

Republic of Latvia

Building a New Economic Model through Structural Reforms

July 2019

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Key Strengths Underpinning Latvia's Credit Profile

Flexible, resilient economy, among fastest growing in the Eurozone

Broadly-diversified exports, important factor underpinning healthy current account balance

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

New era of reforms launched in 2017, focused on building a new economic model, based 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 Ascending Sovereign Credit

Presentation Outline

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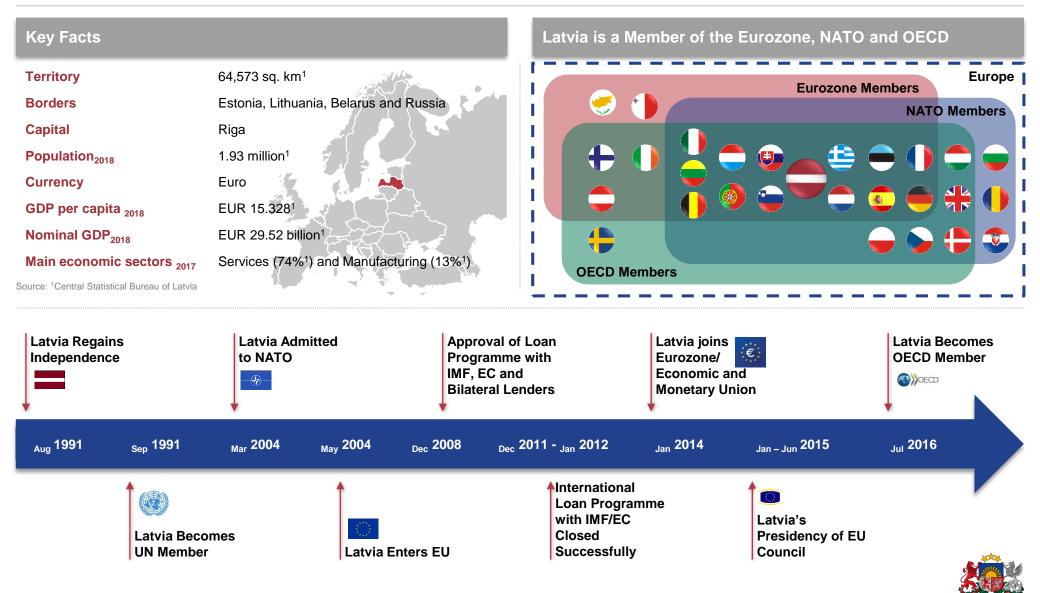
7) Conclusion



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Latvia Belongs to Core Europe

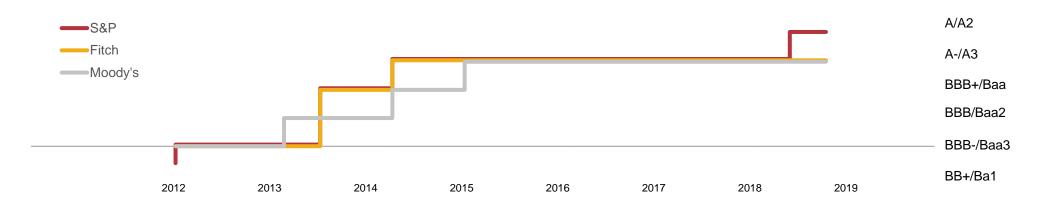
Latvia belongs to core Europe. The country is also deeply integrated in the international community and committed to high standards in terms of the quality of economic policies and governance.



Latvia's Credit Ratings are on an Improving Trend

Rating agencies acknowledge Latvia's low general government debt, small fiscal deficit and institutional strength as key factors bolstering its creditworthiness. In September 2018, S&P raised its sovereign credit rating on Latvia to A from A-.

Long-term Foreign Currency Rating Development



Key Strengths of Latvia's Sovereign Credit Profile

- Sustained strong economic and fiscal performance
- Eurozone membership further strengthens 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 strong Scandinavian banks play central role in sector

Key Risk Factors Affecting Latvia's Sovereign Credit Profile

- 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
- Latvia's GDP per capita is below the median level of its 'A' category peers



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2

In Q1 2019 Latvia's economic growth continued to be robust and balanced.

In April the Parliament adopted Law on the State Budget for 2019 and the Government approved Latvia's Stability Programme for 2019 – 2022.

In the first half of the year credit rating agencies S&P Global, Fitch and Moody's Investors Service reaffirmed their long term foreign currency sovereign credit rating on the Republic of Latvia at current levels respectively 'A', 'A-' and 'A3'.

Latvia has carried out its planned funding activities in the international capital markets in 2019 by raising EUR 1 billion in total.

On May 29, the Government elected new president of the Republic of Latvia.



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2. The Economy

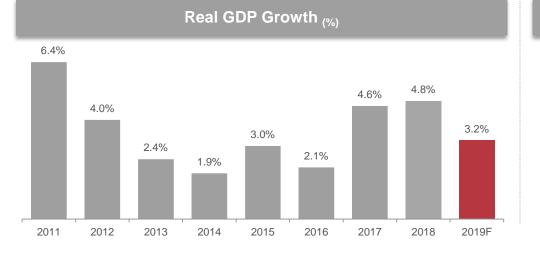
Strong, Sustainable Growth

Growth Accelerated in 2018 and Remains Elevated Today

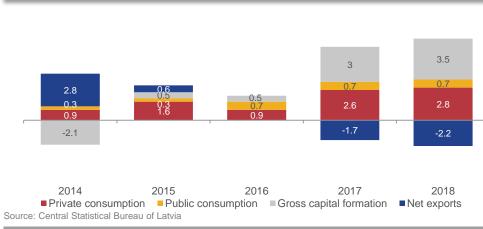
Latvia is among the top 5 fastest growing countries in the EU with a 3.1% average growth in the last 6 years. Robust growth is currently supported by strong domestic demand, private investment inflows, the EU funding cycle and favourable foreign trade conditions.



