credit Profile

Fiscal Sustainability Remains Top Priority

Prudent fiscal management and fiscal discipline regulation ensures public deficits to be at low and sustainable level.



Source: Ministry of Finance



Source: Eurostat

2018 Budget: Expenditure Measures (EUR million)



- Healthcare services
- Strengthening national security
- Demographic measures, support to foster families and guardians, strengthening social program
- Road maintenance and construction
- Remuneration of higher education teachers, additional funding for research
- Eastern border and strengthening internal security
- Support to cultural projects and media, implementation of integration measures
- Combating shadow economy, modernizing tax information services

Source: Ministry of Finance



Pension Reform Underpins Stability of Public Finances

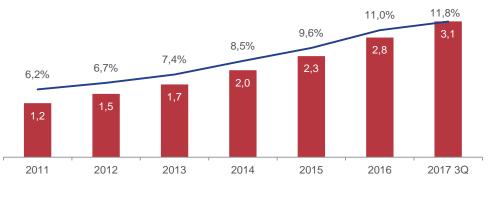
Latvia is well positioned to withstand fiscal challenges arising from an aging population.

Latvia's Pension System And Recent Reforms

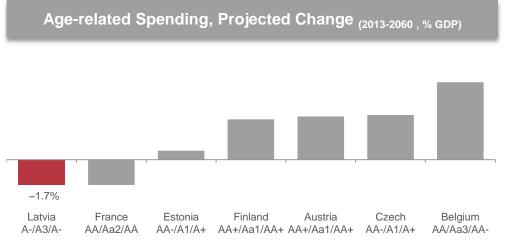
- Latvia's reformed pension system consists of three tiers:
 - 1. state compulsory unfunded pension scheme (the 1st tier)
 - 2. state funded pension scheme (the 2nd tier)
 - 3. private voluntary pension scheme (the 3rd tier)
- In 2012, measures were introduced to address long-term sustainability:
 - starting with 2014 retirement age is gradually increased by 3 months each year until it reaches 65 years in 2025
 - minimum contribution period to secure full pension was increased from 10 to 15 years starting from 2014 and up to 20 years starting from 2025
 - contributions to the funded, e.g. 2nd tier, pension scheme increased from 2% to 4% in 2013, to 5% in 2015, and to 6% in 2016

Source: The State Social Insurance Agency

The 2nd Tier Pension Net AUM (EUR billion, % GDP)

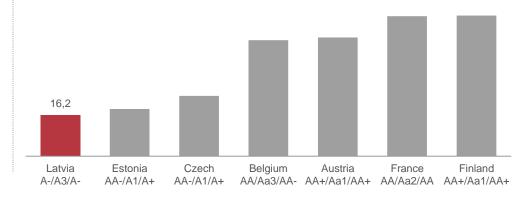


2nd tier pension net assets (EUR billion) —2nd tier pension net assets (% of GDP) Source: Financial and Capital Markets Commission, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia



Source: European Commission Ageing Report, May 2015

Latvia's age-related spending is one the lowest in EU (2013, % GDP)



Source: European Commission Ageing Report, May 2015

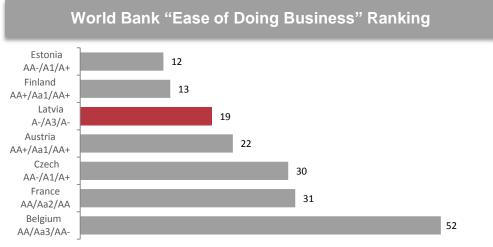


6. New Reform Push

Targets Productivity and More Inclusive Growth

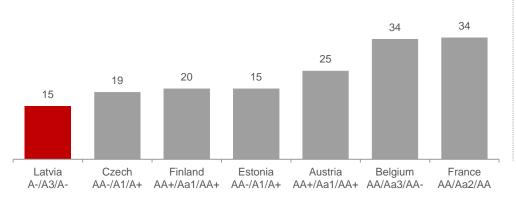
Latvia's Advanced Country Status Reflected in "Soft" Metrics

Expanded Structural reforms to build on existing high institutional strength and favourable business environment.



