



FINANCING AND DEBT

- ◆ **The Bank of Latvia so far has purchased EUR 6 800.5 billion worth of Latvian and supranational securities under the European Central Bank's Public Sector Purchase Program.** In January 2018, the Bank of Latvia bought securities for EUR 80.5 million. (RĪGA, FEB 13, [Bank of Latvia](#))

BANKING SECTOR

- ◆ **The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) of the U.S. Department of Treasury released a statement about the Latvian commercial bank ABLV Bank AS naming it as the institution of primary money laundering concern and proposed Section 311 special measure.** The FCMC is currently studying the argumentation behind the FinCEN's allegations and collaborating with the European Central Bank which directly supervises this Latvian commercial bank. (RĪGA, FEB 13, [FCMC](#))

MACROECONOMICS

- ◆ **The average level of consumer prices in Latvia in January this year did not change compared to December 2017, while they rose 2 % compared to January 2017.** In January 2018, prices of goods grew by 1.5 % and prices of services by 3.3 %, while compared to December 2017, prices of goods dropped 0.1 %, and prices of services added 0.2 %. (RĪGA, FEB 12, [CSB](#))
- ◆ **In 2017, Latvia's construction output increased by 19.5 % year-on-year to EUR 1.736 billion, according to calendar adjusted data at constant prices.** In comparison with the corresponding period of 2016, in the 4th quarter of 2017 construction output grew by 21.0 %. (RĪGA, FEB 12, [CSB](#))
- ◆ **Latvia's economy in 2018 will grow to 4 %, in 2019 to 3.4 %, and in 2020-2021 to 3 %, according to latest macroeconomic forecasts of the Ministry of Finance.** Compared to the previous forecasts on which the 2018 budget was based, gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for 2018 has been raised by 0.6 percentage points and the forecast for 2019 by 0.2 percentage points. (RĪGA, FEB 13, Ministry of Finance)
- ◆ **Compared with the same month of the previous year, industrial output in Latvia had increased 5.5 % in December 2017, which is more rapidly than the average growth across the European Union (EU).** (RĪGA, FEB 14, [Eurostat](#))
- ◆ **During the 4th quarter of 2017, Latvia's GDP grew at a faster rate than the EU economy on average according to a 4th quarter flash estimate on the bloc's 18 member states.** During the 4th quarter of 2017, Latvia's seasonally adjusted GDP increased by 4.8 % against the same period a year ago. (RĪGA, FEB 14, [Eurostat](#))
- ◆ **Last year Latvia showed a medium-high export growth year-on-year compared to other EU member states.** In 2017, compared with 2016, the volume of exports in Latvia has increased by 11%. (RĪGA, FEB 15, [Eurostat](#))

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