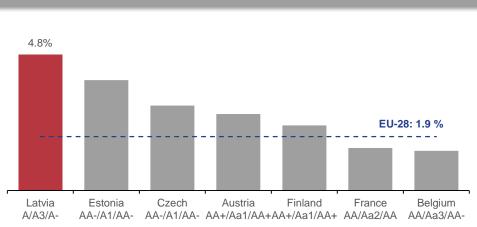
Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia



Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Ministry of Finance



GDP Growth Composition (%)



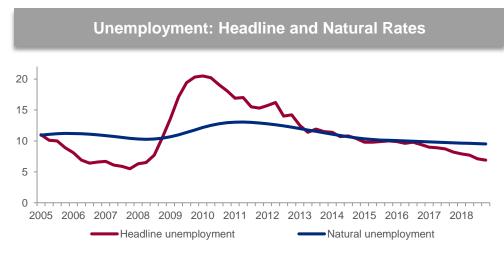
GDP Growth (2018, %)

Source: Eurostat

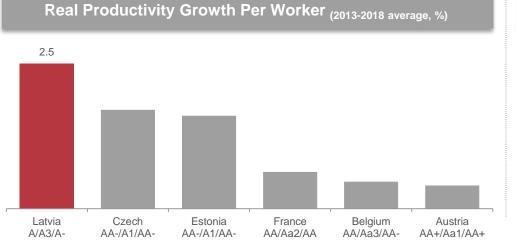


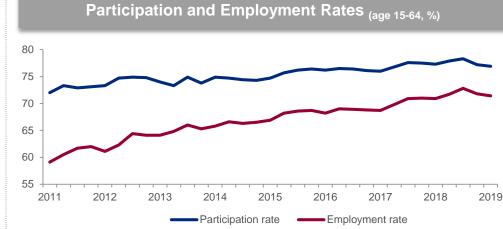
Wage and Employment Growth Boosts Domestic Demand

Unemployment is slightly below the natural rate; productivity growth is on the rise.

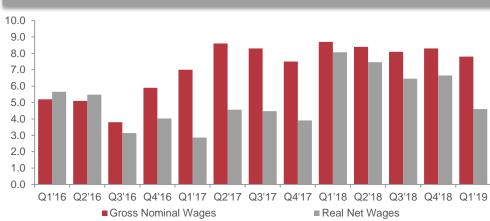


Source: Eurostat, Bank of Latvia





Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data



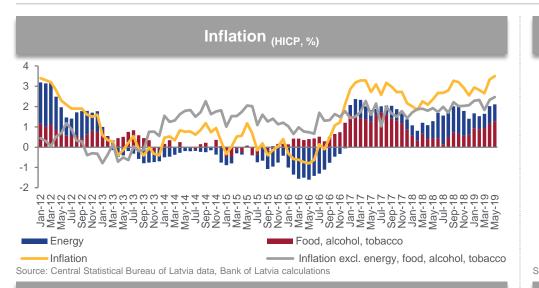
Average Monthly Wage For Full-time Job (Y-o-y, %)

Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data

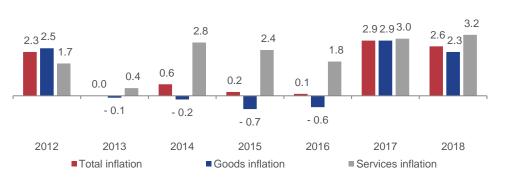
Source: Eurostat

Inflation close to 3% is healthy, reflecting income convergence potential

Latvia has maintained moderate and predictable inflation for years. Core inflation is moderate and stable.

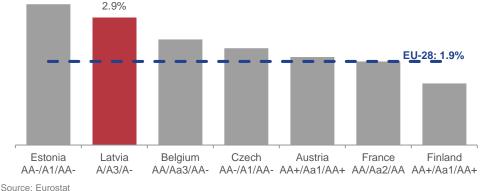


Inflation In Latvia (HICP, %)

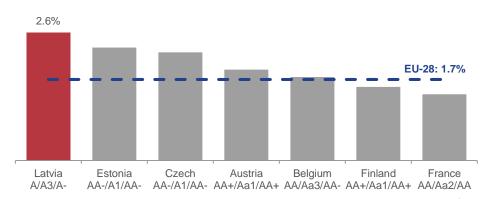


Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia data

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (May 2019, 12 months average %)



Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices Projection (2019-2020, %)