Source: World Bank, Doing Business 2017

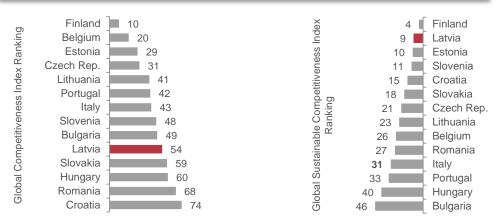
Adjusted Top Statutory Tax Rate on Corporate Income (2017, %)



Source: Financial and Capital Markets Commission, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

World Bank Worldwide Governance Rankings 84 80 79 74 70 69 67 66 66 64 60 60 Regulatory Quality Political Stability Control of Rule of Law Government Voice and Corruption Effectiveness and Accountability Absence of Violence Latvia Regional Average Source: World Bank, 2016 Rankings





Source: Kaus Schwab, World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018, The Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index 2017



Reform Policies Laying Foundation for New Growth Model

Structural reforms in education, employment and judicial environment help improving labour market and business conditions

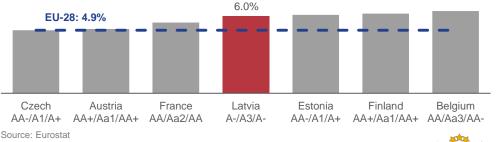


Healthcare Reform

- Aimed to improve governance, clearer principles of resource allocation and more efficient use of funds
- Implementation of Public Health Guidelines 2014 2020 to encourage the health care system availability, quality and cost-effectiveness
- Healthcare long term funding reform
- Stability and Growth Pact deficit derogation for 2017 2019 was granted for healthcare reform (e.g., reducing waiting line; detection of cancer and improving access to treatment; reform of reimbursable drugs for patients of the Chronic hepatitis C).

Education Reform (2015, % GDP)

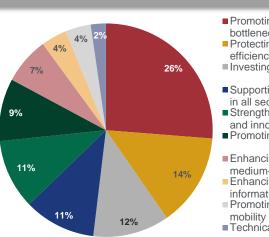
- Funding for education is adequate, but the network of education system and number of pupils per teacher are not optimal.
- Teacher remuneration reform starting from September, 2016: (i) fixed minimum salary for teacher; (ii) school network rearrangement; (iii) increase in funding for teachers' salaries.





EU Playing Key Role in Funding Structural Change in Latvia

Efficient and well targeted absorption and use of EU funds will promote competitiveness and stimulate economic growth as well as support necessary structural reforms



Source: Ministry of Flnance

Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

- Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
- Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
- Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies
 Promoting employment and supporting labour
- Technical assistance

Allocation Of EU Funds For 2014-2020 By Priority Axes

EU Cohesion Policy Accompanies Structural Reforms

- Latvian economy and the goals envisaged by the National Development Plan are strongly supported by implementation of EU cohesion policy and effective utilization of EU structural funds and Cohesion Fund
- EUR 4.4 billion EU funds are available for targeted and smart investments in Latvia within 2014 2020 programming period. During 2007 2013 period Latvia has successfully and fully used EUR 4.5 billion of Cohesion Policy EU funds
- The funds were allocated and will be utilised across major nine priority areas with an aim to enhance competitiveness of Latvia's economy, and to build foundation for the sustained growth

Source: Ministry of Flnance

EU Funds After 2020 and Government's Support

- The European Commission has published a proposal for the new multiannual financial framework after 2020 in May 2018. According to the proposal, cohesion policy funding will be cut by approximately 10%. The reduction is caused by the following aspects:
 - Brexit and the consequent financial gap;
 - Increase in expenditures caused by new challenges and unforeseen events.