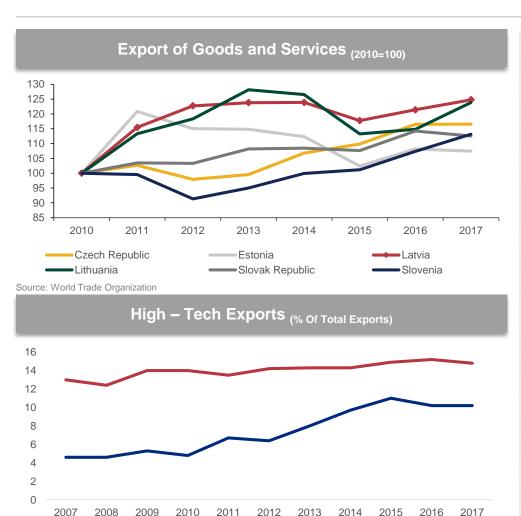


Source: European Commission, Spring, 2019

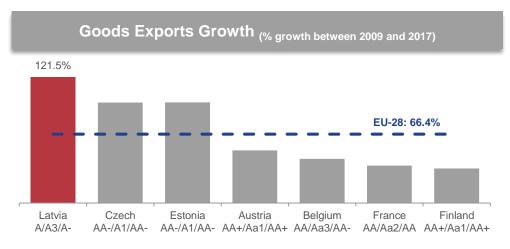


Improved Competitiveness and Value-Added Products Drive Exports

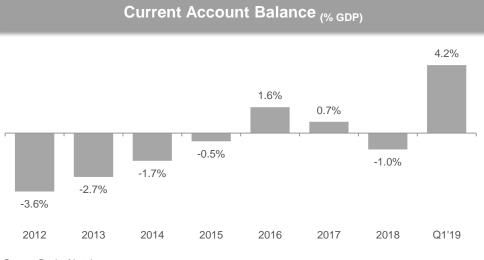
Favourable position in both price and quality competitiveness underpins strong current account position.



Germany — Latvia



Source: Eurostat



Source: Bank of Latvia



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Source: Eurostat

3. Banking Sector

Well-Capitalized, Profitable, and Growing at Moderate Pace

Well Capitalised and Liquid Banking Sector

Latvia's banking sector is well capitalized; large share of banks 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
- Capitalisation and liquidity ratios are well above minimum requirements.
- The three largest banks are directly supervised by the ECB. Four banks fall under the remit of the Single Resolution Mechanism
- The fallout from the closure of the Latvia's largest non-resident-serving bank *ABLV* in February 2018 has been well contained - non-resident deposits have continued to fall, but the liquidity and capital ratios of the banks serving the sector remain high. The reduction of non-resident deposits has markedly lowered Latvia's short-term external debt without undermining the country's economy, fiscal position, or financial system

Source: ¹FCMC, ²EBA risk dashboard, fully loaded ratio

Capital Adequacy (%)



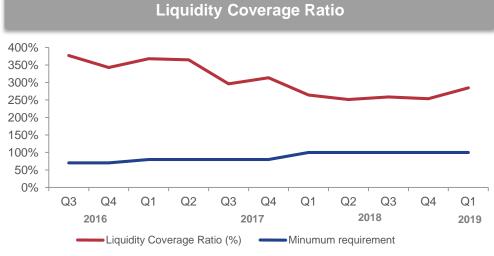
Source: FCMF | Note: As of Q1 2014 capital adequacy is calculated according to the CRDIV/CRR requirements and is not directly comparable with the data until Q1 2014 due to differences in methodology. Tier 1 ratio matches CET 1 ratio. The regulatory minimum capital adequacy requirement is 8%. Since 28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

 32%
 -Domestically

 32%
 -Nordic

 Other
 -Other

Capital Ownership of the Banking System (19 2019)



Source: FCMC

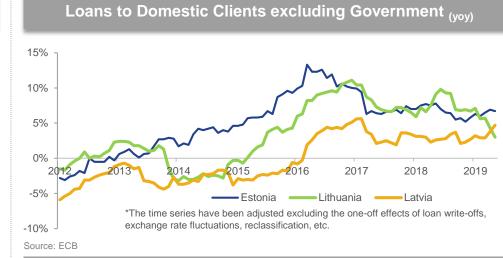


Bank Lending Recovers and Supports Growth

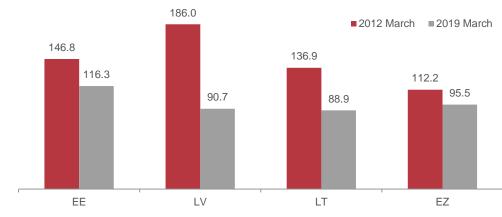
Domestic lending recovers and there are favourable preconditions for further lending growth.

Key Highlights

- After a prolonged period of deleveraging, lending growth turned positive in April 2016
- Loans to domestic households and NFCs stood at 35% of GDP in March 2019, down from almost 100% at the outset of the crisis
- Domestic loan-to-deposit ratio has fallen substantially, leading to more balanced and sustainable domestic funding for loans
- The quality of the loan portfolio continues to improve gradually and the coverage ratio of 90 days overdue loans remains high

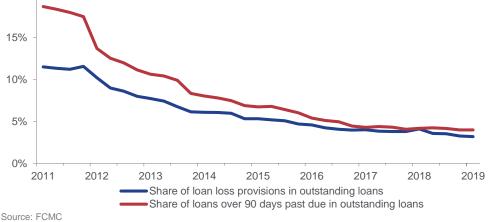


Domestic Loan-to-Deposit Ratio (%)



Source: ECB

Total Loan Portfolio Quality



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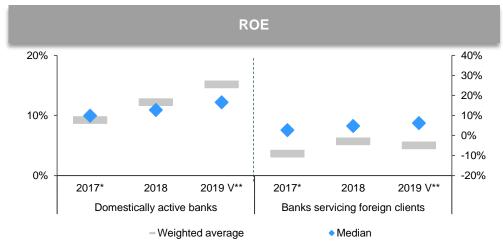
20%

Banking Sector Profitability Remains Healthy

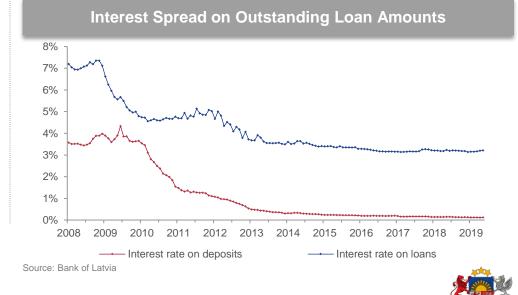
Banking sector profitability is supported by stable interest spread and economic growth.

Key Highlights

- Profitability of domestically active banks is sound and returns gradually increase as a result of a favorable macrofinancial conditions.
- The profitability of banks servicing foreigners is volatile due to ongoing derisking that resulted in a decline in their business volume. Although banks servicing foreigners posted a profit in 2018, a further deterioration in their profitability is expected.
- Average Return on Equity (RoE) of the Latvian credit institutions is relatively high and still exceeds the EU average. In 2018, average RoE was 10.2% (9.1% in 2017); EU average – 6.5% (EBA Risk Dashboard Q4 2018).
- As a result of record-low loan and deposit rates, interest rate spread on outstanding amounts remains stable at around 3 pp.

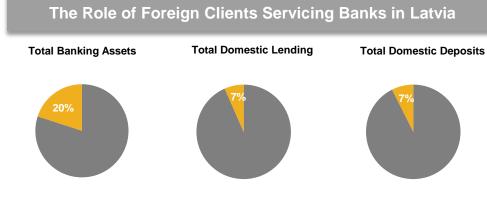


Source: Bank of Latvia | Noted: *One-off adjusted data, **Annualised



The Role of Banks Serving Foreign Clients is Shrinking

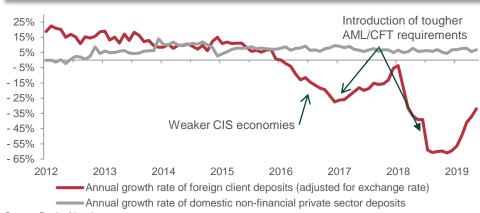
Banks owned by strong Nordic parents, funded through domestic deposits, lending to Latvia-based clients are the core of Latvia's banking system. Banks funded through foreign currency deposits play a small role in Latvia's economy.



Source: Bank of Latvia May 2019

Economic Impact of ABLV Bank Liquidation in February 2018

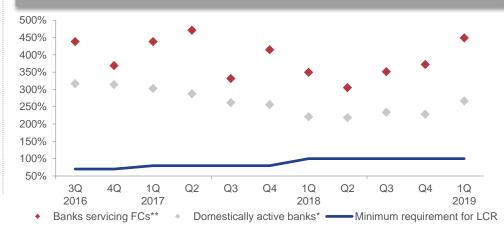
- There have not been obvious spill-overs to the resident serving sector, which is dominated by subsidiaries of Scandinavian banks, due to their lack of interconnectedness
- NRDs fell mostly in the first half of 2018, in the second half of 2018 and 2019 NRDs have stabilized; the liquidity and capital ratios of foreign clients serving banks remain high
- The reduction of NRDs has markedly lowered Latvia's short-term external debt without undermining the country's economy, fiscal position, or financial system
- Funds covering guaranteed deposits were transferred from ABLV and currently 80% of deposits have been paid out
- NRDs have been decreasing without denting confidence of domestic depositors



Growth Rates of Domestic and Foreign Client Deposits

Source: Bank of Latvia

Bank Liquidity Ratios Well Above CRR IV Requirement



Source: FCMC



Source: Bank of Latvia,

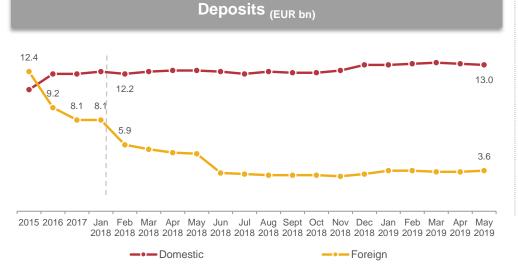
*Fitch (Latvia sovereign risk from ABLV Bank failure appears limited, 27.02.2018.)

Parent Banks are Financially Sound and Profitable

The parents of Latvia's banks have high credit ratings, good profits and are well-capitalized

Key Highlights

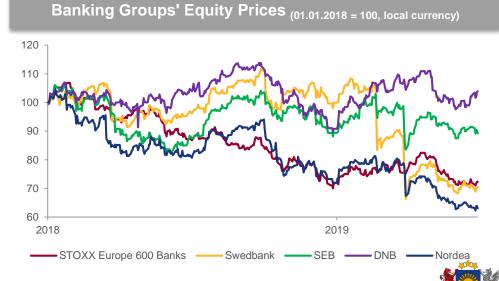
- Financial performance and capitalization level of the parent banks are strong
- Nordic banking groups' profitability is higher than the average in Europe
- Banks continue to invest in IT related projects to increase their operational efficiency and lower administrative expenses
- Since January 2, 2019 Luminor Bank Latvia was branch of Estonian registred Luminor Bank. Luminor completes its banks` cross-border merger.
- Recent money laundering allegations put shares of Nordic banks under pressure, though the impact on financing costs is very limited.



Source: Bank of Latvia

	Swedbank	SEB	Luminor Latvia branch*	
			DNB	Nordea
Assets (EUR mil)*	5,694	3,948	4,36	8
CAR (%)*	28.5	17.6	-	
ROE (%)*	14.4	13.8	-	
S&P Global long term rating	AA-	A+	*	
Moody`s long term rating	Aa2	Aa2	*	
Fitch long term rating	AA-	AA-	*	

Source: Association of Latvian Commercial Banks – financial reports, 1st quarter 2019 | *January 2019 Luminor Bank Latvia was branch of Estonian Luminor Bank.