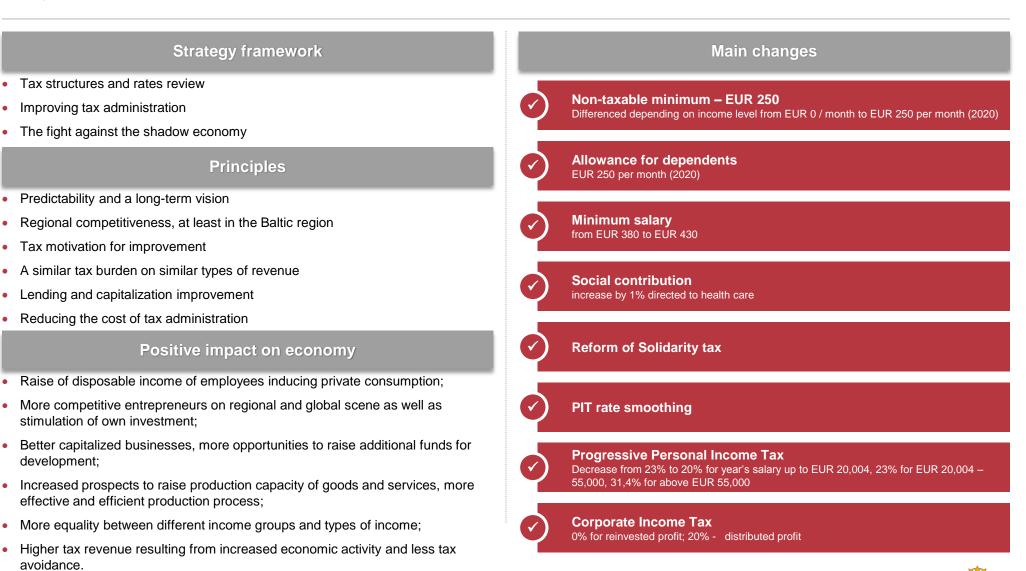
The overall impact on the Latvia's envelope will be estimated after the Commission will publish legislative sectoral proposals for spending programmes at the end of the May 2018.

Government is providing support (via intermediary - JSC Development Finance Institution Altum) and offers financing – such as loans, guarantees, equity capital or grants – mainly to SMEs, start-ups, mid-caps and micro-enterprises, but also to individuals and companies active in the agricultural sector.



Pro-growth Tax Reform in Line with Balanced Budget Mandate

Key goals: improve competitiveness, promote exports, reduce inequality and raise revenue to one-third of GDP



Source: Ministry of Finance

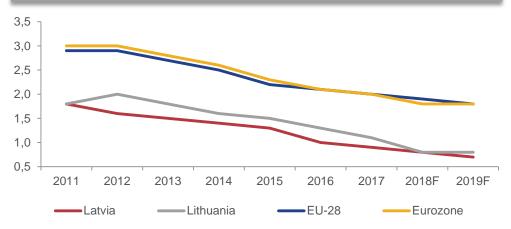
7. Government Debt and Funding Strategy

Public Debt on Declining Trend

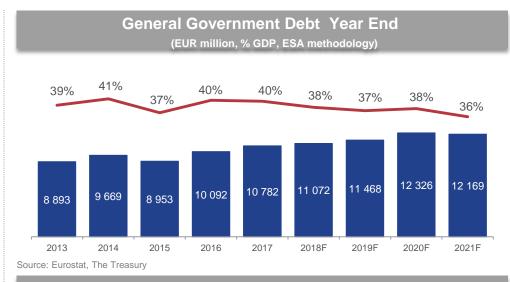
Latvia remains committed to keeping government debt at moderate levels



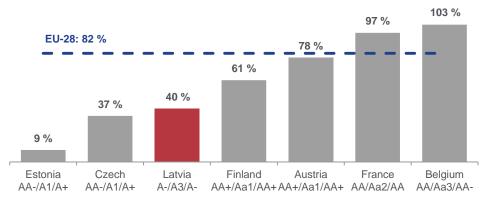
- Fiscal consolidation and reduction of the deficit along with economic growth has helped stabilise levels of government debt
- General government debt is amongst the lowest in the EU at 40% of GDP at the end of 2017. It is the 4th lowest in the Eurozone and the 8th lowest in the EU
- Latvia enjoys one of the lowest debt servicing costs across the region, significantly lower than the EU and Eurozone averages
- Since March 2014 Latvia participates in the European Stability Mechanism, which provides additional financial stability to its members



Debt Servicing Costs (% GDP)



General Government Debt (2017, % GDP)