Banks Financial Information

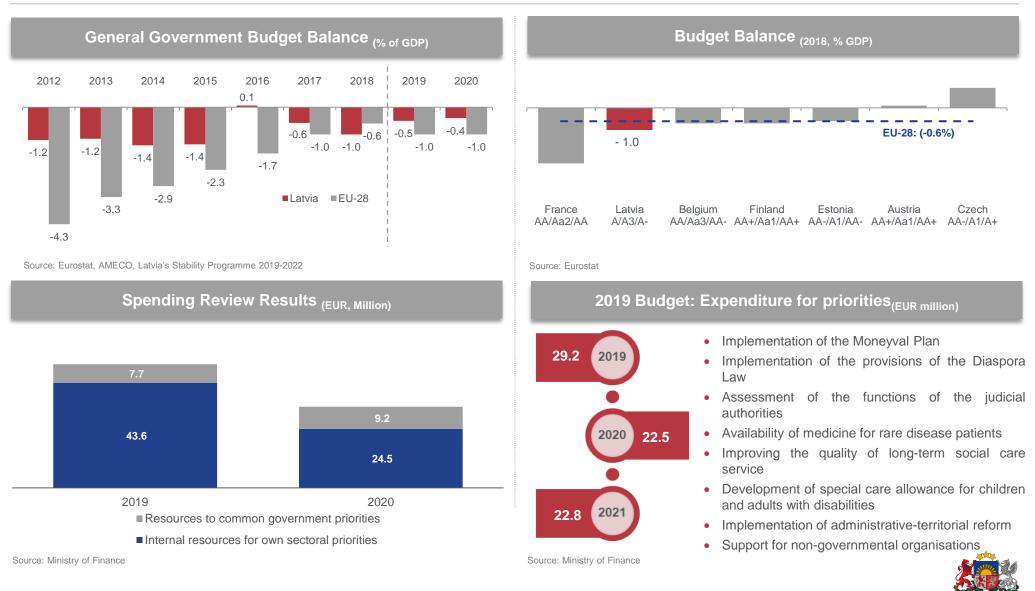
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4. Fiscal Policy

Disciplined Approach Drives Improved Credit Profile

Fiscal Sustainability Remains Top Priority

Prudent fiscal management has produced small budget deficits well below the EU-28 average over the past 7 years. Priority is being given to improving the quality of spending and alignment between programs and policy goals.



Pension Reform Underpins Stability of Public Finances

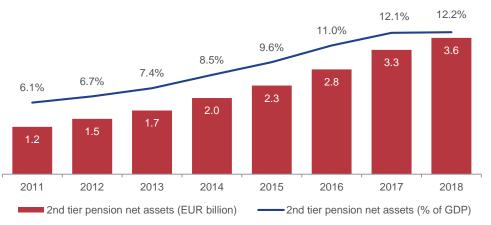
Latvia is well positioned to withstand fiscal challenges arising from an ageing population.

Latvia's Pension System And Recent Reforms

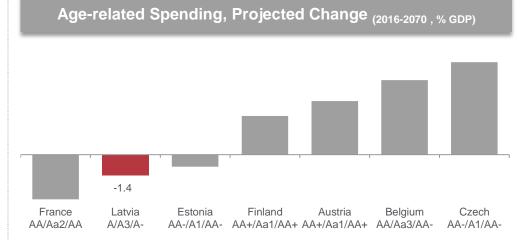
- Latvia's reformed pension system consists of three tiers:
 - 1. state compulsory unfunded pension scheme (the 1st tier)
 - 2. state funded pension scheme (the 2nd tier)
 - 3. private voluntary pension scheme (the 3rd tier)
- In 2012, measures were introduced to address long-term sustainability:
 - 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

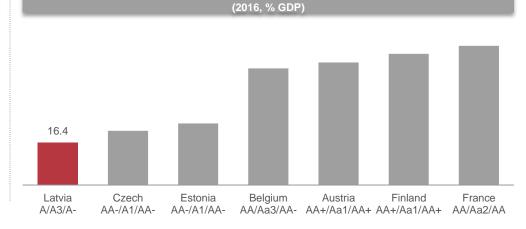
The 2nd Tier Pension Net Assets (EUR billion, % GDP)



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



Source: European Commission Ageing Report, May 2018



Latvia's age-related spending is among the lowest in EU

Source: European Commission Ageing Report, May 2018

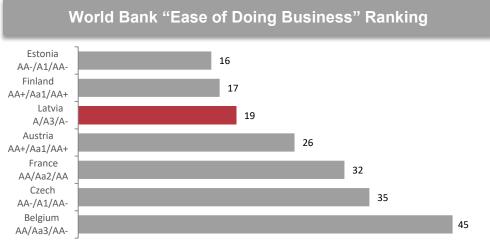


5. New Reform Push

Targets Productivity and More Inclusive Growth

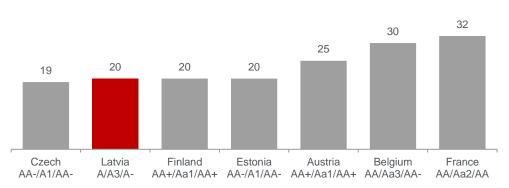
Latvia's Advanced Country Status Reflected in "Soft" Metrics

Expanded structural reforms build on existing high institutional strengths and favourable business environment.