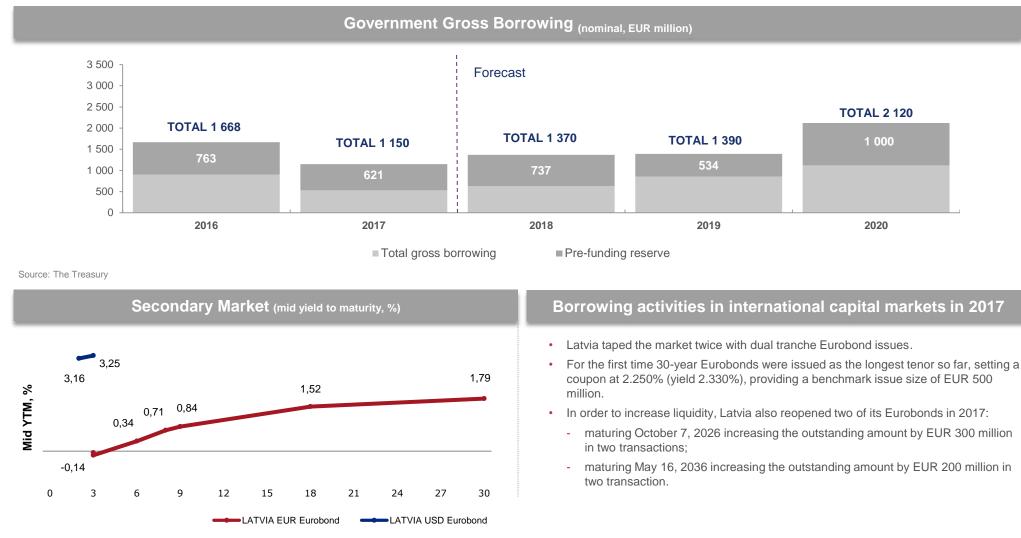
Source: Eurostat



Source: European Economic Forecast, Spring 2018, European Commission

Conservative Borrowing Based on Pre-funding

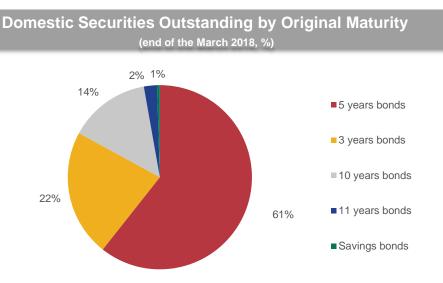
Latvia is conducting a prudent and efficient debt management strategy



Source: Data as of 8th May 2018, Bloomberg

Domestic Market Continues to Perform Strongly

Demand is steady and average yields remain low



Source: The Treasury

- Primary dealer system operates since 11 February 2013. Domestic debt securities outstanding constituted EUR 1.057 billion as of 4th April 2018.
- The Treasury maintains regular domestic debt securities auctions offering medium term T-bonds. Long term segment is covered by international issues.
- For several years Latvia has concentrated domestic supply mainly in 5-year segment and focuses on increasing the liquidity.
- Last 5 year T-bond program (via 6 auctions) reached of 156 million EUR outstanding.
- A new 5-long T-bond program was opened in the beginning of 2018. Coupon was fixed at the 0,250%. Currently amount outstanding is 110 million EUR. In order to maintain liquidity it is expected to continue regular auctions and gradually increase on-the-run 5-long T-bond program.

Domestic T-Bond Competitive Multi-Price Auctions



Source: The Treasury | Note: Bid-to-Cover ratio: Bid Amount to State Treasury offered amount, * Since 2015 6m T-Bills benchmarks are tap issues of original 12m T-Bills in maturity brackets from 4.5 to 9 months.

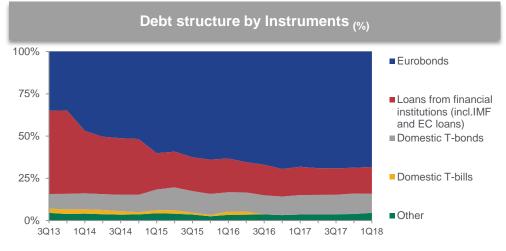
Last 5 year T-Bond auction results

- On 4th of April Latvia had last T-bond auction (5,1 years till redemption).
- Nominal value of 30 million EUR were sold in a competitive multi-price auction with total demand of 96.97 million EUR (bid-offer ratio of 3.2).
- In addition 10 million EUR were sold in non-competitive (fixed price) auction.
- The weighted average yield rate was 0,494%.

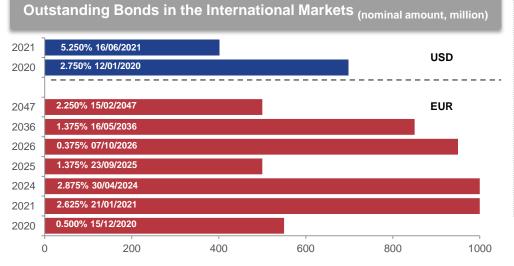


Central Government Debt Profile

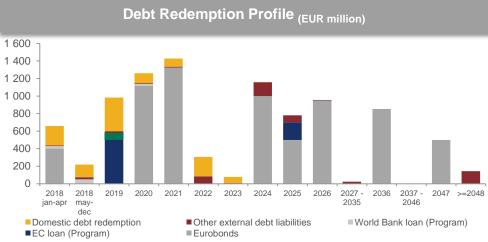
International Loan Programme has been largely refinanced in international capital markets, while government debt redemptions remain moderate



Source: The Treasury



Source: The Treasury



Source: The Treasury

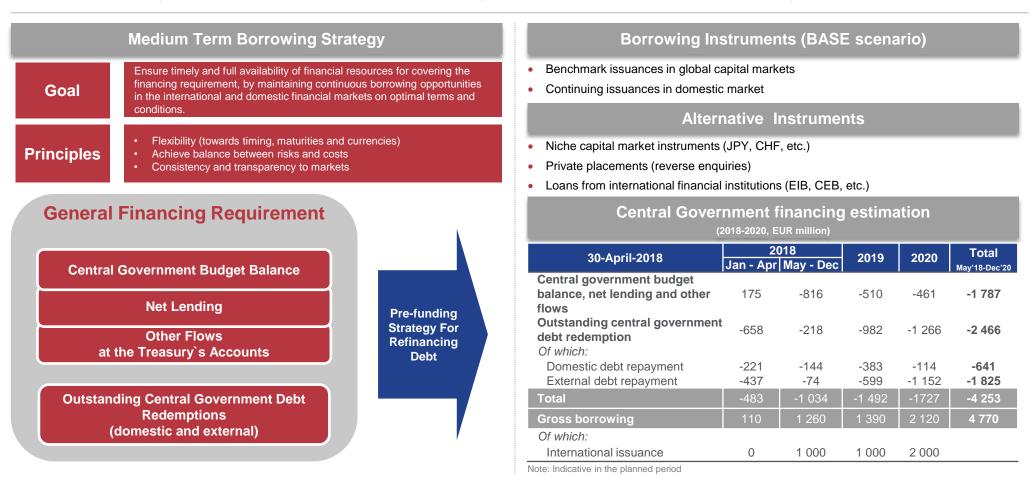
Debt Portfolio Management

Parameters	Strategy	31/12/2016	31/12/2017	
Maturity profile (%)				
• up to 1 year	≤ 25%	14.6%	13.2%	
• up to 3 year	≤ 50%	33.6%	36.4%	
Share of fixed rate ⁽¹⁾	≥ 60%	88.7%	90.5%	
Macaulay duration (years)(3)	5.00 - 9.00	4.96	5.86	
Net debt ⁽²⁾ currency composition	100% EUR with a deviation of +/- 5%	100.44%	99.89%	

Source: The Treasury | ⁽¹⁾Fixed rate central government debt with a maturity over one year; ⁽²⁾Central government debt at the end of the period less the amount of loans and receivables, where impairment loss of guarantees are not taken in account (including Treasury's cash accounts, investments in deposits and fixed income securities, loans, receivables (including receivables of derivative financial instruments which are not classified as risky from credit risk perspective)), and increased by provisions of guarantees as well as liabilities of derivative financial instruments which are not classified as risky from credit risk perspective.

Medium Term Funding Requirement and Borrowing Strategy 2018-2020

External borrowing instruments will represent the most significant share of the overall borrowing volume



The borrowing volume could be increased in case of:

Liability management activities

Possible restructuring of the government guaranteed commitments (loans) of several hospitals by refinancing / early repayment



8. Conclusion

Building on Past Success, Facing Future Challenges

Investment Highlights

Latvia has fully recovered from the economic recession and has built-up an outstanding fiscal position, returning to its previous standards of fiscal prudence. The economy is on a sustainable, robust growth path, characterized by improved competitiveness, solid domestic demand, and a flexible business sector able to adjust to external shocks

Flexible and Resilient Economy → Decreasing Unemployment

Belongs to the Core of Europe

 \rightarrow EZ membership

 \rightarrow The member of all the important

Sustainable Debt Levels and Prudent Fiscal Management → Investor attractiveness

Resilient towards external shocks → Proven track record in overcoming

economic crisis in the past

Predictable public policies and outstanding track record of successful structural reforms → Long term growth reinforced

Solid Export Growth

→ Balance of Payments improvement → Sustainable Current Account Balance

Well Capitalised Banking Sector → Credit Growth is being restored → Economic Development promoted

→ Investors confidence boosted due to reforms and sound macroeconomic fundamentals