Source: World Bank, Doing Business 2018

Adjusted Top Statutory Tax Rate on Corporate Income (2019, %)

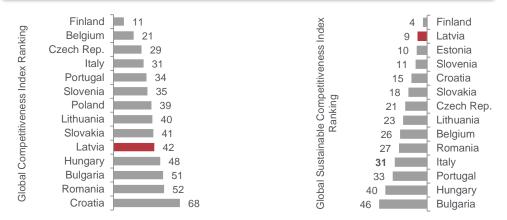


Source: European Commission, Taxation Trends in the European Union 2019

World Bank Worldwide Governance Rankings 83 80 79 74 71 70 69 66 66 63 64 62 Regulatory Quality Political Stability Control of Rule of Law Government Voice and Corruption Effectiveness and Accountability Absence of Violence Regional Average Latvia

Source: World Bank, 2017 Rankings dated 21st September 2018. Regional Average based on Europe and Central Asia countries

The Global Competitiveness Index Rankings

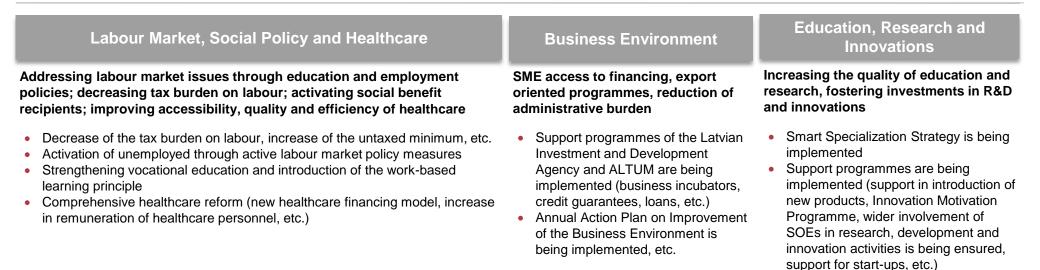


Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Report 2018, The Global Sustainable Competitiveness Report 2017



Reform Policies Laying Foundation for New Growth Model

Structural reforms help strengthening Latvia's growth potential.



Public Administration and Judiciary

Increasing efficiency of public administration, strengthening the conflict of interest prevention regime, improving tax compliance; improving the insolvency regime and accountability of insolvency administrators

- Public sector reform is being implemented
- Whistleblower protection law in force since 1 May 2019
- Improvement in the insolvency process and tax compliance is being observed

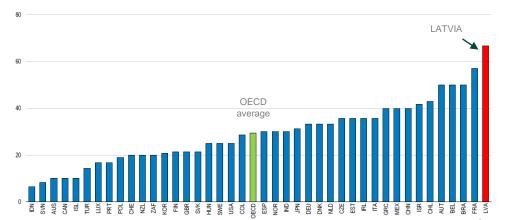
Administrative Territorial Reform

Bringing together municipalities in more sustainable and economically stronger units that are able to ensure the performance of autonomous functions of local governments in comparable quality and accessibility

• The new model is planned to be introduced starting from 2021

Source: 2019 National Reform Programme; European Commission's Country Report Latvia 2019; EU Council's recommendations 2019; OECD Economic Survey on Latvia 2017, 2019

2017 OECD Reform Responsiveness Index, %





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.

Allocation Of EU Funds For 2014-2020 By Priority Axes

- 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 mobility
- Technical assistance

Source: Ministry of Finance

EU Cohesion Policy Accompanies Structural Reforms

- The Latvian economy and the goals envisaged by the National Development Plan are strongly supported by well targeted and smart EU cohesion policy funds (EU funds like Structural funds and Cohesion Fund) and investments.
- EUR 4.4 billion EU funds are available for targeted and smart investments in Latvia within the 2014 2020 programming period across major nine priority areas with the general aim to enhance competitiveness of Latvia's economy and reinforce the country's solid foundation for sustained and smart growth.
- EUR 3.3 billion EU funds are already contracted for investment projects.
- During 2007 2013 period Latvia has successfully completed the investment programme supported by EUR 4.5 billion Cohesion Policy EU funds (100% of EU funds «envelope» for Latvia).

Source: Ministry of Finance

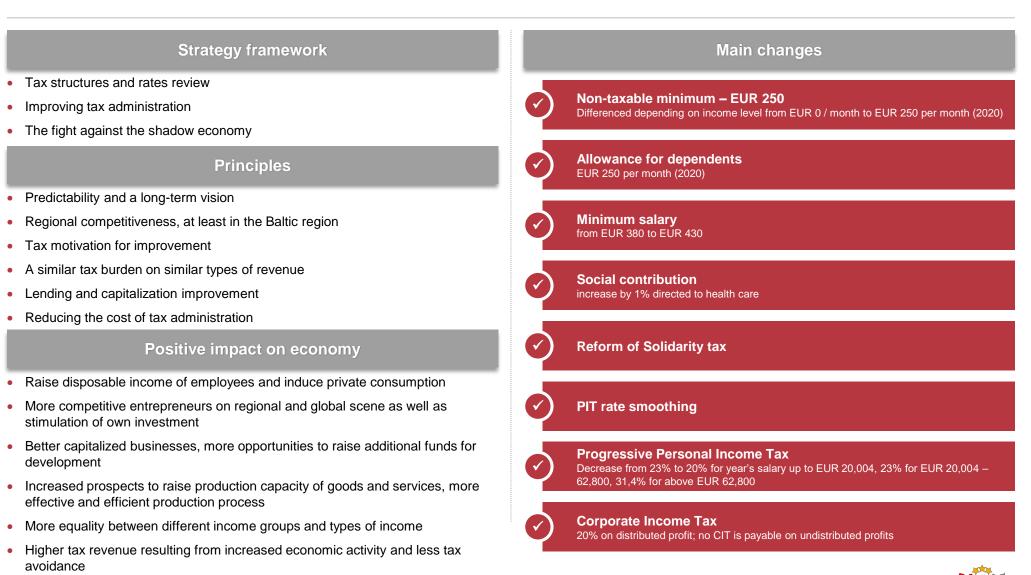
EU Funds After 2020 and Government's Support

- The European Commission has published a proposal for the new multiannual financial framework after 2020 in May 2018.
- The European Commission expects to start negotiations regarding planning documents of the framework in 2019.
- Initial European Commission proposal for Latvia's Cohesion policy allocation is 4.26 billion EUR (in 2018 prices). Allocation will be a subject of negotiations and Latvia will insist on bigger allocation.
- Latvia will remain eligible to receive support from all three Cohesion policy funds (Cohesion Fund, European Regional and Development Fund, European Social Fund).
- EU funds investment progress is transparent and can be followed: www.esfondi.lv



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.



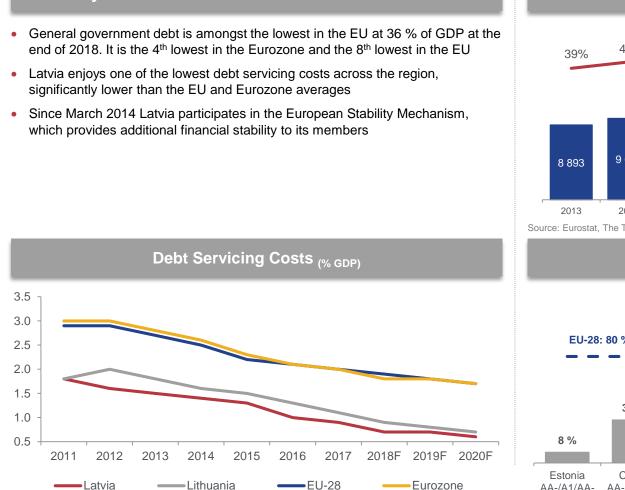
Source: Ministry of Finance

6. Government Debt and Funding Strategy

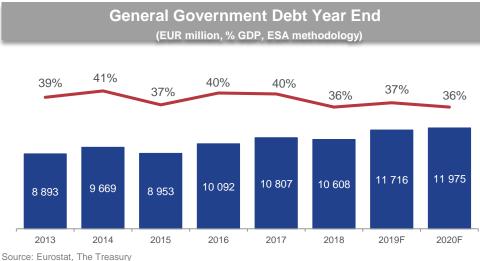
Public Debt on Declining Trend

Key Characteristics of Latvia's Government Debt

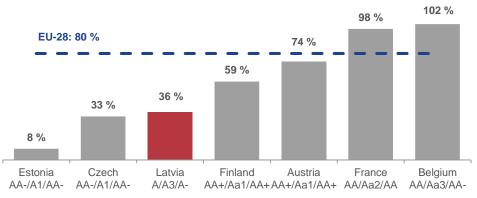
Latvia remains committed to keeping government debt at moderate levels.



Source: European Economic Forecast, Spring 2019, European Commission



General Government Debt (2018, % GDP)

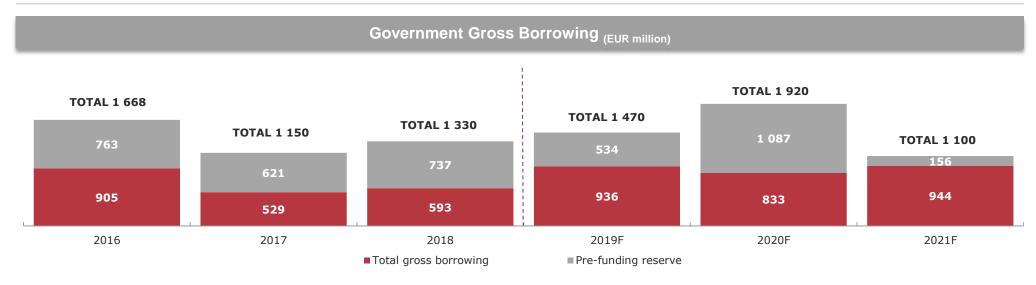


Source: Eurostat

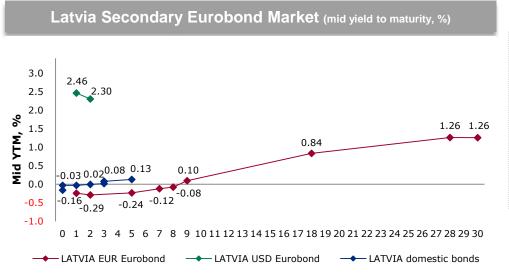


Conservative Borrowing Based on Pre-funding

Latvia is conducting a prudent and efficient debt management strategy.



Source: The Treasury



Borrowing activities in international capital markets in 2019

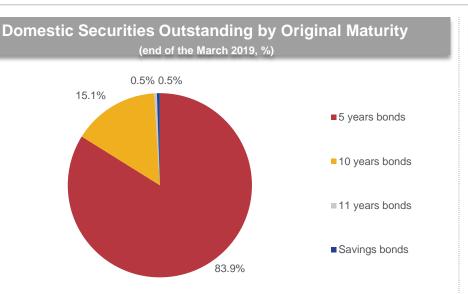
- On February 12, Latvia priced the Eurobond in the international capital markets in a total amount of EUR 700 million
 - 30-year Eurobond (maturing 19 February 2049)
 - Yield was set at 1.929%
 - Coupon was set 1.875%
- By this transaction the Treasury has fulfilled largest part of this year's funding requirement in the international capital markets
- On May 20, Latvia re-opened its outstanding 30-year Eurobond by issuing EUR 300 million:
 - Maturing 19 February 2049
 - Yield was set at 1.746% and coupon was set 1.875%
- With this transaction the Treasury successfully completed a funding plan for borrowing in a total amount of EUR 1 billion



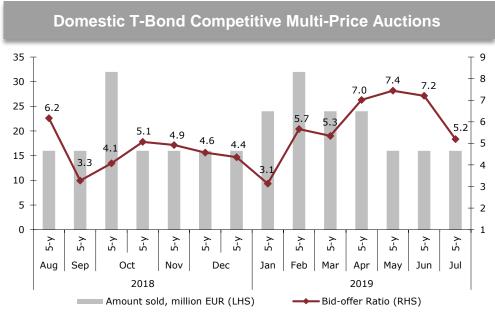
Source: Data as of 7th July 2019, Bloomberg

Domestic Market Continues to Perform Strongly

Demand is steady and average yields remain low.



- Primary dealer system operates since 11 February 2013. Domestic debt securities outstanding constituted EUR 1 080 million as of 3rd July 2019
- 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
- A new 5-long T-bond program was opened at the beginning of July, 2019. Coupon was fixed at the 0.000%. Currently amount outstanding is 20 million EUR. In order to maintain liquidity it is expected to continue regular auctions and gradually increase on-the-run 5-year T-bond program



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

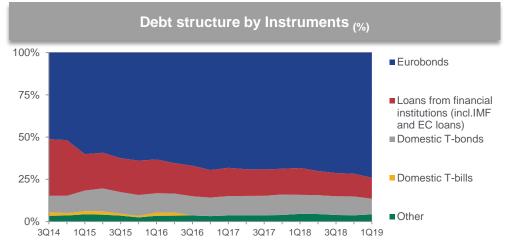
- On 3rd of July, Latvia had its last T-bond auction
- Nominal value of 16 million EUR were sold in a competitive multi-price auction with total demand of 83.18 million EUR (bid-offer ratio of 5.20)
- In addition, 4 million EUR were sold in non-competitive (fixed price) auction
- The weighted average yield rate was 0.122%



Source: The Treasury

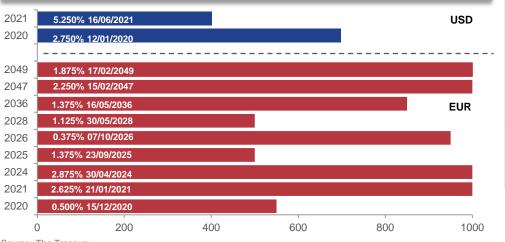
Central Government Debt Profile

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

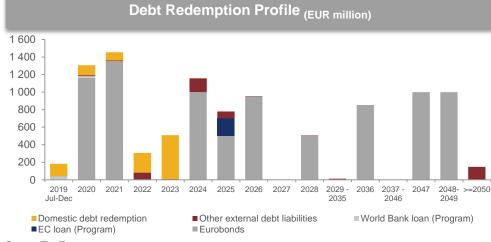


Outstanding Bonds in the International Markets (nominal amount, million)

Source: The Treasury



Source: The Treasury



Source: The Treasury

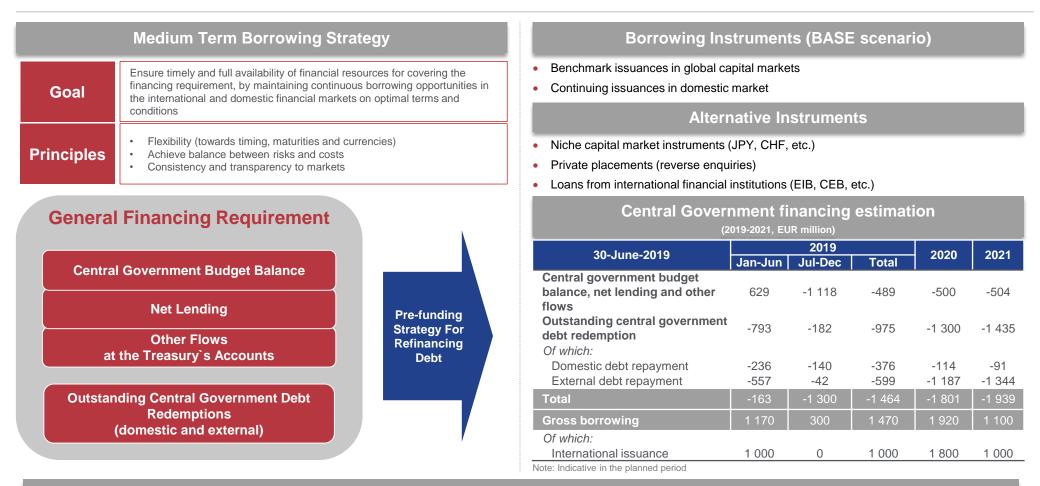
Debt Portfolio Management

Parameters	Strategy	31/12/2018	31/03/2019
Maturity profile (%)			
• up to 1 year	≤ 25%	13.4%	16.7%
• up to 3 year	≤ 50%	40.5%	38.1%
Share of fixed rate ⁽¹⁾	≥ 60%	90.1%	86.6%
Macaulay duration (years)	5.00 - 9.00	6.49	7.44
Net debt ⁽²⁾ currency composition	100% EUR with a deviation of +/- 5%	100.07%	100.04%

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

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



7. Conclusion

Building on Past Success, Facing Future Challenges

Investment Highlights

Latvia has fully recovered from the economic recession and restored its strong 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

Sustainable Debt Levels and Prudent Fiscal Management → Investor attractiveness

Resilient towards external shocks

→ Proven track record in overcoming economic crisis in the past

Belongs to the Core of Europe

EZ membership

→ Member of all the important international organizations

Well Capitalised Banking Sector

→ Bank lending growing at moderate pace, providing ample support for economic development

Higher Credit Ratings

Investors confidence boosted due to reforms and sound macroeconomic fundamentals Predictable public policies and outstanding track record of successful structural reforms → Long term growth reinforced

Solid Export Growth

- \rightarrow Balance of Payments improvement
- \rightarrow Sustainable Current Account Balance



